Basic information

2001/2181(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
European governance: greater openness and participation. White Paper **Subject** 8 State and evolution of the Union 8.10 Revision of the Treaties, intergovernmental conferences	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	KAUFMANN Sylvia-Yvonne (GUE/NGL)	24/01/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	GUY-QUINT Catherine (PSE)	01/10/2001
CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	VON WOGAU Karl (PPE-DE)	09/10/2001
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	MEDINA ORTEGA Manuel (PSE)	10/07/2001
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	04/10/2001
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	JACKSON Caroline (PPE-DE)	13/09/2001
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	O'TOOLE Barbara (PSE)	18/01/2001

	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	THEORIN Maj Britt (PSE)	01/10/2001
	PETI Petitions	GEMELLI Vitaliano (PPE-DE)	10/10/2001

Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meetings	Date
	General Affairs	2397	2001-12-10

European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	Secretariat-General	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
05/07/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0428	Summary
12/11/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/11/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
13/11/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0399/2001	
28/11/2001	Debate in Parliament		
29/11/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0642/2001	Summary
29/11/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
10/12/2001	Debate in Council		
27/06/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2181(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFCO/5/15216

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0399/2001	13/11/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0642/2001 OJ C 153 27.06.2002, p. 0040-0314 E	29/11/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0428 OJ C 287 12.10.2001, p. 0001	05/07/2001	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0718	01/12/2002	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0704	11/12/2002	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0705	11/12/2002	
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0709	11/12/2002	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0713	11/12/2002	
Follow-up document	SEC(2004)1153	22/09/2004	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0103/2001 OJ C 192 12.08.2002, p. 0024	13/03/2002	
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0357/2002 OJ C 125 27.05.2002, p. 0061	20/03/2002	

European governance: greater openness and participation. White Paper

2001/2181(COS) - 22/09/2004 - Follow-up document

This report succeeds the report adopted by the Commission in 2002. It analyses the implementation of the White Paper on European governance. The report presents a positive assessment of the implementation, in 2003 and 2004, of the actions that the Commission had committed to launch during its mandate. These actions concern the following areas: "better regulation", participation of the civil society; impact assessment, acquisition and use of scientific expertise; update and simplification of the Community acquis; regulatory agencies; improvement of the implementation of Community law and its monitoring; regional and local dimension of the Union (permanent dialogue between the Commission and local and regional authorities' associations; target-based tripartite agreements and contracts); refocusing European policies and institutions (including in the framework of the Constitution for Europe); European public sphere. The report notes that practically all the actions announced by the Commission in 2001 were carried out or are currently underway. The Commission also notes that the continuity of certain ideas and guidelines recommended by the White Paper, such as participative democracy, the dialogue with the regions and the cities, or administrative cooperation between Member States, have been taken into account in the constitutional Treaty.

European governance: greater openness and participation. White Paper

2001/2181(COS) - 29/11/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Sylvia-Yvonne KAUFMANN (EUL/NGL, D) on European governance. (Please refer to the previous document).

European governance: greater openness and participation. White Paper

2001/2181(COS) - 05/07/2001 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to propose the White Paper on European Governance. CONTENT : Europeans' lack of interest in and distrust of politics and institutions is increasing. The problem is acknowledged at national level, and is particularly acute at the level of the European Union. Many people are losing confidence in a poorly understood and complex system. Yet people also expect the Union to take the lead in responding to environmental challenges, unemployment, concerns over food safety and regional conflicts. The Union must take action to adapt governance under the existing treaties, but also prepare for a broader debate on the future of Europe in view of the next Inter-Governmental Conference. The White Paper proposes opening-up the policy making process to get more people and organisations involved in shaping and delivering EU policy. The Commission makes clear that action is also required from national and local government, EU institutions and civil society. It makes the following proposals: 1) Better involvement and more openness. The Community method must be renewed through following a less top-down approach and complementing the EU's policy tools more effectively with non-legislative instruments. The Commission will provide particularly: - on line information through all decision-making stages; - a more systematic dialogue with regional and local governments at an early stage in shaping policy; - greater flexibility in implementing legislation to take account of regional and local conditions; - the establishment and publication of minimum standards for consultation on EU policy. 2) Better policies, regulation and delivery. The Commission will: - promote greater use of different policy tools; - simplify existing EU law and encourage Member States to simplify the national rules which give effect to EU provisions; - publish guidelines on collection and use of expert advice, so that it is clear what advice is given, where it is coming from, how it is used and the alternative views available. 3) Global governance. The Commission will: - improve dialogue with the governmental and non-governmental actors of third countries when developing policy proposals with an international dimension; - propose a review of the Union's international representation in order to allow it to speak more often with a single voice; 4) Refocused institutions. The EU institutions and Member States must work together to set out an overall policy strategy. The Commission will: - reinforce attempts to ensure policy coherence; - bring forward the next IGC proposals to refocus the Commissions executive responsibilities. The Council must reinforce its capacity to take decisions and cut through different sectoral interests, and should establish a stronger link between EU policy and national action. By assuming its political responsibility under the Community method, the Council would free the European Council to establish and follow long-term strategic orientations. TheCouncil and the European Parliament should focus more on defining the essential elements of policy and controlling the way in which they are executed. The Parliament should enhance its role in feeding into the political debate the views of its electors.

