Basic information

2002/2033(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Enterprise policy: implementing the Lisbon programme, progress made **Subject** 3.45 Enterprise policy, inter-company cooperation 3.45.02 Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), craft industries 5.05 Economic growth	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	VLASTO Dominique (PPE-DE)	23/01/2002

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
08/11/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0641	Summary
27/02/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/05/2002	Vote in committee		
22/05/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0192/2002	
13/06/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0324/2002	Summary
13/06/2002	Debate in Parliament		

13/06/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/10/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2033(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	ITRE/5/15932

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0192/2002	22/05/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0324/2002 OJ C 261 30.10.2003, p. 0389-0578 E	13/06/2002	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0641	08/11/2001	Summary

Enterprise policy: implementing the Lisbon programme, progress made

2002/2033(COS) - 08/11/2001 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: Progress report on Member State's implementation of provisions relating to entrepreneurship as agreed at the Lisbon Council 2000. CONTENT: On the back of an economic boom the European Council decided in June 2000, to inject a greater degree of dynamism in the European economy through stimulating and encouraging greater entrepreneurship amongst European businesses. Ministers sought to make the transition towards a knowledge-based, competitive economy whilst at the same time maintaining the European social model. The later half of 2001 however saw a reverse in the EU's economic growth - a situation aggravated by the attacks on America on 11 September. Steps taken so far to fulfil the conclusions of the Lisbon Council include: - The launching of a benchmark which ascertains important factors affecting business conditions, including the length of time and the costs involved in setting up a company. - Work on structural indicators and on business demographics. Moreover, the 2001 Innovation Scoreboard was released in September 2001. - Introduction of the Multiannual programme for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship (2001-2005) with particular emphasis on SME's. - Introduction of procedures for the identification and exchange of best practices across the Member States. - The endorsement of the European Charter for Small Enterprises. In order to gain a more complete picture of how these policies are being implemented the Commission has its disposal a number of tools. These include a competitiveness report, scoreboards, benchmarking, best procedure report, report on the implementation of the European Charter for Small Enterprises, observatory of European SME's and the setting of quantitative targets in enterprise policy. Whilst the Communication notes a degree of progress in the implementation of the Lisbon objectives it nevertheless berates Member States for not doing more. Progress, the report concludes, is too slow. The Commission gives warning that failure to act more actively in this field could have negative consequences on the whole of the European economy. Whilst recognising that the economic down-turn has led governments to focus their priorities elsewhere it nevertheless urges Member States not to ignore their commitments to stimulating a dynamic entrepreneurial dimension to the

European economic project. It therefore concludes that renewing and strengthening the EU's commitment to good enterprise policies and practices through faster implementation of the Lisbon programme, must become a policy priority. Such a policy will inject a degree of business confidence that will, in turn, cushion the downswing in which the EU (like the rest of the world) seems set.

Enterprise policy: implementing the Lisbon programme, progress made

2002/2033(COS) - 13/06/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Dominique VLASTO (EPP-ED, France) on the Commission's communication. It shared the Commission's view that the pace of reform needed to be increased, and called for an enterprise policy scoreboard, which should include both the actions to be taken and a timetable. Parliament deplored the insufficient understanding of the needs of small enterprises and the fact that their involvement, through the organisations representing them, does not go far enough to identify them with the major Community political priorities of enlargement, cohesion policy, European governance and the work of the European Convention. A genuine opening of the markets in telecommunications, energy, postal services and transport is very important for small businesses. Parliament also deplored the fact that fewer than 3% of SMEs and SMIs have access to public contracts. On the specific issue of reducing the tax burden, the Commission should apply the experimental VAT-reduction measures across the board to all labour intensive businesses and study the impact on undeclared work of a reduction in VAT. On access to funding, Parliament called for the establishment of systems to facilitate access to the EIB/EIF funds for normative investments, investments in the environment and new technologies and training-related intangible investments. It also wanted mutual guarantee schemes to be strengthened. With respect to establishing an efficient regulatory framework, the Commission and the Member States should enter into discussions to produce a general framework for voluntary agreements in industry, self-regulation and all the alternatives to traditional legislative and regulatory measures. Turning to Community programmes, Parliament called for an Erasmus-style exchange programme for apprenticeship, with a view to encouraging mobility amongst apprentices. The Commission should produce a European statute for apprentices. There should also be European guidelines on services to enterprises and for an active policy to enhance tailor-made advisory and back-up services. Parliament listed the five priority areas: business management and organisation, the environment, quality/standardisation, research and technological innovation, and globalisation of markets.