

CODECISION

May 1999 to December 2006

Some Statistical Data

Introduction

This note aims:

- to examine and highlight the changing proportions of 1st and 2nd reading deals, and conciliations, in the codecision procedure, for the period from May 1999 to December 2006, inclusive;
- for the same period, to examine the change in the duration of files successfully completed at each stage of the procedure;

Analysis

To date, 564 files have been completed under the Amsterdam Codecision procedure. This figure excludes files withdrawn by the Commission at the 1st reading stage.

This high number of files allows for a solid statistical analysis of the changing dynamics of the codecision procedure. A file was therefore put together, including key dates for all dossiers completed under codecision since the Treaty of Amsterdam came into force, on 1 May 1999. From this data, two analyses were completed:

- a) An overview of the number of files completed at each stage of the codecision procedure, and the changes in proportions since 1999.
- b) An analysis of the changing lengths of 1st reading deals, as compared to 2nd reading deals and conciliations.

For a full breakdown of files successfully concluded in codecision, year by year, see Annex I.

Over the period May 1999 to December 2006, of all 564 files concluded successfully, 217 were concluded at 1st reading (38.5%), 249 at 2nd reading (44.1%), and 98 at conciliation (17.4%). The average length of time for a 1st reading deal over the whole period was of 13.7 months (412 days). For a 2nd reading deal, the average length was of 26.5 months (794 days). For a conciliation, it was of 33.7 months (1009 days).

Total (May 1999-Dec 2006)	1st reading	2nd reading	Conciliation	Total
Number of files	217	249	98	564
	38.5%	44.1%	17.4%	100,0%
Average time in codecision	13.7 months	26.5 months	33.7 months	

For the period May 1999 to April 2004, inclusive – up to the last European elections – the figures were as follows. Of the 403 files concluded successfully, 116 were concluded at 1st reading (28.8%), 199 at 2nd reading (49.4%), and 88 at conciliation (21.8%). The average length of time for a 1st reading deal over the period was of 12.0 months (365 days). For a 2nd

reading deal, the average length was of 25.1 months (752 days). For a conciliation, it was of 31.9 months (958 days).

May 1999-April 2004	1st reading	2nd reading	Conciliation	Total
Number of files	116 28.8%	199 49.4%	88 21.8%	403 100,0%
Average time in codecision	12.0 months	25.1 months	31.9 months	

From mid-2004 to December 2006 they were as follows. Of the 161 files concluded successfully, 101 were concluded at 1st reading (62.7%), 50 at 2nd reading (31.1%), and 10 at conciliation (6.2%). The average length of time for a 1st reading deal over the period was of 15.7 months (472 days). For a 2nd reading deal, the average length was of 32.0 months (960 days). For a conciliation, it was of 36.4 months (1462 days).

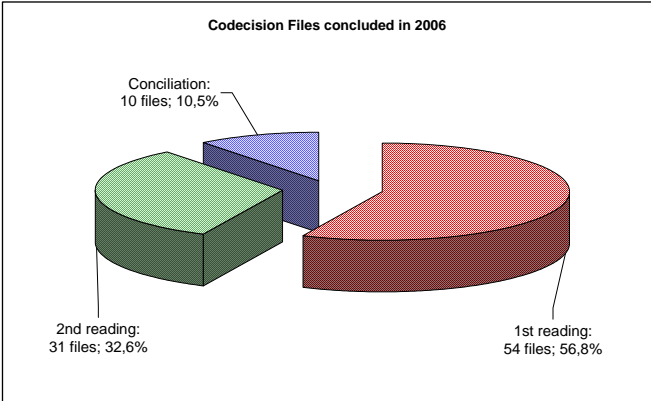
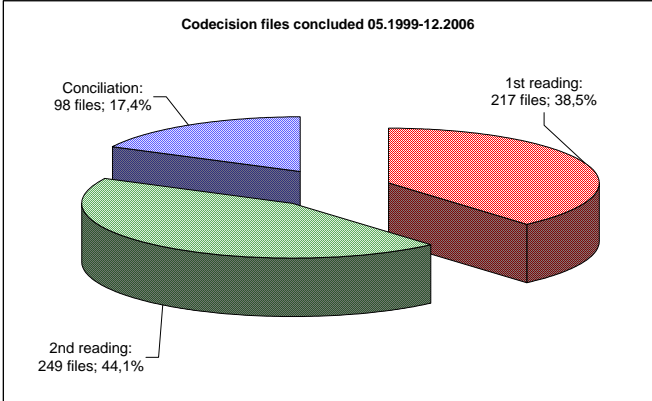
May 2004-December 2006	1st reading	2nd reading	Conciliation	Total
Number of files	101 62.7%	50 31.1%	10 6.2%	161 100,0%
Average time in codecision	15.7 months	32.0 months	36.4 months	

For the single year of 2006, of the 95 files concluded successfully, 54 were concluded at 1st reading (56.8%), 31 at 2nd reading (32.6%), and 10 at conciliation (10.5%). The average length of time for a 1st reading deal over the period was of 16.8 months (502 days). For a 2nd reading deal, the average length was of 34.4 months (1032 days). For a conciliation, it was of 36.4 months (1462 days).

