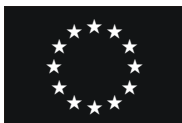


# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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*Session document*

FINAL  
**A6-0023/2005**

7.2.2005

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## **REPORT**

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council  
amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term  
statistics

(COM(2003)0823 – C6-0028/2004 – 2003/0325(COD))

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

Rapporteur: Margarita Starkevičiūtė

### ***Symbols for procedures***

- \* Consultation procedure  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*I Cooperation procedure (first reading)  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*II Cooperation procedure (second reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position*  
*majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position*
- \*\*\* Assent procedure  
*majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and Article 7 of the EU Treaty*
- \*\*\*I Codecision procedure (first reading)  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*\*II Codecision procedure (second reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position*  
*majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position*
- \*\*\*III Codecision procedure (third reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text*

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission)

### ***Amendments to a legislative text***

In amendments by Parliament, amended text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the legislative text for which a correction is proposed, to assist preparation of the final text (for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a given language version). These suggested corrections are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

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## DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics (COM(2003)0823 – C6-0028/2004 – 2003/0325(COD))

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2003)0823)<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to Article 251(2) and Article 285(1) of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C6-0028/2004),
  - having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (A6-0023/2005),
1. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;
  2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it intends to amend the proposal substantially or replace it with another text;
  3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

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Text proposed by the Commission

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Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1  
RECITAL 7 A (new)

***(7a) The implementation of the Lisbon strategy for growth and employment includes the reduction of unnecessary burdens on businesses and the dissemination of new technologies.***

*Justification*

*This amendment addresses urgent action required to reduce the total administrative burden and stimulates the development of standards that can drive the development and diffusion of new technologies within and outside the EU, which are stressed in the Report of the High*

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<sup>1</sup> Not yet published in OJ.

Amendment 2

ARTICLE 1, POINT 1

Article 4, paragraph 2, subparagraph 3 (Regulation (EC) No 1165/98)

European sample schemes shall be established only when national sample schemes do not meet the European requirements. Participation in a European sample scheme shall satisfy the conditions of a Member State for the supply of the variable concerned according to the objective of the European scheme. European schemes may target the conditions, the level of detail and the deadlines for data transmission.

European sample schemes shall be established when national sample schemes do not meet the European requirements. ***Furthermore, Member States may opt to take part in European sample schemes when such schemes create possibilities for substantial reductions in the cost of the statistical system or the burden on business which meeting the European requirements entails.*** Participation in a European sample scheme shall satisfy the conditions of a Member State for the supply of the variable concerned according to the objective of the European scheme. European schemes may target the conditions, the level of detail and the deadlines for data transmission.

*Justification*

*The article has been extended to address the possibility of establishing European sample schemes to a wider range of variables with the aim to reduce statistical costs or the burden on business and to widen the scope of European sample schemes. The proposed regulation could significantly reduce the transmission requirements for small EU countries, allowing them to focus on compiling the main aggregates.*

Amendment 3

ARTICLE 1, POINT 1

Article 4, paragraph 2, subparagraph 3 a (new) (Regulation (EC) No 1165/98)

***Compulsory surveys shall be used to obtain information that is not already available (within the required timelines) in other sources, such as registers; surveys shall be performed using electronic questionnaires and web-questionnaires where applicable.***

*Justification*

*This amendment reflects business community views (information on Austria, Lithuania and*

*Luxembourg concerning the amendment of Regulation 1165/98 on short term statistics). Furthermore it can drive the development and diffusion of new technologies within the EU, so it will be in line with Lisbon strategy goals to implement eEurope action plan. In the light of limited resources of small and medium size companies, especially in the service sector, further efforts are needed to reduce the transmission requirements for these companies.*

Amendment 4

ARTICLE 1, POINT 1 A (new)

Article 10, paragraph 3 (Regulation (EC) No 1165/98)

***(1a) Article 10(3) is replaced by the following:***

***“3. The quality of the variables shall be tested regularly by comparing them with other statistical information, such comparison to be effected by each Member State and the Commission (Eurostat). In addition they shall be checked for internal consistency.”***

*Justification*

Currently one of the major concerns for the users of statistics, including the ECB, is the quality of the statistical aggregates. Some further efforts are needed to clarify the distribution of the responsibilities for the quality of data.

