


# Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) <a href="#">2000/2244(COS)</a>	Procedure completed
Agreement EU/Croatia: negotiations for a stabilisation and association agreement	
Subject 6.40.03 Relations with South-East Europe and the Balkans	
Geographical area Croatia	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>AFET</b> Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	PSE <a href="#">BALTAS Alexandros</a>	12/07/2000
Council of the European Union European Commission	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>ITRE</b> Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	Commission DG External Relations	Commissioner	

Key events			
24/05/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2000)0311	Summary
23/10/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/11/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
28/11/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A5-0364/2000</a>	
12/12/2000	Debate in Parliament		
13/12/2000	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T5-0562/2000</a>	Summary
13/12/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
17/08/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2244(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/5/12802

### Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(2000)0311	24/05/2000	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A5-0364/2000</a> <a href="#">OJ C 232 17.08.2001, p. 0008</a>	28/11/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		<a href="#">T5-0562/2000</a> <a href="#">OJ C 232 17.08.2001, p. 0080-0184</a>	13/12/2000	EP	Summary

## Agreement EU/Croatia: negotiations for a stabilisation and association agreement

**PURPOSE** : to report on the feasibility of negotiating a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the Republic of Croatia. **CONTENT** : the Commission communication of 26 May 1999 established a new framework for closer relations between the EU and the countries of South-Eastern Europe, to be developed through a progressive approach adapted to the specific situation of each country. This new context provides for a wide-ranging partnership, notably through a new category of agreements, the Stabilisation and Association Agreements (SAA). The opening of negotiations for a SAA depends upon the compliance by the specific country with the relevant political and economic conditions. Furthermore, it was decided that prior to considering the opening of negotiations for such an agreement, the Commission would report on the feasibility of this step. This report presents the recent political and economic developments in the Republic of Croatia and assesses the state of play in all sectors of possible cooperation with a view to the opening up of a SAA. Although Croatia has managed to make significant progress, reforms are still required with regard to the political and economic aspects in areas such as democratic and institutional reform, and economic stabilisation and reform, the perspective of a future Stabilisation and Association agreement will depend on its capacity to fulfil its obligations under this new type of contractual basis. This will include political dialogue, regional cooperation; trade in goods; approximation legislation; cooperation in home and justice affairs and financial cooperation. Overall, in light of these considerations the Commission concludes that the new Government is committed to full democratisation and long-term stabilisation of the country and has already started serious work in finding appropriate solutions to earlier political shortcomings. These developments foster compliance with EU conditionality for enhanced relations within the framework of the Stabilisation and Association process. Substantial progress can be reported in politically sensitive areas such as refugee and displaced people return, full cooperation with International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, improved regional cooperation and democratisation of the media. Political stability will need to continue this important reform process. Furthermore, the first encouraging steps in the economic sector have also been taken, although the Croatian economy continues to face problems. As far as technical issues are concerned Croatia has started progressive harmonisation with European standards and has the capacity to ultimately fulfil the obligations of a future Stabilisation and Association Agreement. However, major efforts of further rapprochement with the EC acquis will be needed. These efforts should focus initially on full implementation of necessary reforms in trade related sectors of the internal market. On the basis of this report and in particular taking into account the considerable progress noted under the new Croatian leadership, the Commission considers that the conditions for the opening of negotiations for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the Republic of Croatia are met. Therefore, the Commission recommends to the Council to authorise the opening of the negotiations and will shortly present a proposal for negotiating directives for an Agreement with Croatia. ?

## Agreement EU/Croatia: negotiations for a stabilisation and association agreement

The committee adopted the report by Alexandros BALTAS (PES, GR), welcoming the significant progress made by Croatia (including its ratification of the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities as well as the change in the attitude of the Croat authorities to the international criminal court for ex-Yugoslavia). It also welcomed the opening at the Zagreb summit of negotiations to conclude a stabilisation and association agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Croatia which, together with the CARDS programme and measures by the EIB, would constitute one of the main instruments by which the EU contributed to Croatia's economic and social development. The committee stressed the importance of significantly increasing the assistance provided annually to Croatia, which should not average less than EUR 50m a year, and called on the Commission to do more to promote regional and cross-border cooperation. The report noted the statements by the Croatian Government confirming its intention to ensure transparency and visibility as regards the financial support it gave to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and called on the Croatian Government to work actively with the Sarajevo Government to strengthen the Bosnian state and preserve its multiethnic character. The Croatian Government was also congratulated on the progress it had made with regard to the return of refugees and urged to continue its efforts. Lastly, the report stressed the urgent need to ensure that Croatian citizens of Serb origin who were expelled from Krajina and wished to return could do so.?

## Agreement EU/Croatia: negotiations for a stabilisation and association agreement

The resolution by Mr Alexandros BALTAS (PES, GR) was adopted by the European Parliament by 510 votes to 7 with 22 abstentions. (Refer to the previous document).?