Basic information

2010/2201(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Application of Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003 on the regulations governing political parties at European level and the rules regarding their funding See also Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003 2003/0039(COD) **Subject** 8.40.01.02 President, members, mandates, political groups 8.50.01 Implementation of EU law	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	GIANNAKOU Marietta (PPE)	05/10/2010
	Shadow rapporteur GUERRERO SALOM Enrique (S&D) FOX Ashley (ECR) SCHOLZ Helmut (GUE/NGL) MESSERSCHMIDT Morten (EFD)	

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Secretariat-General	ŠEFČOVIČ Maroš

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/09/2010	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
15/03/2011	Vote in committee		Summary
18/03/2011	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0062/2011	
05/04/2011	Debate in Parliament		
06/04/2011	Decision by Parliament	T7-0143/2011	Summary
06/04/2011	Results of vote in Parliament		

06/04/2011	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2010/2201(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Amendments and repeals	See also Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003 2003/0039(COD)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 225_-p6
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFCO/7/03795

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE454.393	10/02/2011	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE460.695	03/03/2011	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0062/2011	18/03/2011	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0143/2011	06/04/2011	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2011)5857	19/09/2011	

Application of Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003 on the regulations governing political parties at European level and the rules regarding their funding

2010/2201(INI) - 06/04/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 560 votes to 93, with 22 abstentions, a resolution on the application of Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003 on the regulations governing political parties at European level and the rules regarding their funding.

The resolution recalls that the Treaty on European Union states that ‘political parties at European level contribute to forming European political awareness and to expressing the will of citizens of the Union’. The Treaty of Lisbon provides for this role of the political parties and their foundations with a view to creating a European polis, a political space at EU level, and a European democracy. However, European political parties, as they stand, are not in a position to play this role to the full because they are merely umbrella organisations for national parties and not directly in touch with the electorate in the Member States.

In this context, Parliament points out that political parties have rights, obligations and responsibilities and should therefore follow **converging general organisational patterns**. It is convinced that **authentic legal status for the European political parties** and a legal personality of their own, based directly on the law of the European Union, will enable the European political parties and their political foundations to act as representative agents of the European public interest. The European political parties should interact and compete on matters relating to common European challenges and the European Union and its development at three levels: regionally, nationally and at European level.

Members consider that it is of the utmost importance for European political parties to be efficient and productive at EU and national level and beyond.

The Parliament should therefore, requests the Commission to **propose a draft statute for European political parties** in accordance with Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Members point out that the award of funding and the closure of the accounts of the European political parties and foundations are bureaucratic and cumbersome procedures. They consider that this stems to a great extent from the fact that funding payments are regarded as ‘grants’ within the meaning of the Financial Regulation, which is appropriate for the funding of projects or associations, but not for parties.

In addition, the committee presents a series of **additional reform proposals**:

- the Commission should propose the **creation of a new title in the Financial Regulation** devoted solely and tailored specifically to the funding of European parties and foundations;
- self-financing of parties and foundations should be encouraged by raising the present limit of EUR 12 000 per year for donations to **EUR 25 000 per year/per donor**, combined, however, with a requirement to disclose the donor’s identity at the time of receipt;
- as an exception to the implementing rules for the Financial Regulation, for the funding to be made **available at the beginning of the financial year at 100 %, not 80 %**;
- the **independent resources** that the European political parties are required to demonstrate could be reduced to 10 % of their total budget, in order to further enhance their development; their own resources in the form of physical resources should not exceed 7.5% of their total budget;
- in the case of **European political foundations** the revision of the legal instrument should be taken as an opportunity to abolish the requirement to demonstrate that they have resources of their own; in the context of this revision the limitation imposed on European political foundations requiring them to use their funds within the European Union should be removed;
- relaxing the funding regime would have to be counterbalanced by providing for **sanctions** in the Funding Regulation where they are currently lacking.

Lastly, the resolution underlines that it is prohibited for European political to use the sums received for financing ‘referendum campaigns’. Members note that European political parties should have the right to participate in referendum campaigns as long as the subject of the referendum has a direct link with issues concerning the European Union.