


Procedure file

| Basic information | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) | 1995/2270(COS) | Procedure completed |
| The European Union and Latin America: the present situation and prospects for closer partnership, 1996-2000 | | |
| Subject 6.40.10 Relations with Latin America, Central America, Caribbean islands | | |

| Key players | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|------------|--|
| European Parliament | Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed | |
| | AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy | | 22/11/1995 | |
| | | ELDR BERTENS Jan Willem | | |
| | Committee for opinion | Rapporteur for opinion | Appointed | |
| | ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy | | 16/01/1996 | |
| | | PPE ESTEVAN BOLEA María Teresa | | |
| | RELA External Economic Relations | | 28/11/1995 | |
| | | PPE VALDIVIELSO DE CUÉ Jaime | | |
| | TRAN Transport and Tourism | | | |
| | DEVE Development and Cooperation | | 24/11/1995 | |
| | | PPE AÑOVEROS TRIAS DE BES Julio | | |
| Council of the European Union | Council configuration | Meeting | Date | |
| | General Affairs | 1878 | 31/10/1995 | |

| Key events | | | |
|------------|--|---|---------|
| 23/10/1995 | Non-legislative basic document published | COM(1995)0495 | Summary |
| 31/10/1995 | Debate in Council | 1878 | |
| 13/11/1995 | Committee referral announced in Parliament | | |
| 18/12/1996 | Vote in committee | | Summary |
| 18/12/1996 | Committee report tabled for plenary | A4-0416/1996 | |
| 15/01/1997 | Debate in Parliament |  | |
| 16/01/1997 | Decision by Parliament | T4-0013/1997 | Summary |

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|------------|---|--|--|
| 16/01/1997 | End of procedure in Parliament | | |
| 03/02/1997 | Final act published in Official Journal | | |

Technical information

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| Procedure reference | 1995/2270(COS) |
| Procedure type | COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) |
| Procedure subtype | Commission strategy paper |
| Legal basis | Rules of Procedure EP 142 |
| Stage reached in procedure | Procedure completed |
| Committee dossier | AFET/4/07205 |

Documentation gateway

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|---|--|------------|----|---------|
| Non-legislative basic document | COM(1995)0495 | 23/10/1995 | EC | Summary |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading | A4-0416/1996 OJ C 033 03.02.1997, p. 0022 | 18/12/1996 | EP | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading | T4-0013/1997 OJ C 033 03.02.1997, p. 0059-0086 | 16/01/1997 | EP | Summary |
| Follow-up document | COM(1999)0105 | 09/03/1999 | EC | |

The European Union and Latin America: the present situation and prospects for closer partnership, 1996-2000

OBJECTIVE: to present a list of proposals and priority lines of action with a view to extending relations between the European Union and Latin America between now and the year 2000, based on a diagnosis of existing relations and a review of cooperation between 1991 and 1995.

CONTENT: the first section of the Commission communication sets out the strategic interest for the Community of strengthening relations with this region of the world. Some of the main factors which support closer relations are historical and cultural, but there are also political and economic factors (especially the consolidation of democratic institutions, the peaceful resolution of regional conflicts, the beginnings of economic growth offering important trade prospects for the European Union, making the region a potential investment area etc.). In the second section of the communication, the Commission highlights the progress made by the region in the light of Community cooperation projects implemented over recent years (1991-1995): humanitarian aid, rural development, regional integration (support for the Andean Pact and MERCOSUR), support for the development of the sea fisheries sector. More recently, cooperation has focused on actions to promote the sustainable and lasting development of Latin America and modernize its economy. In most cases, the regional approach has been preferred (strengthening relations between the EU and MERCOSUR and with other regional groupings). In the third section, the Commission addresses new forms of partnership between the Community and Latin America. The main strategies which the Commission considers should be implemented are: - closer political links, - stronger action in the field of free trade and integration, - more relevant, flexible and targeted cooperation in 3 priority areas: . institutional support and consolidation of democratic processes (including sectoral policies such as education, health and rural development), . the fight against poverty and social exclusion, . support for economic reform and improving international competitiveness (promoting external trade, strengthening industrial promotion). At the same time, three horizontal issues will be dealt with for each of these priority areas: regional cooperation and integration, education and training and management of north/south interdependencies, especially in the environment, energy and drug sectors. Finally, the communication addresses the means to be used to implement this cooperation. It calls for existing Community projects to be made more efficient through more active involvement of beneficiaries (search for complementarity or cofinancing with the countries themselves), better coordination between projects implemented by the Member States of the Union, more decentralized cooperation and projects concentrated in multiannual horizontal programmes. In addition, Community projects should be more visible.?