Amendment 5 ARTICLE 1, POINT 1 B (new)

Article 10, paragraph 4 (Regulation (EC) No 1165/98)

***(1b) Article 10(4) is replaced by the following:***

***“4. Quality evaluation shall be carried out comparing the benefits of the availability of the data with the costs of collection and the burden on businesses, especially on small enterprises. For the purpose of this evaluation, Member States shall transmit to the Commission, at its request, the necessary information according to a common European methodology developed by the Commission in close cooperation with the Member States.”***

Justification This amendment takes into consideration the recommendations from the Report of the High Level Group on the Lisbon strategy chaired by Wim Kok, which stresses that "the European Commission should continue to develop its instrument for analysing the impact of

legislative proposals so that the objectives of competitiveness and sustainable development are incorporated more efficiently". In order to arrive at a better and more harmonised measurement of the benefits of the availability of the data with the costs of collection in different Member States, a unified methodology has to be developed.

Amendment 6

ARTICLE 1, POINT 1 C (new)

Article 12, paragraph 1 (Regulation (EC) No 1165/98)

***(1c) Article 12 (1) is replaced by the following:***

***"1. The Commission, after consulting the Statistical Programme Committee, shall publish by ...\* an advisory methodological manual which explains the rules set out in the Annexes and also contains guidance concerning short term statistics.***

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***\* Six months after the entry into force of Regulation (EC) No .../2004 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics."***

*Justification*

*The prompt preparation of methodological guidelines will insure the comparability of the national data and significantly improve the quality of the statistical aggregates and provide the users of information with sufficient long and reliable back series.*

Amendment 7

ARTICLE 1, POINT 1 D (new)

Article 14, paragraph 2 (Regulation (EC) No 1165/98)

***(1d) Article 14 (2) is replaced by the following:***

***"2. The Commission shall, within three years of the date of entry into force of this Regulation and again every three years thereafter, submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the statistics compiled pursuant to this Regulation and in particular on their relevance and quality and the revision of indicators. The report shall also specifically address the cost of the***



***statistical system and the burden on business arising from this Regulation in relation to its benefits. It shall report on best practices for lessening the burden on business and shall indicate ways of reducing the burden and costs.”***

*Justification*

*This amendment puts more emphasis on regular reporting by the Commission and stresses the necessity of looking into the revisions of the statistical results, as well as the possibilities of reducing the administrative burden on business and statistical costs.*

Amendment 8

ARTICLE 1, POINT 1 E (new)

Article 17, point (j) (Regulation (EC) No 1165/98)

***(1e) In Article 17 the following text is added:***

***“(j) the establishment of European sample schemes (Article 4).”***

*Justification*

*The approval and implementation of European sample schemes is subject to Comitology, therefore a reference to sample schemes should be added here.*

Amendment 9

ANNEX PART (A), "LEVEL OF DETAIL", POINT 1

Annex A, heading (f), paragraph 2 (Regulation (EC) No 1165/98)

2. In addition, for Section D of NACE, the index of production (No 110) and the index of output prices (Nos. 310, 311, 312) are to be transmitted at the 3-digit and 4-digit levels of NACE. ***The index of import prices (No 340) is to be transmitted at the 3-digit and 4-digit levels of CPA.*** The transmitted indices for production and output prices at the 3-digit and 4-digit levels must represent at least 90% of the total value added for each Member State of Section D of NACE in a given base year. ***The transmitted indices for import prices at the 3-digit and 4-digit levels must represent at least 90% of the total import for each Member State of products belonging to Section D of CPA in***

2. In addition, for Section D of NACE, the index of production (No 110) and the index of output prices (Nos. 310, 311, 312) are to be transmitted at the 3-digit and 4-digit levels of NACE. The transmitted indices for production and output prices at the 3-digit and 4-digit levels must represent at least 90% of the total value added for each Member State of Section D of NACE in a given base year. The variables need not be transmitted at these detailed levels by those Member States whose total value added of Section D of NACE in a given base year represents less than 4% of the European Community total.

