Basic information

2002/2051(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Social cohesion: poverty and social exclusion, joint report on social inclusion **Subject** 4.10.05 Social inclusion, poverty, minimum income	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	FIGUEIREDO Ilda (GUE/NGL)	23/10/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	ALYSSANDRAKIS Konstantinos (GUE/NGL)	12/12/2001
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	SWIEBEL Joke (PSE)	22/01/2002

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	2454	2002-10-08

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/10/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0565	Summary
11/03/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/04/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
23/04/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0158/2002	

10/06/2002	Debate in Parliament		
11/06/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0295/2002	Summary
11/06/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
08/10/2002	Debate in Council		Summary
30/10/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2051(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/5/15974

Social cohesion: poverty and social exclusion, joint report on social inclusion

2002/2051(COS) - 10/10/2001 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present the communication from the Commission concerning the draft Joint Report on Social Inclusion. CONTENT : it is the first time that the European Commission presents a policy document on poverty and social exclusion. By documenting and analysing the situation across all Member States and by identifying the key challenges for the future this draft joint report on Social Inclusion contributes to strengthening the European social model. It is this a significant advance towards the achievement of the EU's strategic goal of greater social cohesion in the Union between 2001-2010. This report gives a concrete reality to the open method of co-ordination on Social Inclusion. This new process is an important recognition of the key role that social policy has to play alongside economic and employment policies in reducing inequalities and promoting social cohesion, as well as the need to ensure effective links between these policies in the future. This report also marks a significant advance in the process of developing common indicators to measure poverty and social exclusion across and within all Member States. On the other hand, this report does not evaluate the effectiveness of the systems already in place in different Member States. Rather it concentrates on analysing the different approaches that have been adopted by Member States in their National Action Plans against poverty and social exclusion in response to the common objectives on poverty and social cohesion agreed by the EU at Nice in December 2000. The report documents a wide range of policies and initiatives in place or proposed in Member States. These will provide a good basis for co-operation and exchange of learning between Member States in the future. However, it has not been possible to identify examples of good practice, as at present there is a general lack of rigorous evaluation of policies and programmes in Member States. The report thus identifies that an important challenge for the next phase of the social inclusion process will be introduce more through analysis of the cost effectiveness and efficiency of policies to tackle poverty and social inclusion. In addition, the present report aims at highlighting the role of social policy and of other equally important policy areas for social cohesion (education, housing, health) in the forthcoming Synthesis Report that the Commission will prepare for the European Council in spring 2002.

Social cohesion: poverty and social exclusion, joint report on social inclusion

2002/2051(COS) - 11/06/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted its resolution based on the report by Ilda FIGUEIREDO (GUE/NGL, Portugal) on social cohesion. (Please refer to the document dated 23/04/02.) Parliament stated that high levels of employment and social protection, an increase in living standards and the quality of life and economic and social cohesion must be a priority for the EU and are fundamental in reducing and preventing poverty and social exclusion. All forms of employment are to be encouraged, including temporary work. Member States should provide accessible and compulsory education for a minimum of 12 years to all children, and strengthen the institution of "second chance" schools, given that many young people who drop out are unemployed. Parliament stressed the importance of modernising the social security systems to enable them to cope with traditional and new risks of poverty and of designing measures, including in the form of social benefits, for single parents to boost their earning capacity. The open method of coordination must embrace greater openness by involving local and regional authorities, labour and management and by ensuring a broad public debate at national level to achieve a genuine exchange of best practice. Parliament should be fully involved in open coordination. Member States, whatever their national political and administrative set-up, must ensure that policies are put into place as close as possible to the individual, and clear

lines of responsibility drawn between the different levels of competence. Parliament called for greater attention to the structural changes currently taking place, including the accession of the candidate countries, which could engender new forms of poverty, stemming from industrial restructuring and the switch to social systems characteristic of a competition-driven economy. There needs to be particular focus on the long term unemployed, workers who have retired on a bridging pension, and persons who have no opportunity to enter the labour market. A relevant strategy to combat social exclusion should pay particular attention to women and children. Finally, Parliament felt that particular attention must be paid to all the risk factors identified by the National Action Plans which highlight the multidimensional nature of poverty and social exclusion, which is not restricted to access to the labour market, but also concerns education, health, and participation in decision-making forums.

Social cohesion: poverty and social exclusion, joint report on social inclusion

2002/2051(COS) - 08/10/2002

The Council heard a progress report from the Chairman of the Social Protection Committee (SPC), Mr Raoul Briet, on the committee' s work concerning the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the Union. The report focused on the work currently being undertaken by the SPC on the revision of objectives in view of the drawing -up of the second round of National Action Plans on Social Inclusion due to be submitted by the Member States in the Spring/Summer of 2003. A revision of the common objectives is expected to be agreed in time for the Copenhagen European Council on 12-13 December 2002.