Basic information

2002/2223(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Analysis and open method of coordination in the fields of employment and social matters **Subject** 4.10 Social policy, social charter and protocol 4.15 Employment policy, action to combat unemployment	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	SMET Miet (PPE-DE)	12/06/2002

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	GILLIG Marie-Hélène (PSE)	26/11/2002

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
21/11/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/04/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
24/04/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0143/2003	
04/06/2003	Debate in Parliament		
05/06/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0267/2003	Summary
05/06/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
18/03/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2002/2223(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Committee dossier	EMPL/5/16909

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	**Committee**	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0143/2003	24/04/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0267/2003 OJ C 068 18.03.2004, p. 0335-0604 E	05/06/2003	Summary

Analysis and open method of coordination in the fields of employment and social matters

2002/2223(INI) - 05/06/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the own-initiative report drafted by Miet SMET (EPP-ED, Belgium) by 181 votes in favour, 106 against and 6 abstentions. The resolution analyses the open coordination procedure in employment and social affairs. (Please see the summary of 24/04/03.) Parliament called for the Constitutional Treaty to include an article specifically relating to the open coordination method and stipulating that: - the application of the open method of coordination to any given policy must be decided on a Commission proposal after the European Parliament and the Council have given their approval; -- the Commission proposal must be accompanied by a description of the techniques and methods to be used; - the principal components of the method are: the setting of common targets, guidelines and common indicators, a timetable, the submission at regular intervals of a summary report on the strategy followed, which should summarise and analyse the national reports, and the formulation of recommendations; - Parliament must be formally consulted and the Economic and Social Committee should give an opinion on the guidelines, the summary report and the recommendations; the social partners must be consulted on matters relating to labour market and social policy; - each national report must indicate how representatives of civil society have been consulted; - the recommendations must be lodged with the relevant parliaments within the Member States, and the recommendations must be accompanied by the European Parliament's report. The Commission was asked to draw up a study on the effectiveness of the method, which should examine a number of specified topics. Parliament also asked the Commission to look into the possibility of linking money from the Structural Funds with the performance of the Member States within the recommendations. Parliament noted that the open coordination method tends to favour the proliferation of the preparatory formations and forums known collectively as 'committees' and suggested ways of expanding the expertise available to the committees and safeguarding democratic debate. Parliament asked the Council and the Commission to take greater account of Parliament's observations when establishing guidelines and to ensure that Parliament has the necessary time to draw up informed and high-quality opinions. Parliament will consider adjusting its own practices. All institutions must ensure that the application of the open method of coordination: - does not serve as a fig leaf for a country's failure to take action; and - cannot be used as a means of replacing more binding forms of Community regulation, for the express purpose of avoiding such regulation and, at the same time, undermining the whole concept of the European Social Model. Finally, Parliament emphasised the importance of including equal opportunities for men and women and gender mainstreaming at all levels of formalisation of this new policy management instrument.