Basic information

2001/2168(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Employment: overview and political assessment of the implementation of the 2001 guidelines. Joint report **Subject** 4.15.02 Employment: guidelines, actions, Funds	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	WEILER Barbara (PSE)	11/09/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	VON WOGAU Karl (PPE-DE)	11/09/2001
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	18/09/2001
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	THEORIN Maj Britt (PSE)	11/09/2001

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2375	2001-10-16
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	2373	2001-10-08
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	2392	2001-12-03

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary

12/09/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0438	Summary
08/10/2001	Debate in Council		
09/10/2001	Vote in committee		
09/10/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0360/2001	
16/10/2001	Debate in Council		
22/10/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/10/2001	Debate in Parliament		
24/10/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0553/2001	Summary
24/10/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/05/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2168(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148 Rules of Procedure EP 050
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0360/2001	09/10/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0553/2001 OJ C 112 09.05.2002, p. 0147-0178 E	24/10/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0438	12/09/2001	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2001)1398	12/09/2001	Summary

Employment: overview and political assessment of the implementation of the 2001 guidelines. Joint report

2001/2168(COS) - 12/09/2001 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present a draft Joint Employment Report 2001. CONTENT : the present Joint Employment Report provides an overview of the employment situation and a political assessment of the progress made by Member States in the implementation of the 2001 Employment Guidelines, and highlights the remaining challenges for the Member States. The European Employment Strategy is a major contribution to the wider political agenda defined for the European Union at the Lisbon Summit in Spring 2000, and since confirmed by the Nice and Stockholm European Councils. In line with the general economic performance, the employment performance in the European Union was exceptional in 2000. GDP growth of 3.3% and labour productivity growth of 1.6% were accompanied by the creation of 3 million new jobs and a reduction in unemployment to 8.3%, a level close to that prevailing in the early 1990s. The report highlights that the year 2000 saw the strongest employment growth for ten years, with 3 million new jobs created. The employment rate thus increased from 62.3% in 1999 to 63.3% in 2000, bringing the EU closer to the Lisbon target. For the third year in a row, more full time jobs than part-time jobs were created in 2000. Full time jobs accounted for almost 70% of the net jobs created, up from 60% in 1999 and 54% in 1998. Among the jobs created more than 1.6 million of the new jobs were taken by women, whose employment rate grew from 52.8% in 1999 to 54% in 2000. High-tech and knowledge-intensive sectors drove job creation, contributing to more than 60% of total job creation between 1995 and 2000. However, the report points out that there remains structural weaknesses, in particular, the unemployment level remains high notably amongst young people (16.3% of active young people). There is also an important gender gap in terms of employment, unemployment and occupational segregation. The report also notes a low employment rate of older workers. Lastly, GDP growth is forecast to slow down in 2001 and 2002, and the EU economy will not offer the same supportive environment for improvements on the employment front.

Employment: overview and political assessment of the implementation of the 2001 guidelines. Joint report

