Basic information

2001/2183(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Employment: financial assistance for innovative and job creating small and medium sized enterprises SMEs. Report **Subject** 3.45.02 Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), craft industries 4.15.02 Employment: guidelines, actions, Funds	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	BUSHILL-MATTHEWS Philip (PPE-DE)	05/04/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	RADWAN Alexander (PPE-DE)	09/10/2001
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Economic and Financial Affairs	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
06/07/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0399	Summary
22/10/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/11/2001	Vote in committee		Summary

20/11/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0422/2001	
10/12/2001	Debate in Parliament		
11/12/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0665/2001	Summary
11/12/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
25/07/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2183(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	EMPL/5/15224

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0422/2001	20/11/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0665/2001 OJ C 177 25.07.2002, p. 0034-0072 E	11/12/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0399	06/07/2001	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2001)1139	16/07/2001	Summary

Employment: financial assistance for innovative and job creating small and medium sized enterprises SMEs. Report

2001/2183(COS) - 06/07/2001 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: To present an annual report concerning financial assistance to SMEs encouraging innovation as well as job creation. CONTENT: This Report stems from Article 7 of Council Decision 98/347/EC on financial assistance for the promotion of growth, employment and innovation amongst SMEs. The Report in turn covers the three financial instruments set up to implement the measures outlined in the Decision. Specifically, the financial instruments are: - The ETF Start-up Facility - JEV and - The SME Guarantee Facility. As regards the first, the ETF start-up facility, the Report concludes that it is still at an early stage of investment and thus its success or failure difficult to assess. Given the complexities of the programme however the Commission considers its initial start-up phase to have been relatively successful. The European Investment Fund (EIF) which has been set up to manage the funds, estimates that the total remaining budgetary allocation will be committed by the beginning of 2002. This assessment takes

into account the steady flow of new proposals from potential fund managers and sponsors. Concerning the second of these instruments, the JEV programme, the Commission's assessment is less favourable. The take-up rate of the programme has been slower than expected. The lengthy processing time of submission is considered too long and could explain why SMEs are reluctant to take advantage of the JEV programme. In addition the current criteria do not correspond to SMEs needs with regard to cross-border investment. For many, cross-border co-operation and the sharing of management responsibilities this implies, is simply too much of a burden. Concerning the last of these programmes, the SME Guarantee Facility, the Report notes that the global take-up rate has been satisfactory. In light of the mixed response to these financial instruments, and in particular the lack of success with JEV, the Council decided in December 2000 to extend the three financial instruments of the Growth and Employment Initiative under a new legal basis, the multi-annual programme for enterprises and entrepreneurship (MAP). The credits proposed for financial instruments under the new MAP are allocated to the three respective financial instruments described above. Within the scope of MAP, the ETF Start-up Facility has been adapted to support the establishment and financing of SMEs in their start-up phase by investing in specialised VC funds and incubators. Concerning the Guarantee Facility three new sub-windows have been added in order to enlarge the range of available instruments. This will guarantee micro credits, equity investment and loans to cover IT equipment. The Seed Capital Action plan is intended to support seed funds, incubators or similar organisations in which the EIF participates. Finally, the JEV programme will be simplified and eligibility criteria adapted. The method of calculating the amount of contribution will be linked both to the investment realised and the number of jobs created.

Employment: financial assistance for innovative and job creating small and medium sized enterprises SMEs. Report

2001/2183(COS) - 11/12/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Mr Philip Rodway BUSHILL-MATTHEWS (EPP-ED, UK) without amendments, 491 in favour, 7 against and 35 abstentions. (Please refer to the previous text).

Employment: financial assistance for innovative and job creating small and medium sized enterprises SMEs. Report

2001/2183(COS) - 16/07/2001 - Document attached to the procedure

A list of Annexes summarising the financial assistance measures adopted for innovation and job creation amongst SMEs compliments the Commission Report on this subject. These Annexes refer specifically to statistics on SMEs that are beneficiaries of either the ETF Start-up Facility or the SME guarantee facility. The Annexes listed in this supporting document present a balance sheet on start-up facilities for venture capital funds and an annual survey for the years 1999-2000. Also included is a list of financial intermediaries, examples of projects financed in 2000, a summary of the SME guarantee facility (financial intermediaries and 1999 statistical data on beneficiary SME's) and lastly a summary of a growth and employment initiative - financial statements as at 31 December 2000.