


Basic information	
2003/2019(INI)	Procedure completed
INI - Own-initiative procedure	
Structural Funds. 13th annual report 2001	
<b>Subject</b>	
4.70.01 Structural funds, investment funds in general, programmes	

Key players					
European Parliament	<b>Committee responsible</b>		<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Appointed</b>	
	<b>RETT</b>	Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	MARKOV Helmuth (GUE /NGL)	21/01/2003	
	<b>Committee for opinion</b>		<b>Rapporteur for opinion</b>	<b>Appointed</b>	
	<b>BUDG</b>	Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
	<b>EMPL</b>	Employment and Social Affairs	MORAES Claude (PSE)	26/11/2002	
	<b>PECH</b>	Fisheries	MCKENNA Patricia (V/ALE)	20/02/2003	
	<b>FEMM</b>	Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
	European Commission	<b>Commission DG</b>		<b>Commissioner</b>	
		Regional and Urban Policy			

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
30/10/2002	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2002)0591 	
13/02/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/05/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
21/05/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0186/2003	

19/06/2003	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T5-0282/2003</a>	<a href="#">Summary</a>
19/06/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2019(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Annual report
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	RETT/5/19188

Documentation gateway				
<b>European Parliament</b>				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A5-0186/2003</a>	21/05/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		<a href="#">T5-0282/2003</a>	19/06/2003	<a href="#">Summary</a>
<b>European Commission</b>				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Follow-up document	<a href="#">COM(2002)0591</a> 	30/10/2002	<a href="#">Summary</a>	

## Structural Funds. 13th annual report 2001

2003/2019(INI) - 19/06/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on its own-initiative report drafted by Helmuth MARKOV (GUE/NGL, Germany) on the Commission's report on the Structural Funds. (Please refer to the document dated 21/05/03.) Parliament pointed out that the report for 2001 once again presents and evaluates the quantitative aspects (number of projects approved, level of commitment and payment appropriations) in differentiated form but does not produce any specific data about the qualitative improvements achieved in regional development. Such improvement of regional development constitutes a priority for the EU economic and social development, particularly in the run-up to enlargement. Parliament stated that it valued evidence that structural policies help reduce economic disparities between Member States (though disparities between regions within Member States have grown and the Commission should amend existing allocation criteria so as to reduce these disparities). It asked for more such "impact" analysis. This will be of key importance from 2004 when the area/population of the EU will have increased by one third but its GDP by only 5%.

## Structural Funds. 13th annual report 2001

2003/2019(INI) - 30/10/2002

PURPOSE : to present the thirteenth annual report on the Structural Funds (2001). CONTENT : this report is compiled in accordance with Article 45(2) of Regulation 1260/1999/EC laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds. It sets out the work of the Structural Funds and the activities undertaken to coordinate their work with that of the other financial instruments during 2001. The report is centred on three main topics: - the major events in the work of each Fund and the other financial instruments; - coordination with the other Community instruments and policies; - an evaluation of implementation during the year and in the past. The main feature of 2001 was the conclusion of negotiations with the Member States on Objective 1, which accounts for 70% of the budget of the Structural Funds for 2000-06. The overview was broadly positive even though some difficulties had been encountered, including the overrunning by five months of the period for negotiations originally planned for finalising the programming documents

because of the desire to ensure high-quality programming. As regards implementation, adoption of all the single programming documents and operational programmes meant that all the appropriations planned could be committed and 70% of payments made for both Objective 1 and Objective 2. There were, however, some delays as regards Objective 3. The implementation of Community Initiatives also proceeded steadily: Interreg III (54 of the 70 programmes were approved); Urban II (the 70 programmes were approved); Equal (the Member States issued the calls for projects as soon as their CIPs were adopted); Leader+ (56 of the 73 programmes were approved). The overall rate of budgetary implementation for the Community Initiatives was 89% for both commitments and payments. As regards innovative measures, the ERDF approved 81 of the 103 projects submitted to it and the ESF selected 37 of the 148 projects proposed on the subject 'adjustment to the new economy' and granted part-financing averaging 72%. The call for projects on the second topic, 'a local employment strategy', was issued on 31 October 2001. As regards the coordination with other Community instruments and policies, the report notes that the Cohesion Fund finances transport infrastructure and environmental projects. Coherence with the measures financed by the Structural Funds is ensured through the Strategic Reference Frameworks. Similarly, the cooperation agreement between the EIB and the Commission for 2000-06 has permitted the introduction of arrangements for contacts between the geographical units in the two institutions, so improving coordination between the assistance they grant. During 2001, the ERDF carried out 27 missions to audit the management systems of the Member States. These preventative audits demonstrated the care taken by the Member States as regards the quality of their systems, mainly by creating internal audit bodies. The report states that it is, however, regrettable that far too often the competent authorities in the Member States are still making payments without any real checks that the expenditure is genuine. The audits also revealed a lack of authority over the intermediate and implementing bodies, which, in any case, should have more precise and harmonised procedural rules. The ESF carried out 41 audits and inspections and the FIG 12. The 18 inspections by the EAGGF basically revealed an unsatisfactory application of Regulation 2064/97/EC, some cases where ineligible expenditure had been financed and still too many problems in reconciling the declarations of expenditure sent to the Commission with the corresponding transactions.