Basic information

2004/2175(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
The future of the area of freedom, security and justice **Subject** 7 Area of freedom, security and justice	

Key players

	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
European Parliament	LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	BOURLANGES Jean-Louis (ALDE)	26/07/2004

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
27/08/2004	Non-legislative basic document published	B6-0006/2004	
22/09/2004	Vote in committee		Summary
29/09/2004	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0010/2004	
13/10/2004	Debate in Parliament		
14/10/2004	Decision by Parliament	T6-0022/2004	Summary
14/10/2004	Results of vote in Parliament		
14/10/2004	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
14/10/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2004/2175(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 134o-p3
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/6/23046

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document		B6-0006/2004	27/08/2004	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0010/2004	29/09/2004	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0022/2004 OJ C 166 07.07.2005, p. 0024-0058 E	14/10/2004	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2004)3019	13/01/2005	

The future of the area of freedom, security and justice

2004/2175(INI) - 14/10/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report by Jean-Louis BOURLANGES in anticipation of the European Council in November laying down the priorities for the future of the area of freedom, security and justice (AFSJ).

Parliament noted the significant progress that has been made, but also the many delays in the EU's efforts to implement the AFSJ. It was critical of the fact that progress in the field of asylum and immigration has been mainly devoted thus far to action to counter illegal immigration and has not been accompanied by sufficient efforts to promote the integration of legally resident aliens. On this point, it felt that refugee camps outside the Union should not be envisaged since they entail a clear risk of fundamental rights being violated.

Although Article 29 of the EU Treaty confers on the EU responsibility to provide citizens with a high level of safety within an area of freedom, security and justice, Parliament characterised the EU's response as more virtual than real. This is partly due to the unanimity rule, which makes it very difficult to take binding decisions.

Parliament regretted that, over the last five years, some Member States within the Council have opposed the establishment of standards of protection of citizens' rights and individual citizens and that the lack of such standards has often been cited (sometimes even by the same Member States) as a reason for blocking mutual recognition.

Parliament went on to make certain recommendations to the European Council and the Council when defining the future of the AFSJ. These include enhancing the legitimacy of the AFSJ by using the codecision procedure, and qualified majority voting in the Council. Parliament also advocated extending the jurisdiction of the Court to cover the AFSJ, initially for immigration measures and, subsequently, for measures connected with combating terrorism and international crime. Other recommendations include a series of measures to promote fundamental rights and freedoms through policies linked to the AFSJ and credibility both at Union level and in terms of the Member States' response.

Parliament also recommended a series of specific objectives regarding the immigration policy, defining a coherent legislative framework with a view to the attainment of certain objectives. These include establishing a coherent immigration policy in order to develop legal routes to migration, and meeting the new demographic and economic challenges currently faced by the Union. Other recommendations looked at judicial cooperation in both civil and criminal matters.