Basic information

2003/2154(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Policy against corruption: instruments and recommendations **Subject** 7.30.30 Action to combat crime 7.40.04 Judicial cooperation in criminal matters	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	RUTELLI Francesco (ELDR)	10/07/2003

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	THEATO Diemut R. (PPE-DE)	07/08/2003
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	MILLER Bill (PSE)	07/07/2003

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Justice and Consumers	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
28/05/2003	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2003)0317	Summary
04/09/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
04/11/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
04/11/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0367/2003	
04/12/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0542/2003	Summary
04/12/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/2154(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	LIBE/5/19865

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0367/2003	04/11/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0542/2003 OJ C 089 14.04.2004, p. 0032-0110 E	04/12/2003	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2003)0317	28/05/2003	Summary

Policy against corruption: instruments and recommendations

2003/2154(INI) - 28/05/2003 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to put froward a comprehensive plan for the fight against corruption. CONTENT : this paper sets out the principles of fighting corruption at EU level. The Commission regards combating corruption as a political priority. The Communication sets out an overview of what has been achieved at EU level, and indicates what needs to be improved to give fresh impetus to the fight against corruption. It also seeks to identify possible areas where the EU might be an appropriate actor to take future initiatives in the fight against corruption. It is the Commission's firm intention to reduce corruption at all levels in a coherent way within the EU institutions, in EU Member States and outside the EU, i.e. political corruption, corrupt activities committed by and collusively with organised crime groups, private-to-private and so-called petty corruption. The objectives and purposes of combating corruption at EU level need to be put clearly and coherently in the context of other policy objectives resulting from the EC Treaty. These include sound decision making, fair competition, effective functioning of the internal market, protection of the financial interests of the EC, external aid and assistance, open, free and fair international trade. There must be a comprehensive framework to ensuring complementarity between the different areas. The Commission points out that duplicating similar activities can bind unnecessary resources and be counterproductive. It holds the view that, at this stage of policy development, mainly those measures should be strengthened at EU level, which are not already substantively covered, or not with the same degree of mandatory character as EU instruments, by international organisations. This goes in particular for initiatives of the United Nations, the OECD and the Council of Europe, where the EU has been playing a leading role and should continue to do so. The paper sets out the core elements of the future EU policy on corruption: - a strong political commitment against all forms of corruption should come from the highest level of EU institutions; - the implementation of existing anti-corruption instruments should be closely monitored and strengthened for the time being through the adhesion of the European Community to one or both Conventions on Corruption of the Council of Europe and the participation in its monitoring mechanism GRECO; - EU Member States should develop and improve investigative tools and allocate more specialised staff to the fight against corruption; - Member States and EU institutions and bodies should enhance efforts to combat corruption damaging the financial interests of the European Community; - common integrity standards in public administrations across the EU such as the Common Assessment Framework of EU Heads of Civil Service and Public Administration should be further developed at EU level; - Member States and the Commission should support the private sector in its efforts to raise integrity and corporate responsibility; - the fight against political corruption and illicit financing of social partner entities and other interest groups needs to bestrengthened at EU and Member States level; - in their permanent dialogue with acceding, candidate and other third countries, the Member States and the Commission should systematically include corruption-related issues and further assist these countries in their efforts to set-up and implement national anti-corruption policies on the basis of ten general principles, which are set out in this paper; - the EU should continue making the fight against corruption an integral part of its external and trade police.

Policy against corruption: instruments and recommendations

2003/2154(INI) - 04/12/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Francesco RUTELLI (ELDR, Italy) on fighting corruption. (Please see the summary dated 04/11/03). The vote was adopted with 455 votes in favour, 12 against with 42 abstentions. Parliament also deplored the fact that the criminalisation of passive bribery of international public officials, illegal funding of political parties and effective monitoring of the Convention are not sufficiently covered by the draft UN Convention> It asked Member States, the candidate countries and the Commission to make clear statements at the conference organised for the signing of the UN Convention in MΘrida, allowing for the inclusion of these issues. Parliament went on to ask the Commission to prepare proposals for the introduction of rules and codes of good practice aimed at preventing and avoiding conflict of interest for public authorities whose activities are susceptible to private-sector interests (in such areas as media ownership, award of public concessions, etc), and to draw up guidelines on conflict of interest, along the lines of those set out by the OECD. On the question of preventing corruption, Member States must adopt stringent measures to punish the falsification of accounts, tax evasion and money laundering> Parliament felt that corruption can be prevented by ensuring proper transparency in decision-making procedures and efficient, effective and economically sound administration. Finally, Parliament asked the Commission to renew its efforts to continue the negotiations in the WTO with a view, notably, to concluding the agreements on transparency in customs procedures and in the rules on public contracts, as an instrument in the fight against corruption in international trade.