**a given base year.** The variables need not be transmitted at these detailed levels by those Member States whose total value added of Section D of NACE (**or the imports of products in Section D of CPA**) in a given base year represents less than 4% of the European Community total.

*Justification*  
*The Commission proposal to increase the level of detail for the import price variable was not supported, in order to reduce the burden for enterprises and statistical institutes.*

Amendment 10  
ANNEX PART (A), "LEVEL OF DETAIL", POINT 3  
Annex A, heading (f), paragraph 7 (Regulation (EC) No 1165/98)

7. The import price variable (No 340) is to be transmitted for total industrial products, Sections C to E of CPA and main industrial groupings (MIGs) defined in accordance with the Regulation (EC) No 586/2001 from product groups of the CPA.

7. The import price variable (No 340) is to be transmitted for total industrial products, Sections C to E of CPA and main industrial groupings (MIGs) defined in accordance with the Regulation (EC) No 586/2001 from product groups of the CPA. ***The import price variable (No 340) does not need to be delivered by those Member States that have not adopted the euro as their currency.***

*Justification*

*The proposed changes limit the requirement for transmission of the index of import prices to those Member States that have adopted the euro as their currency.*

Amendment 11  
ANNEX PART (A), "TRANSITION PERIOD"  
Annex A, heading (j), paragraph 4 (Regulation (EC) No 1165/98)

4. A transition period ending no later than [date to be determined to be 2 years after the entry into force of this Amendment Regulation] may be conceded for the change of the deadlines for data transmission for variable 110.

4. A transition period ending no later than [date to be determined to be 2 years after the entry into force of this Amendment Regulation] may be conceded for the change of the deadlines for data transmission for variable 110 ***in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 18.***

*Justification*

*Minor changes are proposed to keep the wording in line with the rest of the document.*

Amendment 12  
ANNEX PART (A), "TRANSITION PERIOD"  
Annex A, heading (j), paragraph 5 (Regulation (EC) No 1165/98)

5. A transition period ending no longer than [date to be determined to be one year after the entry into force of this Amendment Regulation] may be conceded for the change of the deadlines for data transmission for variable 210.

5. A transition period ending no longer than [date to be determined to be one year after the entry into force of this Amendment Regulation] may be conceded for the change of the deadlines for data transmission for variable 210 ***in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 18.***

*Justification*

*Minor changes are proposed to keep the wording in line with the rest of the document.*

Amendment 13 ANNEX PART (B), "LIST OF VARIABLES", POINT 2  
Annex B, heading (c), paragraph 6, introductory part (Regulation (EC) No 1165/98)

***6. The Commission shall institute a series of studies to be undertaken by the Member States.*** The studies shall be carried out taking into account the benefits of collecting the data in relation to the cost of collection and burden on business to:

***6. Member States shall carry out studies instituted by the Commission, set up in consultation with the Member States.*** The studies shall be carried out taking into account the benefits of collecting the data in relation to the cost of collection and burden on business to:

*Justification* *The amendment allows the Commission to prepare the necessary feasibility studies, after consulting the relevant Member States.*

Amendment 14  
ANNEX PART (B), "LIST OF VARIABLES", POINT 2  
Annex B, heading (c), paragraph 6, subparagraph 4 (Regulation (EC) No 1165/98)

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 18, the Commission shall decide no later than [date to be determined to be 3 years after the entry into force of this Amendment Regulation] whether to invoke Article 17(b) to ***include*** the output price variable with effect from base year 2010.

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 18, the Commission shall decide no later than [date to be determined to be 3 years after the entry into force of this Amendment Regulation] whether to invoke Article 17(b) to ***replace the construction costs variable with*** the output price variable with effect from base year 2010.

*Justification*

*This amendment facilitates the harmonisation of statistical indicators in the future by*

*agreeing on the output prices as the common indicator.*

#### Amendment 15

##### ANNEX PART (C), "LIST OF VARIABLES"

Annex C, heading (c), paragraph 4, introductory part (Regulation (EC) No 1165/98)

**4. *The Commission shall institute a series of studies to be undertaken by the Member States.*** The studies shall be carried out taking into account the benefits of collecting the data in relation to the cost of collection and burden on business to:

**4. *Member States shall carry out studies instituted by the Commission, set up in consultation with the Member States.*** The studies shall be carried out taking into account the benefits of collecting the data in relation to the cost of collection and burden on business to:

*Justification* The amendment allows the Commission to prepare the necessary feasibility studies, after consulting the relevant Member States.

