


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1996/2114(COS)	Procedure completed
Strategy for partnership EU/India		
Subject 6.40.08 Relations with Asian countries		
Geographical area India		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy		09/09/1996
		ELDR ANDRÉ-LÉONARD Anne	
Council of the European Union	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	RELA External Economic Relations		25/07/1996
	DEVE Development and Cooperation	UPE MALERBA Franco E.	
	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	General Affairs	1977	06/12/1996

Key events			
26/06/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0275	Summary
19/07/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
06/12/1996	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
17/02/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
17/02/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0066/1999	
12/03/1999	Debate in Parliament		
12/03/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0204/1999	Summary
12/03/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/06/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2114(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/4/08030

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(1996)0275	26/06/1996	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0066/1999 OJ C 153 01.06.1999, p. 0003	17/02/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0204/1999 OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0418-0442	12/03/1999	EP	Summary

Strategy for partnership EU/India

OBJECTIVE: The subject of this communication is to suggest ways of enhancing relations between the EU and India. **SUBSTANCE:** The Commission takes the view that the current agreement between the EU and India provides an opportunity for attaining the objective which the Union has set itself - to strengthen and deepen the partnership between the two partners - and it draws up suggestions in that respect, without excluding the possibility of a new agreement, should the opportunity present itself. The communication emphasizes the mutual interests of the EU and India and the challenge to be taken up by the EU with regard to that country with an emerging economy which constitutes an enormous potential market. It intends to step up relations on the political, commercial and economic level within the framework of the existing agreement and of the broader framework of its new strategy for Asia. With a view to stepping up partnership between the EU and India, the Commission proposes to: 1. intensify the political dialogue by increasing the number of contacts within its working parties with a view to arriving at arrangements and sectoral agreements concerning, for example, dual-use products, drug precursors and money laundering and to looking more closely at issues such as climate change and the cultural dimension; 2. facilitate trade and investment by negotiating the elimination of existing barriers on the basis of the most-favoured nation clause and by the promotion of contacts between undertakings. Priority should be given to the maritime transport, telecommunications, energy and agriculture sectors; 3. help India to cushion the impact of its structural adjustment on the poorest part of the Indian population while continuing to support health and education, especially for women. The Commission emphasizes that undertakings will be able to put forward their points of view at the forum on investment in trade and cooperation scheduled to be held in November 1996. The EU/India Joint Commission (scheduled to meet in December 1996) will then be able to validate a list of priority measures and determine a detailed activity programme.?

Strategy for partnership EU/India

There was support for a strong EU-India relationship in the Committee when it adopted the report by Anne Andre-Leonard (ELDR, B) on the communication from the Commission on an enhanced EU-India partnership. The Agreement is one of the new generation of agreements which seek to redefine the EU's external action by giving it a clearer identity and political consistency. India's economic reform programmes and the stable general conditions, despite the Asian economic crisis, have facilitated development of the EU-India partnership. However the Committee condemned the nuclear tests conducted both by India and Pakistan last year and called on India to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It also concluded that all states in the region, including China and Pakistan, should remove all nuclear threats in the region. There were other concerns about the tensions between religious castes and ethnic groups and a number of amendments were passed that urged the Indian government to take all necessary steps to protect religious freedoms. Other worries existed about the exploitation of children who are denied education opportunities by being forced into work, the need to improve health care in the country, and the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.?

Strategy for partnership EU/India

The Parliament adopted a Resolution on the Commission's communication on EU-India Enhanced Partnership, drafted by Ms. Anne ANDRE-LEONARD (ELDR, Belgium). Although the EP voted its support for a strong EU-India relationship, it did, however, strongly condemn the nuclear tests conducted by both India and Pakistan. Parliament also indicated its concerns regarding religious tension and the exploitation of children.?