


# Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1996/2014(COS)
Baltic region: current state and prospects for cooperation in the Baltic region	
Subject 4.70.05 Regional cooperation, cross-border cooperation	
Geographical area Baltic Sea area	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>RELA</b> External Economic Relations		21/02/1996
		PPE <a href="#">TOIVONEN Kyösti</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>AFET</b> Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy		06/02/1996
		PPE <a href="#">BURENSTAM LINDER Staffan</a>	
Council of the European Union	<b>REGI</b> Regional Policy		21/03/1996
		V <a href="#">SCHROEDTER Elisabeth</a>	

Key events			
29/11/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0609	Summary
12/02/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/07/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
25/07/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0259/1996</a>	
19/09/1996	Debate in Parliament		
20/09/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0495/1996	Summary
20/09/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/10/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2014(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	RELA/4/07485

### Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0609	29/11/1995	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	<a href="#">A4-0259/1996</a> <a href="#">OJ C 277 23.09.1996, p. 0005</a>	25/07/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T4-0495/1996 <a href="#">OJ C 320 28.10.1996, p. 0236-0248</a>	20/09/1996	EP	Summary

## Baltic region: current state and prospects for cooperation in the Baltic region

**OBJECTIVE:** this report on the state of cooperation in the Baltic Sea region summarizes: . various actual and estimated contributions for the period 1991-1994 and . contributions which various sources could make to the Baltic region between 1995 and 1999. It takes stock of all foreign aid channeled to the Baltic states, Poland and the Russian Federation which affects the Baltic coast and summarizes both the assistance granted by the EU and its Member States (on a bilateral basis) and by the other G-24 countries and international financial institutions. **CONTENT:** the report states that aid channeled to the Baltic region by all donor countries and organizations from 1990-1994 totaled an estimated ECU 4,534 million (of which ECU 517 million in EC subsidies). This sum includes both Community aid per se under various programmes (PHARE and TACIS mainly) and aid from Member States and other financial backers in the G-24 countries. As far as the Union is concerned, the strategy applied was a regional strategy based on more extensive bilateral relations with the EU which actively encouraged cooperation between or within regions. This strategy is based on a number of key factors, such as reinforcing political dialogue, fostering regional stability and security, continuing the Community's commitment to the CBSS (Council of Baltic Sea States), coordinating multinational assistance, giving priority to the promotion of infrastructures, the environment and investments within the framework of combined Community resources (Structural Funds, PHARE and TACIS), supporting economic activity and encouraging cooperation between and within regions. The report details all the actions financed in the region. Most Community aid (mainly PHARE/TACIS) has been used for economic infrastructures and services (transport, communications, environment, energy), social infrastructures (education, health, public administration), the productive sector (agriculture, industry, commerce, banking and tourism), social adjustment (balance of payments) and horizontal aid for training, export credits and support for private investment and economic reforms. Inter-regional cooperation projects have been implemented, as have projects to strengthen democracy. Other Community programmes being implemented in the region are the LIFE programme (environment), the SYNERGY and SAFE programmes (energy) and the Structural Funds (mainly INTERREG II and other relating funding). The report also summarizes bilateral aid granted by Denmark, Finland, Germany and Sweden and financial institutions involved in re-launching the region (EIB for the Community, Nordic Investment Bank, EBRD, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, IMF). . **Prospects:** finally, the report sets out a series of general guidelines for implementing a general initiative in the region from 1995-1999 targeting the long term, the main thrust of which is as follows: - total aid must not fall below aid for 1990-1994 (the report quotes a total of ECU 4,655 million, of which ECU 950 million in EC subsidies); - the level of technical aid should be based on investments financed by both loans and non-refundable grants; - in addition to public investments in infrastructures, resources earmarked for investment should be channeled more towards economic investment to develop the private sector (SMEs, agricultural restructuring); - EC assistance and bilateral assistance from Member States should be used to support the process of integration as part of a pre-accession strategy.?

## Baltic region: current state and prospects for cooperation in the Baltic region

The EU must make efforts to include the Baltic Sea region in its sphere of action, said the external economic relations committee, in unanimously adopting the report by Mr Kyosti TOIVONEN (consultation) on the Commission's report on cooperation in the region. The committee emphasised that cooperation should concentrate on the development of democracy, a market economy and human resources. The Union should make use of the political mechanism included in the association and partnership agreements concerning respect for human rights by associated and partner countries. The committee is calling on the Commission to support the creation of a free trade area comprising the Baltic States, in the hope that it will come into being as early as 1998. The committee also drew attention to the importance of environmental protection, and felt that the Union must take action to help resolve the region's environmental problems. It urged the Commission to pay special attention to building up cooperation with the countries of the region on asylum policy and action against crime. The same approach should be followed to combat trafficking in illegal drugs and dangerous materials. Measures should also be taken to deal with money laundering. ?

## Baltic region: current state and prospects for cooperation in the Baltic region

Parliament unanimously adopted the report by Mr Kyösti TOIVONEN (PPE, Fin) on the Commission communication on cooperation in the

Baltic Sea region. Parliament stressed that cooperation in the Baltic Sea region must focus in particular on the development of democracy and the market economy, and attach particular importance to the development of human resources. When implementing its association and partnership agreements, the Union must make use of the political provisions designed to uphold human rights in the third countries party to those agreements. Parliament called on the Commission to support moves to establish a free trade area between the Baltic States, to enable it to come into being as early as 1998. Parliament also emphasized environmental protection and considered that the Union should take measures to help solve the environmental problems of the Baltic Sea region. It called on the Commission to give particular attention to stepping up cooperation with the countries of the Baltic Sea region on asylum policy and combating crime. The same approach should be taken in action to counter trafficking in drugs, hazardous substances and human beings, and in tackling money-laundering. Finally, the plenary believed that the Union can only exercise positive influence in the Baltic Sea region if it joins and lends its support to the existing structures for interregional cooperation. ?