


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	2000/2247(COS)	Procedure completed
Mediterranean region: common strategy of the European Council of 19 June 2000, Feira		
Subject 6.40.05 Relations with the Mediterranean and southern European countries		
Geographical area Mediterranean Sea area		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense		12/10/2000
		UEN MUSCARDINI Cristiana	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
Council of the European Union	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		13/09/2000
		V/ALE PIÉTRASANTA Yves	
	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	General Affairs	2406	28/01/2002
	General Affairs	2356	11/06/2001
	General Affairs	2327	22/01/2001

Key events			
19/06/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	N5-0510/2000	Summary
23/10/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/01/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
16/01/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0008/2001	
22/01/2001	Debate in Council	2327	Summary
31/01/2001	Debate in Parliament		
01/02/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0053/2001	Summary
01/02/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
11/06/2001	Debate in Council	2356	Summary

21/09/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		
28/01/2002	Debate in Council	2406	Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	2000/2247(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/5/13972

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		N5-0510/2000	19/06/2000	CSL	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0008/2001	16/01/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0053/2001 OJ C 267 21.09.2001, p. 0021-0060	01/02/2001	EP	Summary

Mediterranean region: common strategy of the European Council of 19 June 2000, Feira

PURPOSE : to present the Common Strategy of the European Council on the Mediterranean region. **CONTENT** : the Mediterranean region is of strategic importance to the EU. However, it continues to be faced with political, economic, judicial, ecological and social challenges. The EU and the Mediterranean partners must work together with a common vision. This Common Strategy builds on the Euro-Mediterranean partnership established by the Barcelona Declaration and its subsequent acquis the Berlin Declaration and the European Unions's long-standing policy towards the Mediterranean with its bilateral and regional components. This strategy covers all the EU relations with all its partners in the Barcelona process and Libya. The European Union has the following goals in its policy towards the Mediterranean region: - to make significant and measurable progress towards achieving the objectives of the Barcelona Declaration; - to establish a common area of peace and stability through a political and security partnership; - to create an area of shared prosperity through an economic and financial partnership; - to establish a partnership in social, cultural and human affairs; - to promote the core values embraced by the EU and its Member States, including human rights, democracy, good governance, etc, - to encourage and assist Mediterranean partners with free trade; - to strengthen cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs; - to combat racism and xenophobia.?

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The committee adopted the report by Cristiana MUSCARDINI (UEN, I) expressing support for the EU's common strategy for the Mediterranean region. The committee considered the Strategy - which was laid down at the Feira summit in June 2000 - to be in line with the Barcelona cooperation process which Parliament wanted to be reactivated. The Strategy should give priority to the promotion of human rights and democracy, the encouragement of direct investment in the region and dialogue on the cultural level. The Council was urged to take all necessary steps to take the Strategy forward and there was a particular welcome for steps to create a permanent structure bringing together MEPs and parliamentarians from the partner states. The committee also called for a partnership extending to the security sphere in order to build a common area of peace and security. The Mediterranean should be a nuclear-free zone. It regretted that the Strategy had no initiatives on the environment, and the Council was urged to remedy this gap. There was criticism too of the absence of specific information on the ways in which the Strategy would be implemented and of the failure to mention the overall budgetary framework to be used to finance it. The committee felt that the establishment of a free trade area could not be confined to the free movement of capital, but should extend to exchanges, notably of students and qualified workers. Support should be given to building civil society in the Mediterranean countries. Other issues taken up included the need to crack down on drug trafficking and child exploitation and the desirability of promoting a genuine "Euro-Mediterranean" agricultural policy. Lastly, the report supported the EU's aim of achieving an all-encompassing and strategic partnership with the Mediterranean region. Access to the MEDA programme should not be linked to the signature of the partnership agreements as they did not correspond to the programme's initial objective, i.e. assisting the EU's partners to undertake reforms and to be competitive in the future free trade area. ?

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The Council took note of the Presidency priorities for implementing the EU's Common Strategy on the Mediterranean Region drawn up under

the aegis of the Presidency. The priorities of Swedish Presidency are as follows: - to reinvigorate the Barcelona Process; - to strengthen the political and security-related dialogue; - to pursue the establishment of a dynamic as well as human economic and financial partnership; - to promote cooperation in the area of Justice and Home Affairs as well as in social, cultural and human affairs - to ensure the the European Union assumes its rightful role within the Middle East Peace Process and lends its support to the parties to this Process. ?

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The European Parliament adopted the report by Mrs Christiana MUSCARDINI (UEN, I). (Please refer to the previous text). In addition, a series of amendments were adopted that seek to strengthen the wording of the resolution. A couple of amendments urge the Commission to prohibit European countries from exporting to Mediterranean partner countries food products intended for stockbreeding purposes that are made from substances banned in Europe. The Commission is also urged to establish monitoring systems to ensure that these exports do not take place.?

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The Council approved a report to the Gothenburg European Council on the implementation of the Common Strategy on the Mediterranean Region. This report set out to examine all the initiatives implemented under the Common Strategy in the context of the priorities of the French and Swedish Presidencies. The priorities of these successive presidencies were as follows: - to reinvigorate the Barcelona Process; - to strengthen the political and security-related dialogue; - to establish and develop a dynamic as well as human economic and financial partnership; - to promote cooperation in the JHA area as well as in social, cultural and human affairs; - to ensure that the EU assumed its rightful role within the Middle East Peace Process.

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The Council took note of the Presidency's work plan on the implementation of the EU Common Strategy on the Mediterranean region. The work plan places emphasis on the following objectives: - strengthening political and security dialogue; - achieving a dynamic and mutually beneficial financial and economic partnership; - making progress towards a social, cultural and human partnership, bringing the peoples of the two shores of the Mediterranean closer together; - paying special attention to the Middle East Peace Process, and in particular using the mechanisms based on the Barcelona process to offer a framework for dialogue within which the opposing parties can pave the way for normal co-operation in the future.?