2006	1st reading	2nd reading	Conciliation	Total
Number of files	54 56.8%	31 32.6%	10 10.5%	95 100,0%
Average time in codecision	16.8 months	34.4 months	36.4 months	

(a) Proportions of 1st reading deals, as opposed to 2nd reading deals and conciliations

The trend, in the proportions of deals concluded at each stage of the procedure, is particularly visible if one compares the two charts for the full period and 2006 alone:



From these charts, one can see that there has been a clear rise in 1st readings as a proportion of the whole – nearly 57% in 2006, as opposed to just over 38% over the whole period. This trend is particularly visible in the graph for the relative proportions of 1st and 2nd reading deals and conciliations, year by year, shown in Annex II.

It is clear, from this analysis, that there has been a significant rise in the number of 1st reading deals, compared to both 2nd reading deals and conciliations.

(b) Duration of negotiations

From the figures above, one can see a clear trend. Comparing the average length of 1st reading deals under the last legislature (1999-2004), 12 months exactly, with that of 1st reading deals under the current legislature, to date (2004-2006), 15.7 months, one can see an increase of almost 6 months in the average time taken to complete a 1st reading deal – a rise of 47.5%. When one compares the last legislature's figures to those for 2006 alone, 16.8 months, the rise is even more significant – of 56.7%.

Annex III shows a graph of the length of 1st reading deals, against the time when they were signed, for the whole period of May 1999 to December 2006, inclusive. The increase in the duration is clearly visible.

The trends for 2nd reading deals are similar. The average length of second reading deals rose, from the last legislature to the current one, by 6.9 months (27.5%), and by 9.3 months (37.1%) from the last legislature compared to 2006.

The average length of time needed to complete the legislative procedure at the conciliation stage, on the other hand, from the last legislature to 2006, rose by only 4.5 months (14.1%).

A graph comparing the average duration of 1st and 2nd reading deals and conciliations, year by year, is available in Annex IV. A graph of the average duration of the 1st reading phase for the same files (with or without reaching a deal at that stage) is also available, in Annex V.

Conclusions

The statistics assembled here would lead to the following conclusions:

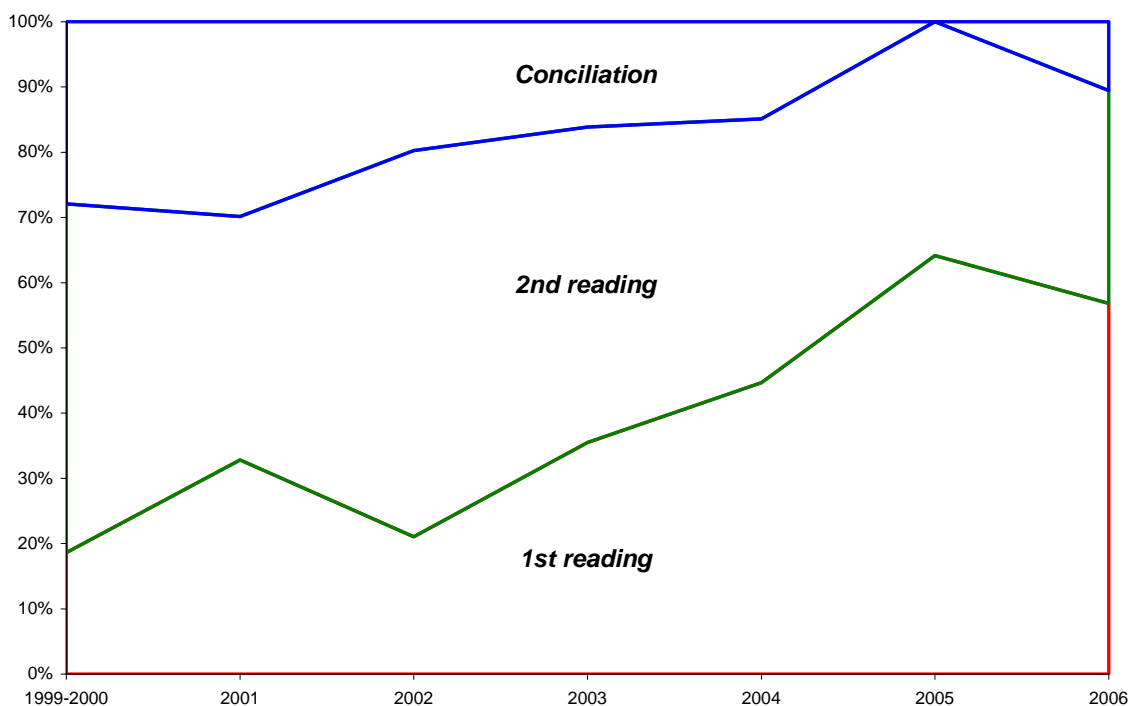
- ⇒ The relative proportion of files concluding at 1st reading has increased greatly over the reference period, from less than 20% in 1999-2000, to almost 60% now
- ⇒ While the total number of 1st reading deals is increasing dramatically, so too is the length of time needed to achieve such a deal: from 12 months in the last legislature to almost 17 months now. At the same time, the length of a "normal" 1st reading ending in conciliation, has hardly increased at all.

