Basic information

2003/2020(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Annual report of the Cohesion Fund (2001) **Subject** 4.70.02 Cohesion policy, Cohesion Fund (CF)	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	SCALLON Dana Rosemary (PPE-DE)	21/01/2003

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	TORRES MARQUES Helena (PSE)	17/03/2003

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Regional and Urban Policy	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/10/2002	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2002)0557	Summary
13/02/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/05/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
21/05/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0184/2003	
19/06/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0283/2003	Summary
19/06/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/2020(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure

Procedure subtype	Annual report
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55 Rules of Procedure EP 148-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	RETT/5/19190

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0184/2003	21/05/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0283/2003	19/06/2003	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0557	15/10/2002	Summary

Annual report of the Cohesion Fund (2001)

2003/2020(INI) - 15/10/2002 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present the Commission annual report of the Cohesion Fund (2001). CONTENT : this annual report on the activities of the Cohesion Fund covers the calendar year 2001. It provides information on the second year of the 2000-06 programming period. The reporting format reflects the requirements of the Cohesion Fund Regulation. It has been adapted to take into account the comments made by the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. It is hoped that it will also serve as a useful reference document for everyone interested in the promotion and furtherance of the economic and social cohesion of the European Union. Most of the Member States receiving assistance from the Cohesion Fund continued to respect the macro-economic criteria; only in Portugal was this not the case. On 25 July 2002 the Portuguese authorities announced that the public deficit for 2001 had reached 4.1% of GDP, well above the reference level of 3%. Following that announcement, the Commission decided to initiate the excessive deficit procedure, as laid down in the Council resolution on the Stability and Growth Pact. This problem did not arise in the other Cohesion Fund countries. As regards the budget implementation, the report states that the final amount, after indexation, of the resources of the Cohesion Fund for 2001 was EUR 2 715 million. In the area of transport, this sector accounted for 48.5% of total Cohesion Fund Commitments in 2001. As in the past, the Commission insisted that the work of the Fund should concentrate on railways. As for the environment, it accounted for for 51.5% of total Cohesion Fund commitments for 2001. The priorities in this sector remained the supply of drinking water and the treatment of waste water and solid waste. Concerning information and publicity, an information meeting with all 15 Member States was held in Brussels on 24 October. At that meeting, the Commission presented the draft Regulation on the systems of management and control and the procedure for implementing financial corrections of assistance granted under the Cohesion Fund as well as the Report of the Cohesion Fund for 2000. In addition, a programme of ex-post evaluations extending over three years was launched in 1998. In all, 120 projects were evaluated, 60 in the environment sector and 60 in transport. Implementation of the environment projects raised no major problems and they achieved their objectives. However, those in the transport sector encountered a number of problems leading to cost overruns and the postponement of deadlines. On the other hand, the report takes note of irregularities and the suspension of assistance. Under Article 3 of Commission Regulation 1831/94/EC concerning irregularities and the recovery of sums wrongly paid in connection with the financing of the Cohesion Fund and the organisation of an information system in this field, the beneficiary Member States are obliged to notify the Commission of irregularities which have been the subject of initial administrative or judicial investigations. One of the Member States, Greece, notified the Commission of four irregularities in 2001 involving a total of EUR 2 429 040,stating also that the national authorities had taken the steps required to safeguard the financial interests of the Community. In three of these cases, proceedings to recover the amounts wrongly paid are in progress while in the fourth the contractor for the project was required to correct the deficiencies, and has already done so. Under the same Regulation, the other three beneficiary Member States informed the Commission that they had detected no irregularities during the year in question.

Annual report of the Cohesion Fund (2001)

2003/2020(INI) - 19/06/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Dana SCALLON (EPP-ED, Ireland) on the Commission's Annual Report. (Please see the summary of 21/05/03.) Parliament reminded the Commission of its undertaking to provide Parliament with a report on its ex post evaluations of individual projects, in order to give a global view of the effectiveness and impact of the Fund. Control of the Fund's activities on the ground still needs to be intensified and the number of audits carried out in 2001 was insufficient. The Commission should forward to Parliament the assessment of the economic impact of Cohesion Fund assistance with regard to both individual projects and overall activity, including the impact on the least qualified workers. Parliament regretted, too, the fact that the report gives no specific details concerning the appropriations outstanding under the Cohesion Fund. Finally, Parliament felt that transparency could be further enhanced by the inclusion in the report of a historical overview of the Fund's activities and by the addition of a full statistical annex, which would allow comparison between the different Member States on the basis of complete and corresponding figures.