


Procedure file

Basic information		
AVC - Assent procedure (historic)	1996/0259(AVC)	Procedure completed
EC/Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia FYROM agreement: cooperation agreement		
Subject 6.40.03 Relations with South-East Europe and the Balkans		
Geographical area Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed	
	RELA External Economic Relations		28/01/1997	
		PSE PONS GRAU Josep E.		
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed	
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy		28/01/1997	
		ELDR LA MALFA Giorgio		
	BUDG Budgets		04/12/1996	
		ARE DELL'ALBA Gianfranco		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date	
	Budget	2050	27/11/1997	
	General Affairs	2003	29/04/1997	

Key events			
25/11/1996	Initial legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0533	Summary
26/05/1997	Legislative proposal published	08204/1997	Summary
26/06/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
15/09/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
15/09/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0273/1997	
01/10/1997	Debate in Parliament		Summary
02/10/1997	Decision by Parliament	T4-0469/1997	Summary
27/11/1997	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		

27/11/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
18/12/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/0259(AVC)
Procedure type	AVC - Assent procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 235; EC before Amsterdam E 113; EC before Amsterdam E 228-p2/3
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	RELA/4/09063

Documentation gateway					
Initial legislative proposal		COM(1996)0533	25/11/1996	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		12365/1996	08/04/1997	CSL	
Legislative proposal		08204/1997	26/05/1997	CSL	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0273/1997 OJ C 325 27.10.1997, p. 0004	15/09/1997	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0469/1997 OJ C 325 27.10.1997, p. 0010-0014	02/10/1997	EP	Summary

Additional information	
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act
Decision 1997/831 OJ L 348 18.12.1997, p. 0001 Summary

EC/Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia FYROM agreement: cooperation agreement

OBJECTIVE: conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the Community and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. SUBSTANCE: the purpose of the agreement, which was initialled on 19 June 1996 and authenticated by an exchange of letters - a procedure attributable to a difference between the parties concerning the name of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - is to promote comprehensive cooperation between the contracting parties and is concluded for an unlimited period. . Like all other agreements of this type, it includes a clause on respect for democratic principles, human rights and the principles of the market economy. . The agreement provides, in particular, that Community assistance and cooperation must contribute to the establishment of good-neighbourly relations between Macedonia and its neighbours in South-Eastern Europe and to the development of regional cooperation and trade. . Where trade is concerned, the agreement comprises a preferential trade regime, based on the autonomous import regime applied to the States which have emerged from the former Yugoslavia. It also includes a protocol defining the additional trade arrangements for certain steel products and a protocol on the rules of origin. . The protocol on financial cooperation forms an integral part of the cooperation agreement and provides for the financing of projects of common interest to the parties (transport infrastructure projects, in particular). The signature of the protocol on financial cooperation (and of the agreement as a whole) is subject to full settlement of Macedonia's debt to the Community. . It also includes an evolutionary clause providing for the possibility of strengthening contractual relations, in due course, when conditions for a possible association have been met. . In institutional terms, the agreement provides for the establishment of a Cooperation Council responsible for attaining the agreement's objectives. It is to have decision-making powers. ?

EC/Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia FYROM agreement: cooperation agreement

The rapporteur, Mr PONS GRAU (PSE, E) proposed that the European Parliament approve the framework trade and cooperation agreement between the European Community and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). This agreement is a key element in the recent Community initiative to consolidate the peace process and stability in south-eastern Europe. The democratic aspect is a fundamental element in the agreement: both parties undertake to ensure that respect for human rights and democratic principles inform both the domestic and international policies of the European Community and the FYROM. The agreement also makes provision for preferential trade arrangements, the promotion of regional exchanges and economic, technical and financial cooperation. At institutional level, provision has been made to set up a cooperation council which will meet once a month.?

EC/Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia FYROM agreement: cooperation agreement

The rapporteur was convinced that this agreement would reinforce the political credibility of this new independent country. Even though unemployment had reached 36% and ethnic problems were continuing, inflation had fallen and the problems with neighbouring Greece had been resolved. Commissioner Marín confirmed that the agreement represented an advance, particularly its transport aspect, which would significantly help to increase stability in the region. It was to be hoped that the Council would give its agreement by 1 January 1998 at the latest.

EC/Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia FYROM agreement: cooperation agreement

In adopting the report by Mr Josep PONS GRAU (PSE, E), Parliament gave its assent to the conclusion of the Cooperation Agreement between the Community and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. ?

EC/Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia FYROM agreement: cooperation agreement

OBJECTIVE: to conclude a general cooperation agreement between the European Community and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) with the aim of contributing to the latter's economic development, bolstering the market economy and promoting the development of mutual relations between the Union and FYROM. **COMMUNITY MEASURE:** Council Decision 97/831/EC concerning the conclusion of a Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. **SUBSTANCE:** The purpose of the agreement is to promote general cooperation between the parties. Besides respect for the principles of democracy and human rights, the Agreement includes an additional clause on respect for the principles of the market economy. It also comprises an important regional element, as the Community's assistance and cooperation are intended to contribute to the establishment of good-neighbourly relations between FYROM and its neighbours in South-Eastern Europe and the development of cooperation in the region. The Agreement stipulates that the readiness to enter into such relations with the countries in the region constitutes an important factor in the development of relations between the Community and FYROM. In the field of trade, the Agreement reaffirms the preferential arrangements applicable to imports into the Community of industrial products originating in FYROM. In general, access is free, except for certain sensitive goods such as iron and steel products. The Agreement also provides for concessions to be granted for certain agricultural products originating in FYROM. Community exports to FYROM enjoy most-favoured nation status. In the economic field, the Agreement lays down provisions on technical and financial cooperation and refers to the financial protocol annexed to it. It promotes cooperation in the fields of industry, SMEs, investment, science and technology, transport, tourism, environment and intellectual property. This cooperation may make use of the Phare programme, for which FYROM now becomes formally eligible. The protocol on financial cooperation is an integral part of the Cooperation Agreement, providing for the financing of projects of mutual interest to the parties (particularly in the field of transport infrastructure). The implementation of the financial cooperation protocol (and of the Agreement as a whole) is subject to full compliance with FYROM's financial obligations vis-à-vis the EIB and the Community. In particular, the protocol provides for ECU 20 m in budget funds to be allocated to financing infrastructure projects, and EIB loans from its own resources totalling ECU 150 m. These amounts are for the period 1996-2000. The Agreement also comprises an evolutive clause, which provides for the possibility of strengthening the parties' contractual relations in due course when the conditions are right for a possible associated status. In the institutional field, the Agreements provides for the setting-up of a Cooperation Council to ensure its satisfactory implementation. **ENTRY INTO FORCE:** the agreement enters into force on 01.01.1998. It is concluded for an unlimited period.?