¹ **Annex I: Yearly breakdown of codecision files concluded successfully, since May 1999**

	1st reading	2nd reading	Conciliation	Total
May 1999-2000	16 <i>18,6%</i>	46 <i>53,5%</i>	24 <i>27,9%</i>	86 <i>100,0%</i>
2001	22 <i>32,8%</i>	25 <i>37,3%</i>	20 <i>29,9%</i>	67 <i>100,0%</i>
2002	16 <i>21,1%</i>	45 <i>59,2%</i>	15 <i>19,7%</i>	76 <i>100,0%</i>
2003	33 <i>35,5%</i>	45 <i>48,4%</i>	15 <i>16,1%</i>	93 <i>100,0%</i>
2004	42 <i>44,7%</i>	38 <i>40,4%</i>	14 <i>14,9%</i>	94 <i>100,0%</i>
2005	34 <i>64,2%</i>	19 <i>35,8%</i>	0 <i>0,0%</i>	53 <i>100,0%</i>
2006	54 <i>56,8%</i>	31 <i>32,6%</i>	10 <i>10,5%</i>	95 <i>100,0%</i>
Total (May 1999-Dec 2006)	217 <i>38,5%</i>	249 <i>44,1%</i>	98 <i>17,4%</i>	564 <i>100,0%</i>

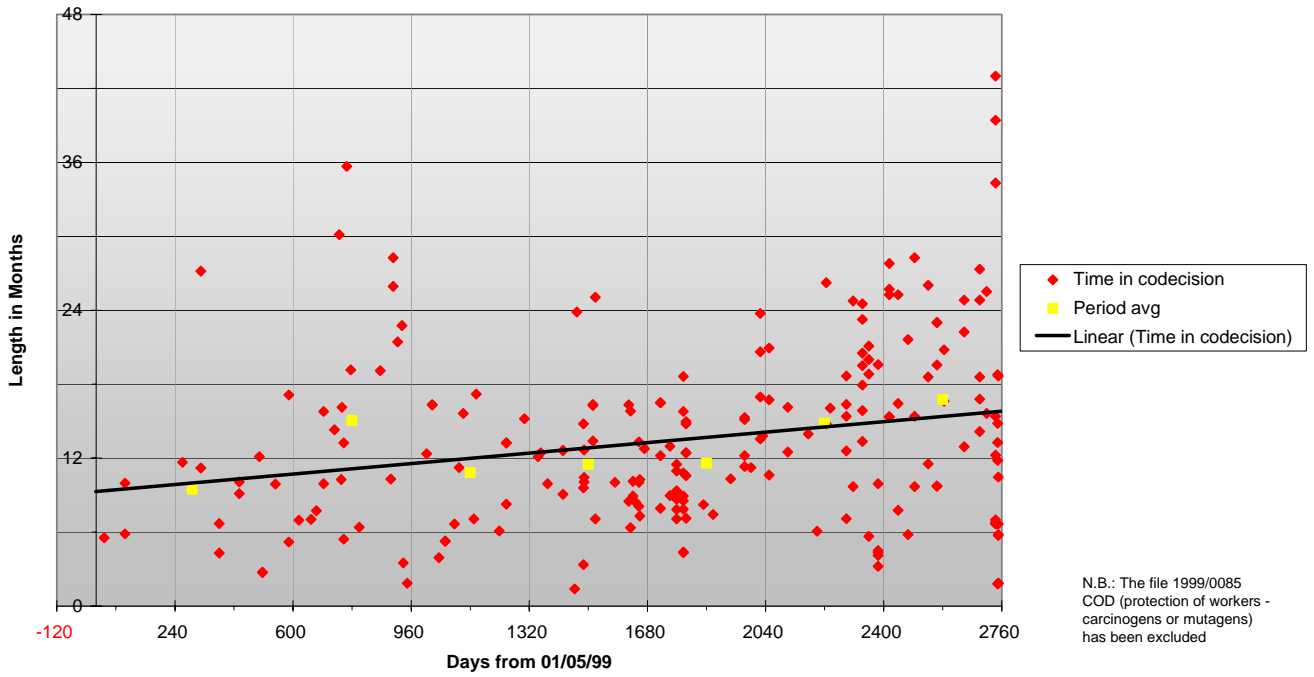
**Annex II:
Relative proportions of dossiers concluding at each stage of the procedure since
amsterdam (May 1999)**

