


Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1996/2077(COS)
European Union's relations with the New Independent States of central Asia	Procedure completed
Subject	6.40.04.06 Relations with central Asian countries

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy		11/06/1996
		PSE TRUSCOTT Peter	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	RELA External Economic Relations		28/01/1997
		PPE TINDEMANS Leo C.	
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	DEVE Development and Cooperation		
Council of the European Union			

Key events			
10/10/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0206	Summary
08/05/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/02/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
17/02/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0069/1999	
11/03/1999	Debate in Parliament		
12/03/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0200/1999	Summary
12/03/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/06/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2077(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/4/07808

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0206	10/10/1995	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A4-0069/1999 OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0004	17/02/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T4-0200/1999 OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0416-0432	12/03/1999	EP	Summary

European Union's relations with the New Independent States of central Asia

PURPOSE: to present a communication identifying the interests of the EU in the New Independent States of Central Asia, pinpointing the prospects for success of the partnership and cooperation agreements currently being negotiated and determining possibilities for the development of an overall strategy with regard to this region, taking account of the large existing divergences between these States.

CONTENT: According to the communication, the transformation of the former republics into independent States (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) has proved difficult, notably in political terms but also in economic terms. From an economic point of view, the success of the transition process is dependant upon the exploitation of the region's natural resources - something which the EU is particularly interested in as a potential energy consumer as well as a provider of services and equipment for the exploitation of this energy. From a political point of view, the EU's primary objective is to maintain stability by: - developing representative democratic institutions; - minimising areas of conflict; - economic reform. The achievement of these objectives will take a long time and will require the EU to assert itself more strongly in the region. The communication proposes a series of measures to achieve these objectives, catered to the differing needs of each of the 5 republics. - technical assistance and cooperation: partnership and cooperation agreements (PCAs) have already been or are on the verge of being ratified with certain republics (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan). Sectoral agreements may also be signed, notably with regard to steel and trade in nuclear materials. Food aid actions could also prove useful in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, as well as humanitarian assistance in all 5 republics. At the same time, the TACIS programme should pursue its actions by including projects involving the reinforcement of democracy. - new contractual relations: the communication states that all of the political conditions have not been met in Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan to allow the conclusion of PCAs (in particular, respect for the principles expressed in the CSCE documents). As a result, the communication proposes a regular dialogue to enable the partners concerned to measure the progress in meeting the political and economic conditions. The EU will only approve such an agreement once significant progress has been made in these areas. Beyond this regular informal contact, formal contacts should continue in the context of the general agreement made with the USSR in 1989 or other sectoral agreements still in force. - political and diplomatic relations: the PCAs and the dialogue with Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan would also be the principal vehicles for promoting the EU's objectives. But there should also be a possibility for such dialogue at regional level. The Union should also use its influence to support the efforts of the UN and the OSCE to maintain the momentum of the Inter-Tajik peace process. Political issues affecting Central Asia, including Tajikistan and access to energy, should be discussed as part of ongoing political contacts with Russia, Turkey and Pakistan, both bilaterally and in multilateral fora. In order to strengthen its political presence in the region, the Commission will consider the possibility of reinforcing its diplomatic representation in the region, budgetary means permitting.?

European Union's relations with the New Independent States of central Asia

The Committee voted to endorse the report by Peter Truscott (PES, UK) on the Commission's communication on developing a strategy for relations with the independent states of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). Mr Truscott's resolution recognises the role that the EU's Partnership and Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, which are expected to come into force this year, will play. He stresses the great economic potential of the region with substantial oil and gas resources and also its political importance, and wants the move towards market economies to be encouraged. However he expresses concern about the problems over the "appalling human rights record" of the region, and calls for the Commission to raise the issue in all meetings of the PCA bodies in Central Asia and to report back regularly on the situation in the five states concerned. He also calls for the EU to develop its economic and political relations with the Central Asian republics and to encourage the growth of efficient social market economies and democratic government.?

European Union's relations with the New Independent States of central Asia

The Parliament adopted its report, drafted by Mr. Peter TRUSCOTT (PES, UK) concerning an EU strategy for relations with the Independent States of Central Asia. It drew attention to the unsatisfactory human rights abuses situation in all the Central Asian republics, and pointed out to the Commission that implementing fundamental rights and human rights must be an EU priority in those countries. It called on all Central Asian governments to further their efforts to abolish the death penalty and on the EU to support UN and OSCE initiatives in the field of conflict prevention and peacekeeping in the region. It recognised that political stability, both at State and regional level, is an essential factor in investment decisions. Parliament also called for: - more support through the Tacis Democracy Programme for NGOs so that they can monitor

more effectively democracy and human rights, and for a suitable increase in appropriations for the democratisation process for the NIS, in particular for the partnership programmes which are of crucial importance in developing a civil society; - greater EU support in funding and technical assistance to help repair the environmental damage inflicted on Central Asia over the last 70 years; - the Commission and the Council to consider, together with the international financial institutions measures to help protect the population of the region against severe economic hardship resulting from the external effect of the Russian crisis.?