Basic information

2002/2519(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the sustainable development strategy for the Barcelona Summit **Subject** 3.70.20 Sustainable development 8.40.14 European Council	

Key players

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2416	2002-03-11
Environment	2413	2002-03-04

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
27/02/2002	Debate in Parliament		
28/02/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0081/2002	Summary
28/02/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
04/03/2002	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
11/03/2002	Debate in Council		
28/11/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2002/2519(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary

Oral question/interpellation by Parliament		B5-0006/2002	27/02/2002	
Oral question/interpellation by Parliament		B5-0007/2002	27/02/2002	
Motion for a resolution		B5-0118/2002	27/02/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects		T5-0081/2002 OJ C 293 28.11.2002, p. 0020-0084 E	28/02/2002	Summary

Resolution on the sustainable development strategy for the Barcelona Summit

2002/2519(RSP) - 28/02/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted this resolution with an overwhelming majority of 490 votes to 12, with 18 abstentions. It believes that the environmental pillar of sustainable development should be considered of equal importance to the economic and social pillars. It stresses, therefore, the importance of a commitment to the 'environmental mainstreaming' approach and its further development. With this in mind, there is a need to develop evaluation tools and indicators and convergence criteria in all sectors related to sustainable development in order that there can be a proper balance between economic, social and environmental dimensions of the sustainable development strategy. Moreover, specific and measurable targets for reversing unsustainable trends should be established. The Parliament wants more indicators established to assess the environmental aspects of sustainable development in order to ensure that the environment, which was made the third component of the EU's sustainable development strategy at Gothenburg, carried as much weight as its economic and social components. It is demanding an indicator to evaluate resource consumption so that progress in breaking the link between economic growth and resource use can be measures, and says that indicators are particularly important in the area of biotechnology. Parliament points out that biotechnology, if applied prudently, can be a contribution to sustainable development and welcomes, therefore, the biotechnology action plan presented by the Commission for the Barcelona European Council. It regrets, however, that the Commission considers the reservations of a lot of citizens about GMOs and specific forms of stem cell research mainly as a lack of acceptance. It stresses therefore that the request for labelling and traceability of GMOs and for priority for the work with adult stem cells, to which the European Parliament has drawn attention on several occasions, is legitimate. It considers that the European Council should call on the Commission, the Council and the European parliament to adopt rules for compensation liability in environmental matters, including pollution with GMOs. Parliament also considers that, if the Commission has not submitted a proposal for new chemicals legislation before the Barcelona European Council, the European Council should call for the Commission to speed up its work with a view to complying with the deadline for the EU strategy. The resolution also looks ahead to the Rio+10 UN Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg in September. Lastly, Parliament considers, in view of the importance of the Johannesburg conference and the need for broad representation of political groups and committees concerned, that a large European Parliament contingent of up to 25 Members should be authorised to attend the conference as part of the EU delegation.

Resolution on the sustainable development strategy for the Barcelona Summit

2002/2519(RSP) - 04/03/2002

The Council adopted its contribution to the European Council to be held in Barcelona on 15 and 16 March 2002 relating to the sustainable development Strategy. The conclusions concern in particular the environmental dimension of the Strategy as was established at the European Council in Göteburg in June 2001. The European Council will be called upon to review the progress made in the implementation of this Strategy and to provide guidelines for the future. In line with the objective established in the Sustainable Development Strategy of halting biodiversity decline by 2010, and taking account of the 6th Environmental Action Programme as well as of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Council considers that progress on the following issues is a priority: - full integration of biodiversity protection and conservation considerations in all relevant sectors and activities, and implementation of the Community biodiverstiy action plans in the areas of Conservation of Natural Resources, Agriculture, Fisheries and Development and Economic Co-operation, ensuring complementarity between the Community Action Plans and national measures; - encouraging the actions necessary to effectively implement the Community policy on biodiversity, including the Community Biodiversity Strategy, particularly through the definitive development of the Natura 2000 network, and the implementation of the necessary technical and financial instruments and measures required for its full implementation and for the protection, outside the Natura 2000 areas, of species protected under the Habitats and Birds Directives; - providing measures for promoting access to fair and equitable sharing benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge; - developing the necessary additional measures, such as prevention, control and eradication of invasive alien species which can cause serious damage to biological diversity; - adopting and implementing measures to maintain biodiversity in forests and other important ecosystems by establishing international ecological networks. With regard to the candidate countries, the Council considers it important for the candidate countries to take the policies and objectives of the Community's strategic sustainable development policy into account in the period prior to accession, so that their situation is reflected in the synthesis report for 2003.