#### Amendment 16

##### ANNEX PART (D), "LIST OF VARIABLES", POINT 2

Annex D, heading (c), paragraph 4, introductory part (Regulation (EC) No 1165/98)

**4. *The Commission shall institute a series of studies to be undertaken by the Member States.*** The studies shall be carried out taking into account the benefits of collecting the data in relation to the cost of collection and burden on business to:

**4. *Member States shall carry out studies instituted by the Commission, set up in consultation with the Member States.*** The studies shall be carried out taking into account the benefits of collecting the data in relation to the cost of collection and burden on business to:

*Justification* The amendment allows the Commission to prepare the necessary feasibility studies, after consulting the relevant Member States.

#### Amendment 17

##### ANNEX PART (D), "REFERENCE PERIOD"

Annex D, heading (e), paragraph 2, subparagraph 1 (Regulation (EC) No 1165/98)

**2. *The Commission shall institute studies to be undertaken by the Member States.*** The studies shall be carried out taking into account the benefits of a reduced reference period in relation to the cost of collection and burden on business to assess the feasibility of reducing the reference period of a quarter for the turnover variable (No 120) to a reference period of a month;

**2. *Member States shall carry out studies instituted by the Commission, set up in consultation with the Member States.*** The studies shall be carried out taking into account the benefits of a reduced reference period in relation to the cost of collection and burden on business to assess the feasibility of reducing the reference period of a quarter for the turnover variable (No 120) to a reference period of a month.

Justification *The amendment allows the Commission to prepare the necessary feasibility studies, after consulting the relevant Member States.* Amendment 18

ANNEX PART (D), "FIRST REFERENCE PERIOD"

Annex D, heading (i) (Regulation (EC) No 1165/98)

The first reference period for transmission of the output price variable No 310 is not later than the first quarter of **2005**. A derogation of a further year may be conceded for the first reference period in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 18, on condition that a base year not later than **2005** is applied.

The first reference period for transmission of the output price variable No 310 is not later than the first quarter of **2006**. A derogation of a further year may be conceded for the first reference period in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 18, on condition that a base year not later than **2006** is applied.

*Justification*

*The date was changed by this amendment to make it possible to harmonise the demands of users (e.g. the ECB) with the problems Member States are facing regarding the collection, processing and publication of data.*

Amendment 19

ANNEX PART (D), "TRANSITION PERIOD"

Annex D, heading (j), paragraph 1 (Regulation (EC) No 1165/98)

A transition period ending no later than [date to be determined to be 3 years after the entry into force of this Amendment Regulation] may be conceded for the variable No 310 in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 18. A further transition period of one year may be conceded for the implementation of variable No 310 for the NACE Divisions 63 and 74.

A transition period ending no later than [date to be determined to be 3 years after the entry into force of this Amendment Regulation] may be conceded for the variable No 310 in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 18. A further transition period of one year may be conceded for the implementation of variable No 310 for the NACE Divisions 63 and 74 ***in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 18. In addition to these transition periods, a further transition period of one year may be granted, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 18, to those Member States whose turnover in the NACE activities referred to under (a) Scope in a given base year represents less than 1% of the Community total.***

*Justification*

*A reference to the Comitology procedure has been added to keep the paragraph in line with the rest of document. The proposed regulation could significantly reduce the transmission requirements for small EU countries, allowing them to focus on compiling the main aggregates.*

## **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Short-term Statistics (STS) Council Regulation No 1165/98 provided the basis for collecting a range of monthly and quarterly indicators on the evolution of the business cycle for economic and monetary policy. But it must be underlined that although Eurostat can calculate important indicators of the EU25/Euro-zone, no aggregates can be estimated for some indicators, e.g. an output price index, which is a very important component for euro area price analysis. Therefore, some further efforts were needed to improve the existing statistics. The ECB has specified the short-term statistics it requires for the purposes of conducting monetary policy. The EMU Action Plan of autumn 2000 has made it clear that the effort to improve the short-term statistics has to continue. The request of the EMU Action Plan and the set of Principle European Economic Indicators (PEEI) have been incorporated into the proposal for the STS Amendment Regulation submitted to the EU Council and the European Parliament.

