


# Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	<a href="#">1996/2025(COS)</a>	Procedure completed
Cross-border cooperation between Community and Central and Eastern European countries CEECs: 1994 Report		
Subject 6.40.02 Relations with central and eastern Europe		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>REGI</b> Regional Policy		12/03/1996
		PPE <a href="#">SCHRÖDER Jürgen</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>AFET</b> Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	<b>RELA</b> External Economic Relations		21/03/1996
		PPE <a href="#">FERRER Concepció</a>	
	<b>CONT</b> Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union			

Key events			
07/02/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0662	Summary
11/03/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
29/10/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
29/10/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0359/1996</a>	
13/12/1996	Debate in Parliament		
13/12/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0706/1996	Summary
13/12/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/01/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2025(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	REGI/4/07599

### Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(1995)0662	07/02/1996	EC	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		<a href="#">CDR0207/1996</a> <a href="#">OJ C 034 03.02.1997, p. 0018</a>	18/09/1996	CofR	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A4-0359/1996</a> <a href="#">OJ C 380 16.12.1996, p. 0003</a>	29/10/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0706/1996 <a href="#">OJ C 020 20.01.1997, p. 0369-0399</a>	13/12/1996	EP	Summary

## Cross-border cooperation between Community and Central and Eastern European countries CEECs: 1994 Report

OBJECTIVE: report on the implementation in 1994 of the PHARE programme on cross-border cooperation and overview of the strategy and the types of programme implemented, or to be implemented, in 1995 and subsequent years. SUBSTANCE: In its report the Commission begins by emphasizing the fact that, in 1994, the PHARE programme on cross-border cooperation was in a transitional phase since it was in its first year of implementation and some of the appropriations (those relating to INTERREG) were not available. However, the programme proved to be a success from the start since the ECU 150 m allocated to it had been fully committed by November 1994. Most of the projects related to infrastructure, the environment, energy, telecommunications, training and the social sector. Extra funding was allocated to the ECOS/OUVERTURE initiatives, namely projects affecting towns or regions of the EU and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. With effect from 1995 the programme became multi-annual, with funding spread over five years (1995-99), and it was brought more closely into line with the INTERREG II programme. As regards funding, the total appropriation remained at 1994 levels and an increase in co-funding was encouraged from sources other than INTERREG (national funds, international institutions, etc.). The eligible actions were broadly the same as those implemented in 1994 (infrastructures) but they were generally of narrower scope. The 1995 eligible areas are more in line with the INTERREG programme and, with the accession of Austria, new border regions have been identified (Austria-Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia and Hungary). Similarly, in the Baltic Sea sector, a multinational approach has been drawn up for the 1995-99 period, involving four EU Member States and four CEECs. As regards indicative multi-annual programmes the Commission stresses that they should be defined on the basis of a long-term strategy, with border regions being regarded as a single territorial unit. The multi-annual programmes and the INTERREG operational programmes should be consistent and be based on identical priorities, even if the implementing measures should take into account different levels of development and different priorities. The Commission also points out that cooperation agreements between partner countries are also in preparation, the purpose of which is to define cooperation objectives taking into account the PHARE/INTERREG variable and to establish the institutional structures required for cross-border cooperation to operation. Lastly, as regards future cooperation, the Commission states that the regions which do not currently receive funding from the PHARE or INTERREG programmes should be eligible for such funding in the future (in particular the CEEC-CEEC and CEEC-CIS border regions) under the appropriate co-financing schemes (the budgetary combination involving the PHARE programme, the national budgets of the countries concerned, IFI and TACIS). Extension of the inter-regional cooperation programme to the CIS countries should also be considered. ?

## Cross-border cooperation between Community and Central and Eastern European countries CEECs: 1994 Report

Adopting the own initiative report by Jürgen SCHRÖDER on the implementation of cross-border cooperation in 1994, the Committee on Regional Policy affirmed that EU/CEEC cross-border cooperation needed to be strengthened if the candidate CEECs were to be better integrated into the European Union. The report welcomed the fact that the 1994 cooperation programme had been correctly implemented but felt that there was room for improvement. The committee called in particular for a greater variety of financial measures within the framework of the programme, which had concentrated in 1994 on transport infrastructure, the environment and energy. While acknowledging that these should continue to be priority areas, the committee called for greater importance to be attached to the promotion of economic and social aspects. In addition, in order to avoid disproportionate development, i.e. in order to ensure that foreign investment and economic progress were not concentrated in regions close to the EU, the committee called on the EU and the CEECs to extend their cross-border cooperation programme to cooperation between CEECs and between CEECs and the CIS. ?

## Cross-border cooperation between Community and Central and Eastern European countries CEECs: 1994 Report

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In adopting the SCHRÖDER report Parliament emphasized the political, economic and social importance of EU-CEEC cross-border cooperation, which was a vital instrument of cohesion in the pre-accession strategy for the CEEC. It approved therefore the general report on the programme in 1994 submitted by the Commission and stressed the need for it to be pursued and strengthened. Parliament believed nonetheless that it was necessary to: - have a more varied spread of measures within the framework of the existing main subject areas, - increase budgetary resources for measures to promote interregional cooperation under INTERREG II, both between the regions of the CEEC and between the regions of those countries and the European Union; more consistency was needed in the measures involving INTERREG and PHARE, - strengthen the measures designed to encourage cooperation as regards training, business development and the transfer of technology and marketing skills to small and medium-sized businesses, - increase funding for the ECOS/Ouverture programme, which has proved a great success. ?