2001/2168(COS) - 12/09/2001 - Document attached to the procedure

PURPOSE: to present the assessment of Member States' implementation of the Employment guidelines 2001. CONTENT: Title VIII of the Treaty establishing the European Community lays down the principles and procedures towards developing a co-ordinated strategy for employment. Article 128 details the steps leading to the formulation of such a strategy including, on an annual basis, guidelines for employment, recommendations to the Member States and a joint report by the Council and the Commission to the European Council on the employment situation in the Community and on the implementation of the guidelines. Each Member State is to provide the Council and the Commission with an annual report on the principal measures taken to implement its employment policy in the light of the guidelines for employment. This year is the fourth round of this process and Member States duly sent their National Action Plans for employment (NAPs) to the Council and Commission in May. The present document is designed to support the preparation of the Joint Employment Report called for under Article 128. It reflects the Commission services' own detailed analysis and assessment of the NAPs and the extent to which they respond to the Employment Guidelines and Recommendations agreed by the Council on 19 January 2001. It also takes into account complementary information or explanations presented by Member States at the bilateral meetings held with the Commission in late June/early July 2001. Part I of the supporting document provides a thematic and European Union wide assessment of the 2001 National Action Plans on employment. The Guidelines for 2001, approved by the Council on the 19 January 2001, were updated to reflect the Lisbon strategy by including five new horizontal objectives and some new or adjusted guidelines. These include bottlenecks in the labour market (GL 6); discrimination (GL 7); undeclared work (GL 9); the common target for workers' ICT literacy by 2003 (GL 15) and national targets on gender gap and care facilities (GL 17/18). Part II assesses the progress made by each Member State in implementing the objectives and Guidelines for 2001. This is based on the NAPs and on the performance indicators. Horizontal objectives: Five new horizontal objectives were introduced in the 2001 Guidelines with the aim of reflecting the conclusions of the Lisbon European Council, especially to prepare the European Union for the transition to a knowledge-based economy. - With regard to the first objective, to increase the overall and female employment rates, the gaps between the Member States are slowly closing but differences are still substantial. The gender and age gaps are much wider in Member States that have relatively low overall employment rates. Member States make reference to Lisbon or Stockholm targets but most of them fail to set overall orspecific national employment targets. - Most Member States have made substantial progress concerning the second horizontal objective: developing and implementing comprehensive and coherent national strategies and initiatives for lifelong learning. Half of the Member States can be considered as having such a policy. However, only a few Member States set targets to increase investment in human resources and participation in education and training. Furthermore, evaluation of the actual impact of policy is still premature as most Member States are still at a development or early implementation phase of their strategies. - Concerning the third objective, to promote the role and contributions of social partners, there is a trend towards the desired strengthening of co-operation between social partners and Governments. In most NAPs, information on the contribution of social partners is limited, which makes it difficult to make an assessment grounded in reality. Little progress has been made on the introduction by the social partners of their own process with regard to the Employment Strategy. - With regard to the fourth objective of ensuring a proper policy mix between the four pillars the greatest emphasis is put on the Employability Pillar, followed by the Entrepreneurship Pillar. Although the Adaptability Pillar is the least developed, some progress is noteworthy in terms of involvement of the social partners. For the Equal Opportunities Pillar, less emphasis has been placed in the 2001 NAPs compared to the previous year. Member States increasingly take into account the regional and local dimension of their employment policies. More and more NAPs tend to be designed in a more flexible way, allowing for implementation adapted to different circumstances. In parallel, regions are beginning to launch their own programmes which often complement parts of national programmes. The European Structural Funds play an important role in this development. - Progress has been achieved on the development of common European indicators. Initiatives for the development of indicators and benchmarks at national level, including by the social partners, have only been tackled in some Member States · Belgium, France, Ireland and the Netherlands, and partly in the United Kingdom.. Regarding taxation, more than half of the Member States do not provide any indicators at all and those which do (Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden) only present specific national indicators. Concerning tax-benefit systems, the development of common indicators is even less advanced and none of the Member States provide any

data at all. - Although it is not a horizontal objective as such, a separate section is devoted to the knowledge society, in view of the importance of the subject as a follow-up to the Lisbon conclusions. Member States have proposed a variety of approaches across the different Pillars. Quality variesmarkedly from one Member State to another with, in general, the strongest coverage of knowledge society issues in the Employability Pillar.

Employment: overview and political assessment of the implementation of the 2001 guidelines. Joint report

2001/2168(COS) - 24/10/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Barbara Weiler (PES, Germany) on guidelines for employment policies for 2002. Parliament welcomed the guidelines and confirmed that achieving full employment is a priority objective. In addition to the proper implementation of the four pillars of Luxembourg strategy, this can be attained through, inter alia, progress in structural reforms, investment in training and an active social state to develop policies based on integration which will protect the weaker elements in society. First pillar: improving employability. The Commission's policy on women and older employees is endorsed. Parliament called on the Commission to investigate the reasons for the discrepancy between the number of women graduating in scientific disciplines and the number who are successful in obtaining professional posts. Second pillar: development of entrepreneurship and job creation. Parliament took a dim view of moonlighting and called for the extension of the guideline containing measures to combat unofficial employment. This should take practical measures concerning the tax and social security systems. Member States should support job-creation in the not-for-profit sector and the social economy. This aspect of the European Employment Strategy should be given a much higher priority. It stressed the importance not merely of reviewing, but of adopting specific measures aiming to support women who wish to set up businesses. Third pillar: promoting the adaptability of undertakings and their employees. Parliament considers that more flexible forms of employment contracts are only acceptable if they give workers sufficient security. It called on the Commission to submit a proposal for a directive based on the principle that temporary workers should receive the same treatment as those in regular employment. Fourth pillar: strengthening measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women. Parliament regretted that the Guideline proposal does not specifically discuss actions to give women a more varied range of employment choices with better wages and guaranteed rights. The principle of equal pay should be implemnted as quickly as possible. Parliament underscored the call for an increase in political coordination between the individual institutional players and with the social partners in preparing and implementing the Luxembourg strategy.