European governance: greater openness and participation. White Paper

2001/2181(COS) - 11/12/2002

In presenting its report on European governance, the Commission is convinced of the importance of improving European governance and takes the view that the basic objectives and approaches of the White Paper are supported, in particular the need for: - improving bottom-up involvement in EU policy shaping and implementation, - widening the choice of regulatory instruments to respond to governance challenges, - more focused European institutions with clearer responsibilities. This report outlines the progress over the last 16 months. It shows that the Commission has already developed and launched the majority of the actions proposed in the White Paper. Some key issues raised in the public consultation, e.g. democratic legitimacy of EU institutions, will be addressed further in the Convention. However, the potential for European governance will not be fully realised until the magnitude of the challenges is recognised. In particular, the White Paper stressed that European governance must be a joint effort by all players. In addition, the European governance agenda cannot be limited to the Commission's White Paper and should continue beyond 2003. In parallel to its report, the Commission has adopted a series of follow-up documents on measures to improve decision-making in the European Union, in the framework of the existing treaties: 1) Towards a reinforced culture of consultation and dialogue - General principles and minimum standards for consultation of interested parties by the Commission : through the present document the Commission therefore lays down a number of general principles that should govern its relations with interested parties, and a set of minimum standards for the Commission's consultation processes. These measures offer a general and flexible framework for consultation of civil society and stakeholders, ensuring transparency and access to consultations, feedback to contributors and a reasonable minimum delay for responding within 8 weeks. The general principles and minimum standards as regards consulting will apply from the beginning of 2003 and with regard to all major Commission policy initiatives. 2) Improving the knowledge base for better policies : this Communication aims to encapsulate and promote good practices related to the collection and use of expertise at all stages of Commission policy-making. The first objective is to help Commission departments mobilise and exploit the most appropriate expertise, with a view to establishing a sound knowledge base for better policies. The second objective is to uphold the Commission's determination that the process of collecting and using expert advice should be credible. The core principles of quality, openness and effectiveness should underpin all activities of the Commission in this domain. The set of guidelines should be used to help departments implement the principles. Finally, a series of practical questions should help departments design methods for collecting and using expert advice appropriate to the circumstances of specific cases. The Commission's principles and guidelines on expertise apply to the collection and use of expertise in a wide sense, not only scientific expertise, and will apply from the beginning of 2003. 3) Reaching out to regional and local actors : with the aim ofensuring better involvement of regional and local authorities and allowing a more adapted and flexible implementation of legislation and programmes, the Commission proposes to explore the possibility of target-based tripartite contracts and agreements between Member States, local authorities and the Commission for implementation of Community policies. Making a distinction between target-based tripartite contracts (concluded in direct application of basic Community law) and target-based tripartite agreements (concluded outside the framework of Community law) between the Commission, a Member State and a regional or local authority, the communication sets out aims and scope of this new instrument. 4) A framework for new regulatory agencies : in the perspective of a growing role for regulatory agencies, the framework proposes detailed criteria concerning the creation of regulatory agencies, their functioning and control mechanisms. The aim is to enhance implementation and enforcement of Community rules while emphasising the unity and integrity of the executive function at the Community level.