The Objective of this Proposal is to establish a legal framework for the provision of harmonised statistics for the monetary and economic policy in the framework of the EMU.

### **THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL**

Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 is amended as follows:

Article 1, paragraph 1, sets out an option of compiling certain euro area indicators by means of the so-called "European sample schemes", when such schemes create possibilities for substantial reductions of the costs for the statistical system and the burden on businesses. Paragraph 2 stipulates the preparation of the report to European Parliament and the Council on the statistics compiled pursuant to this Regulation within three years of the date of entry into force of this Regulation and again every three years thereafter in particular on their relevance, quality and revision of indicators. Paragraph 3 establishes the European sample schemes for implementing this Regulation, including the measures to accommodate economic and technical developments, concerning the collection and statistical processing of data and the transmission of the variables.

Paragraph 4 indicates that amendments for the Annexes A to D were tabled to cover a wide range of improvements to the existing Short-term Statistics Council Regulation. The most important points are:

- The addition of a variable on import prices with a similar level of detail as the output price variable.
- The distinction of the Euro-zone in industrial indicators for the non-domestic markets of turnover, new orders, output prices and import prices. The level of detail is limited to the 2-digit NACE/CPA level of detail.
- The addition of a output price index for a selection of particular relevant service sectors for which consumer price indices are not providing a sufficient picture of the

price evolution. The indicator aims at a corporate output price index for services delivered from enterprises to other enterprises as customers.

- The change of the reference period for production in construction from 'at least quarterly' to monthly. Such an indicator provides for the first time a sufficiently responsive indicator for the extremely volatile construction sector.
- Shortening of the delays for a series of short-term statistics indicators that are also covered by the Principle European Economic Indicators (PEEI) to the timeliness conditions that have been agreed for the PEEI.
- Many detailed operational improvements that originate from the practice with the data collection and processing under the current STS Regulation, such as a more consistent treatment of data aggregates and data adjustments (working day and seasonal adjustments).
- The clarification of construction costs and prices in construction. The current STS Regulation aims at construction costs but allows using output prices for buildings as approximation. The Amendment Regulation limits this practice to a transition period and stipulates a feasibility study to establish a price index alongside the construction cost index.

The Amendment Regulation explicitly encourages the definition of a European approach for various indicators, i.e. a common import price indicator for the Euro-zone. A pilot project for such an approach currently implemented in the Member States concerns the turnover index for retail trade. A reduced sample size will be a key element for reducing the delay for the retail trade index from the current t+60 days after the reference period to t+30 days by the beginning of 2004. The turnover index for retail trade is a significant indicator of consumer demand. A European scheme will need a different methodology for each indicator.

The Amendment Regulation requires a set of feasibility studies with the explicit possibility to modify the list of variables and their conditions through a Comitology procedure:

- The 'hours worked' variable for retail trade as well as other services;
- The 'gross wages and salaries' indicator for retail trade as well as other services;
- A monthly reference period for turnover in other services.

The Amendment Regulation also includes a number of simplifications in technical details. They have been defined in close co-operation with the ECB with the objective to reduce the workload of National Statistical Institutes without putting the value of short-term statistics at risk. In particular, the large number of small future Member States has been given particular consideration. The Regulation makes significant concessions in the level of detail and reference period for a number of indicators for those Member States whose value added is below 1% of the EU total value added.

In sum, the STS Amendment Regulation is a major step forward towards achieving a system of short-term statistics that corresponds to the requirements of economic and monetary policy. The compromise laid down in the Amendment Regulation tackles many of the gaps of the



current Regulation while providing Member States with sufficient time for the implementation of the changes. In addition, the Regulation stipulates analyses into further steps with a facilitated (Comitology) procedure in case of success. This provision increases the flexibility of the short-term statistics to respond to the requirements of economic and monetary policy.