The European Union and Latin America: the present situation and prospects for closer partnership, 1996-2000

In approving the report by Mr BERTENS (ELDR, NL), the committee (chairman: Mr FERNANDEZ ALBOR (PPE, E)) did of course support the Commission communication on strengthening the partnership between the European Union and Latin America. However, it considered the proposals "vague and lacking in innovation". They lacked a "global approach" and were not based on an effective CFSP. The committee advocated a new wide-ranging "transatlantic dialogue". Hence the call for the Council and the European Commission to establish a well-defined global action programme with sufficient budgetary resources. Peace, democracy and respect for human rights in Latin America remained essential to all European Union action in this region. It was necessary, however, to go further and to involve "civil society" by having

it participate in this cooperation through the establishment of fora for consultation. These were all aspects which would help to combat the poverty and social inequalities which threatened to cause serious social unrest. Future agreements should be accompanied by financial protocols incorporating a substantial increase in resources and including a negotiated and reciprocal opening up of markets with no exclusions. Finally, if these countries were really to "take off", they needed to be "released from part of their debt burden".?

The European Union and Latin America: the present situation and prospects for closer partnership, 1996-2000

In adopting the report by Mr Jan-Willem BERTENS, Parliament welcomed the Commission communication on strengthening the partnership between the European Union and Latin America but considered that the Commission's proposals were 'vague and little innovative'. The communication lacked a global approach and was not based on an effective CFSP. With regard to the CFSP and the political dialogue, Parliament called for a new wide-ranging 'transatlantic dialogue' and called on the Commission and Council to establish a well defined and precise global action programme with sufficient budgetary resources. Calling for Latin America to be considered as a geographic area of great importance for the Union it proposed that this new dialogue should be based on a high-level ministerial framework similar to that for the San José dialogue. Peace, democracy and respect for human rights in Latin America remained essential to all Union action in this region. It was necessary, however, to go further and to involve 'civil society' by having it participate in this cooperation through the establishment of fora for consultation. These were all aspects which would contribute to combat the poverty and social inequalities which threatened to cause serious social unrest. With regard to trade and integration, it stressed that the Commission should include in its action programme a global vision for contractual relations between the EU and this region. It supported in particular the progress made in the sectors of free trade and integration and requested that future economic cooperation agreements should be accompanied by financial protocols incorporating a substantial increase in resources and including a negotiated and reciprocal opening up of markets with no exclusions. It called on the Commission, therefore, before the adoption of the new financial perspective to enter into force by the year 2000, to submit a report assessing the budgetary appropriations and loans which would be necessary to ensure adequate support for EU-Latin America partnership. It also asked for a yearly report on the progress made in removing the obstacles to trade between the two parties. With regard specifically to cooperation, the EP considered that the budget funds for 1996-2000 were insufficient and called on the Commission to use the funds available to give priority to the least developed countries. While supporting the priorities and themes chosen by the Commission in its communication, it stressed the importance of action against drugs, a real scourge in these countries, and called for greater efforts to be made by the Community in this field. It also stressed the extent to which the economic growth of these countries was closely linked to the debt burden. It therefore requested the Council to look into the possibility of applying innovative formulae to reduce the debt (conversion into environment and vocational training projects, tax relief etc.). Lastly, with regard to security and defence cooperation it called on the Commission, the Council and the Member States to increase their cooperation and dialogue with a view to establishing a climate of mutual confidence (in particular with regard to arms control). It encouraged in particular the conclusion of cooperation agreements between the different organizations of which the countries of the EU and Latin America are members. ?