Proportions of dossiers since Amsterdam



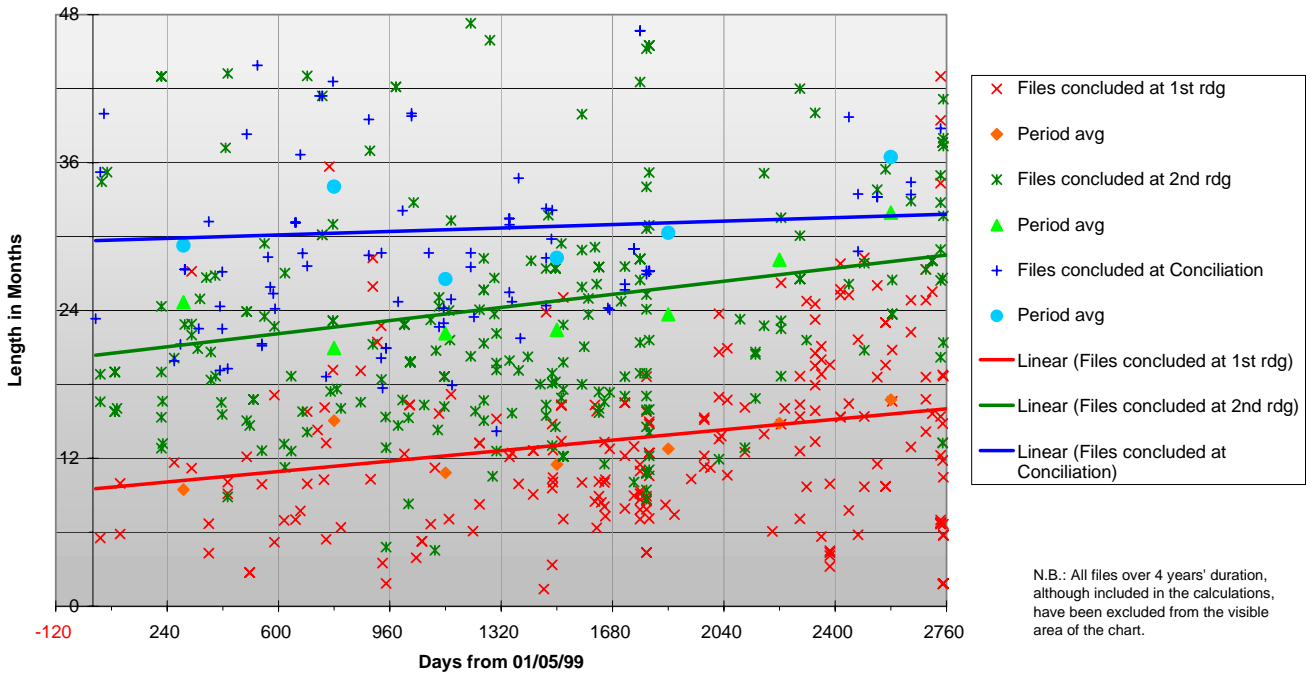
Annex III:

Codecision: Duration of files adopted at 1st reading
(from Commission's adoption to signature)



Annex IV:

**Codecision: Comparative duration of Amsterdam files
(from Commission's adoption to signature)**



Annex V:

**Codecision: Duration of 1st readings for Amsterdam files
(from Commission's adoption to EP 1st reading)**

