


Procedure file

| Basic information | |
|---|---------------------|
| COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) 2000/2158(COS) | Procedure completed |
| Albania and the neighbouring region: action plan. High Level Group on asylum and migration | |
| Subject 7.10.06 Asylum, refugees, displaced persons; Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 7.10.08 Migration policy | |
| Geographical area Albania | |

| Key players | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|------------|
| European Parliament | Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
| | LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs | | 23/05/2000 |
| | | PSE KARAMANOU Anna | |
| | Committee for opinion | Rapporteur for opinion | Appointed |
| | AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense | | 12/07/2000 |
| | | PPE-DE PACK Doris | |
| Council of the European Union | | | |

| Key events | | | |
|------------|--|---|---------|
| 17/04/2000 | Non-legislative basic document published | 07886/2000 | Summary |
| 03/07/2000 | Committee referral announced in Parliament | | |
| 11/10/2000 | Vote in committee | | Summary |
| 11/10/2000 | Committee report tabled for plenary | A5-0287/2000 | |
| 26/10/2000 | Debate in Parliament |  | |
| 26/10/2000 | Decision by Parliament | T5-0489/2000 | Summary |
| 26/10/2000 | End of procedure in Parliament | | |
| 12/07/2001 | Final act published in Official Journal | | |

| Technical information | |
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| Procedure reference | 2000/2158(COS) |
| Procedure type | COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) |

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| Procedure subtype | Commission strategy paper |
| Legal basis | Rules of Procedure EP 142 |
| Stage reached in procedure | Procedure completed |
| Committee dossier | LIBE/5/12777 |

Documentation gateway

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|---|---|------------|-----|---------|
| Non-legislative basic document | 07886/2000 | 17/04/2000 | CSL | Summary |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading | A5-0287/2000 OJ C 197 12.07.2001, p. 0008 | 11/10/2000 | EP | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading | T5-0489/2000 OJ C 197 12.07.2001, p. 0227-0428 | 26/10/2000 | EP | Summary |

Albania and the neighbouring region: action plan. High Level Group on asylum and migration

PURPOSE : to present an action plan on Albania, and the neighbouring region with particular reference to Kosovo. **CONTENT :** This action plan is drafted by a High Level Working group on Asylum and Immigration in the Council. It offers a comprehensive picture of the political and economic situation in Albania and the neighbouring regions, including measures and actions taken by other international organisations such as the UNHCR, and outlines ongoing and possible future actions. Albania is a country of both origin and transit for migration flows directed towards European countries. During the first half of 1999, Albania was shaken by the most serious refugee crisis in Europe since World War II, but the effect of the Kosovo crisis on the general situation in Albania has been positive, both in political and economic terms. Since 1990, Albania has experienced massive migration. Since 1992, Albanians have left the country mainly for economic reasons. It remains the poorest country in Europe. Emigration is perceived as the only immediate response to the country's economic needs and social instability. Albanians leave their homes due to lack of security and violation of human rights. The country remains marked by a serious lack of public order and security, and there is widespread crime, arms trafficking and corruption. In 1999, the government started to elaborate, in cooperation with WEU/MAPE, a strategic plan for the development of the police. There is EU/Council of Europe support for the strengthening of the judiciary. Insecurity is one of the factors responsible for a very low level of foreign direct investment. Macro-economic stabilization remains vulnerable in the light of the refugee problem and the lack of public order. Immigration flows from and through Albania are likely to continue. With regard to Kosovo, there must be not only protection for returnees, but also the creation of a secure environment for all the people, bridging the humanitarian aid to reconstruction phase with the aim of achieving self-reliance, reconstruction of infrastructure, job creation and reactivation of economic activity. The plan outlines several measures required by the Community/Union ranging from the field of foreign policy to development and economic cooperation and justice and home affairs. Some are already being taken, such as the Joint Actions specifically devoted to Albania, and should be continued. Others are new and have financial implications, such as charging ECMM with monitoring migration flows in cooperation with international organisations active in this field.?

Albania and the neighbouring region: action plan. High Level Group on asylum and migration

The committee adopted the report by Anna KARAMANOÛ (PES, GR) on the action plan for Albania and the neighbouring region. The main purpose of the plan was to stop emigration to the countries of the European Union. However, the committee deplored the lack of balance in the plan, saying it consisted chiefly of measures aimed at control and repression which failed to distinguish between asylum applicants, immigrants for social and economic reasons and people in transit. The report argued that the Council should put in place an integrated strategy for movements of migrants from or through Albania. In any talks between Albania and the Union on strengthening democracy in Albania or its ties with the EU, Italy needed to be more closely involved since - like Greece - it had particular concerns about immigration from Albania because of its geographical proximity. The report said that clandestine immigration should not be regarded as a crime by the Member States because of the political and economic reasons which caused refugees to leave their home countries. Lastly, the committee was unhappy that the plan made no provision for protecting and combating discrimination against refugees on Albanian soil. ?

Albania and the neighbouring region: action plan. High Level Group on asylum and migration

The European Parliament endorsed the report by Mrs Anna KARAMANOÛ (PES, Gr) on the draft action plan for Albania and neighbouring regions. It welcomes the fact that this draft report considers both the economic and the social causes of the migration in its analysis. It especially endorses the specific measures in the areas of asylum and migration to which the Action Plan refers and other topics in the sphere of justice and home affairs. On the other hand, the Parliament is concerned at the precarious situation in Albania, namely the political instability and the failure to respect laws. The Parliament stresses that, while the Action Plan focuses on measures to curb immigration from Albania to the EU, these measures are not combined with measures on legal protection and basic economic and social security for immigrants and refugees in Albania. As immigration is influenced by many political, historical, social and economic factors, unlawful entry into the EU should not in itself be considered a criminal act. It is stressed that many refugees and asylum seekers often have no choice other than unlawful entry. The Parliament has also stressed the need for the Albanian government to strengthen democracy and is calling for the rights of minorities to be respected. It calls for the adoption of legislative measures particularly regarding immigration from Albania and the neighbouring region. Moreover, the Parliament calls for the establishment of the dialogue between European officials and the central and local authorities of

Albania, in cooperation with the Council of Europe and with Italy and Greece, the main EU countries who suffer the consequences of Albania's instability. Lastly, the Member States are called upon to apply legislative measures designed for the readmission to Albania of persons whom asylum applications have been rejected and to ensure that the administrative structures responsible for examining their application and substantially strengthened.?