Basic information

2002/2034(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Employment policy: strengthening the local dimension of the European strategy **Subject** 4.15.02 Employment: guidelines, actions, Funds	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	SCHMID Herman (GUE/NGL)	04/12/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	BASTOS Regina (PPE-DE)	22/01/2002

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
06/11/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0629	Summary
27/02/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/05/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
28/05/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0214/2002	
04/07/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0373/2002	Summary
04/07/2002	Debate in Parliament		
04/07/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		

12/11/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2034(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/5/15931

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0214/2002	28/05/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0373/2002 OJ C 271 12.11.2003, p. 0382-0593 E	04/07/2002	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0629	06/11/2001	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0453/2001 OJ C 192 12.08.2002, p. 0045	13/03/2002	
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0518/2002 OJ C 149 21.06.2002, p. 0026	24/04/2002	

Employment policy: strengthening the local dimension of the European strategy

2002/2034(COS) - 06/11/2001 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to strengthen the local dimension of the European Employment Strategy. CONTENT : this Communication is adopted in the context of (a) last's year campaign "Acting Locally for Employment" which highlighted the desirability of strengthening the local dimension of the European Employment Strategy; (b) the year 2000 Resolution of the European Parliament on "Acting locally", encouraging the Member States and the Commission to play a supportive role for local development; and (c) the Commission's White Paper on European Governance stressing the need for a stronger interaction between European institutions, national governments, regional and local authorities and civil society. There is a growing awareness that the objectives the EU has set itself to improve performance in the area of employment cannot be achieved without greater participation of the

regional and local levels in cooperation with national authorities. The Guidelines of the European Employment Strategy (EES) underline the special role of local authorities and social partners in developing local strategies for employment. This Communication draws on past experience, on the lessons of existing policies and initiatives including the White Paper on Governance, and on the results of the Acting Locally consultation process. The communication suggests ways to help local actors play their full part in the European Employment Strategy in cooperation with national authorities and Community institutions, pooling their resources, and establishing local employment strategies where appropriate, thus eventually increasing the employment rate in Europe and providing stable, quality jobs. Candidate countries should be fully involved in this process in view of enlargement. The European Employment Strategy has introduced a new dimension in the promotion of more and better jobs. At the Community level, through the employment guidelines, annual examination and peer review of Member States' performance, and recommendations to individual countries, the EES is providing an integrated framework to meet the Union's objectives in the field of employment and labour market reforms. At the Member States level, through the NAPs and both community and national financial support, the employment Guidelines are translated into a coherent employment strategy. At the regional and local levels, actors should be given the opportunity to work increasingly together, to interact with national and European institutions and policies, and to develop partnerships in support of the European Employment Strategy. Local actors also have a key role to play in promoting gender equality and developing integrated approaches to social inclusion. While respecting the existing distribution of competencies within the Community and Member States, the Commission will: - in line with the principles of the White Paper on European Governance promote the information of local actors on the EES and NAPs, as well as the exchange of best practices, benchmarking and peer review in the implementation of NAPs in the area of local development. In particular, the Commission will: - attach a priority to local employment in its own information activities. It will facilitate access of local actors to Community programmes and initiatives by setting up a localdevelopment website and coordination between the different Commission services involved; - propose the inclusion of local employment among the priorities of Member States' information policies, notably through the existing institutional bodies such as the Social Fund Committee, the Employment Committee and the Informal Network of ESF Information Officers (INIO); - monitor and support the development of local employment strategies in order to promote and integrated approach to local development in the Member States, notably through National Action Plans and the Employment Committee (EMCO); through NAPs for Social Inclusion; and through the implementation of the ESF Regulation's provisions aimed at facilitating the participation local partners and NGOs in ESF-supported programmes; - ensure that the experiences gained in the development of local employment strategies, including as concerns the promotion of gender equality, are disseminated within Member States and candidate countries, and integrated in the EES. For this purpose, the Commission proposes to hold, at the beginning of 2003, a Local Development Forum where the parties concerned - local and regional actors, national governments, the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee - could meet, exchange experiences and information, and contribute to the development of the EES.

Employment policy: strengthening the local dimension of the European strategy

2002/2034(COS) - 04/07/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution drafted by Herman SCHMID (GUE/NGL, Sweden) on the Commission Communication. (Please refer to the document dated 28/05/02.) Parliament stated that public authorities have crucial responsibility for initiating local employment strategies, in close cooperation with the local business community, the trade unions, the NGOs and other relevant local and regional actors. The social economy and the third sector also have an active role with regard to local labour markets, in terms of social inclusion, entrepreneurship and economic activity (particularly in the services sector). Local employment strategies must develop into integrated packages of measures which analyze resources and needs, identify those who could be involved, coordinate their actions and provide training and information. Parliament went on to emphasise the importance of territorial employment pacts for local and regional development, which combine local communities in network cooperation and make joint efforts possible. There is particularly a need for risk capital designed to give local entrepreneurs easier access to credit. Lifelong learning programmes are very important. Clear decisions on how to finance educational expansion are needed. Parliament welcomed the Commission's promotion of local employment for women and gender equality. It pointed to the need for good quality childcare provision and the principle of gender neutral wage agreements guaranteeing equal pay for equal work. It criticised the Commission for its earlier reluctant attitude to the implementation of heading B5-503 'Local Employment commitment', which showed a very poor take-up rate in 2000 by reason of an inadequate information policy. Parliament went on to point out that the Commission devotes too little attention to the specific problems of certain categories of women, especially migrants and asylum seekers. There should be a more specific policy for these categories.