

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

28 November 2002

B5-0624/2002

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Nicholas Clegg, Cecilia Malmström and Diana Wallis

on behalf of the ELDR Group

on the presentation of the Commission's programme for 2003

European Parliament resolution on the presentation of the Commission's programme for 2003

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Annual Policy Strategy for 2003, adopted by the Commission in February 2002, which identifies as political priorities enlargement, stability, security and a sustainable and inclusive economy,
 - having regard to the stocktaking document adopted by the Commission in August on the follow-up to its Annual Policy Strategy for 2003, in which it took account of the views expressed by the European Parliament and the Council,
 - having regard to the work programme submitted by the Commission for 2003,
 - having regard to the formal presentation by the Commission during the European Parliament's November 2002 part-session of its legislative and work programme for 2003, together with an assessment of the implementation of the current programme,
- A. whereas the annual legislative programme is an invaluable tool for the functioning of the European institutions,
1. Welcomes the Commission's Legislative and Work Programme for 2003, which for the first time has been prepared following extensive preparatory dialogue with the European Parliament and the Council as part of the Commission's strategic planning and programming cycle;
 2. Hopes this will mark the beginning of a more integrated and coherent political planning process for the European Union and that the improved transparency and accessibility of the legislative cycle will help enhance European governance for the benefit of European citizens;
 3. Notes the political priorities – enlargement, stability, security, and a sustainable and inclusive economy – for the key initiatives, legislative proposals and non-legislative acts;
 4. Notes, however, that even when these objectives are appropriate, they remain open-ended and liable to excessive interpretation. Notes, moreover, that the majority of the initiatives included in the 2003 work programme (in the annex on 'other legislative proposals and non-legislative acts') do not have any clear relevance to the political priorities selected by the European Commission. In future a more rigorous selection of new initiatives must be made, all based on a clear strategic justification flowing from the political priorities identified;
 5. Insists that greater detail and justification be provided for each new initiative, not least to facilitate input from national parliaments and from European citizens;

6. Admits, however, that the European Parliament committees should also improve their performance in providing more and better input, paying attention in particular to a full dialogue with sector-specific Commissioners in the months preceding the presentation of the Commission's work programme, in line with the framework agreement of 5 July 2000 on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission;
7. Strongly supports proposals for an impact assessment of legislative proposals, while noting, however, that these assessments should be conducted in an independent way and should also involve key legislative amendments by the other institutional players, the European Parliament and Council;
8. Calls on the Commission to use its right of initiative not only to propose new initiatives but also to revitalise the legislative proposals pending before the Council and to keep Parliament informed of the reason for the impasse in each case;
9. Calls on the Commission to ensure, before submission of any new proposal, that such proposals comply with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. Calls on the Commission in consequence to further seek to involve the national parliaments, by informing them in good time about the annual programme, in order to facilitate planning of their legislative year;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.