## **CRITICAL ANALYSIS**

One of the main objectives of the European Parliament's efficient legislative policy is the reduction of the potential burden for businesses of complying with legislation and regulation. Your rapporteur wishes to draw your attention to the number of positive aspects of the proposal, which:

- helps to improve euro area statistics and at the same time may reduce the resources required at the national level, by the introduction of the so-called "European sample schemes";
- introduces reporting on best practices in reduction of statistical burden on businesses, relevance, quality and revision of indicators;
- significantly improves the evolution of the business cycle for economic and monetary policy; and
- creates a solid base for the quality of growth estimates in the national accounts.

Your Rapporteur supports the Commission proposal, with some modifications reflected in Amendments 2, 7, 8 and 9-19 (the latter concerning the Annex), on which the Commission has already indicated agreement.

However, the rapporteur wishes to point out that Austria has principle legal concerns with respect to Comitology provisions in the draft Amendment Regulation. They are not supporting the use of the Comitology procedure to define the indicators or to agree on changes regarding the indicators. Adoption of the proposal for amending the regulation without Austria agreement will lead to some problems for the users of the indicators.

Your Rapporteur also considers that the Commission proposal still does not fully comply with the recommendations stated in the report of the High Level Group on the Lisbon strategy chaired by Wim Kok, and therefore has tabled further amendments to Articles 4 (2) and 10 (4) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98, as well as a corresponding recital, in Amendments 1, 3 and 5. Moreover, the rapporteur presumes that Articles 10 (3) and 12 (1) of the Council Regulation are not sufficient to ensure adequate quality of the statistical aggregates. Your rapporteur has therefore tabled Amendments 4 and 6.

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics
<b>References</b>	COM(2003)0823 – C6-0028/2004 – 2003/0325(COD)
<b>Legal basis</b>	Articles 251(2) and 285 (1)] EC
<b>Basis in Rules of Procedure</b>	Rule 51
<b>Date submitted to Parliament</b>	13.4.2004
<b>Committee responsible</b> Date announced in plenary	ECON 15.9.2004
<b>Committee(s) asked for opinion(s)</b> Date announced in plenary	ITRE 15.9.2004
<b>Not delivering opinion(s)</b> Date of decision	ITRE 7.10.2004
<b>Enhanced cooperation</b> Date announced in plenary	
<b>Rapporteur(s)</b> Date appointed	Margarita Starkevičiūtė 21.9.2004
<b>Previous rapporteur(s)</b>	
<b>Simplified procedure</b> Date of decision	
<b>Legal basis disputed</b> Date of JURI opinion	/
<b>Financial endowment amended</b> Date of BUDG opinion	/
<b>European Economic and Social Committee consulted</b> Date of decision in plenary	
<b>Committee of the Regions consulted</b> Date of decision in plenary	
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	5.10.2004      30.11.2004
<b>Date adopted</b>	2.2.2005
<b>Result of final vote</b>	for:                          46 against:                    0 abstentions:               0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Zsolt László Becsey, Pervenche Berès, Pier Luigi Bersani, Udo Bullmann, Ieke van den Burg, Elisa Ferreira, José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil, Gunnar Hökmark, Karsten Friedrich Hoppenstedt, Ian Hudghton, Christopher Huhne, Sophia in 't Veld, Othmar Karas, Piia-Noora Kauppi, Wolf Klinz, Guntars Krasts, Kurt Joachim Lauk, Enrico Letta, Astrid Lulling, Gay Mitchell, Cristobal Montoro Romero, Joseph Muscat, Alexander Radwan, Bernhard Rapkay, Karin Riis-Jørgensen, Dariusz Rosati, Eoin Ryan, Manuel António dos Santos, Peter Skinner, Margarita Starkevičiūtė, Ivo Strejček, Sahra Wagenknecht, Lars Wohlin
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Pilar del Castillo Vera, Mia De Vits, Alain Lipietz, Jules Maaten,

	Thomas Mann, Diamanto Manolakou, Giovanni Pittella, Antonis Samaras, Andreas Schwab, Theresa Villiers, Corien Wortmann-Kool
<b>Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>	Ambroise Guellec, Maria Matsouka,
<b>Date tabled – A6</b>	7.2.2005 A6-0023/2005
<b>Comments</b>	...