




Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	2001/2051(COS)	Procedure completed
Justice and home affairs: priorities and policy objectives for external relations		
Subject 7.90 Justice and home affairs		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs		25/04/2001
		PSE HAZAN Adeline	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
Council of the European Union	 Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense		20/03/2001
		V/ALE SÖRENSEN Patsy	

Key events			
06/06/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	07653/2000	Summary
15/03/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/11/2001	Vote in committee		
21/11/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0414/2001	
12/12/2001	Debate in Parliament		
12/12/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0687/2001	Summary
12/12/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
25/07/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2051(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	LIBE/5/14544

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		07653/2000	06/06/2000	CSL	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0414/2001	21/11/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0687/2001 OJ C 177 25.07.2002, p. 0086-0198 E	12/12/2001	EP	Summary

Justice and home affairs: priorities and policy objectives for external relations

PURPOSE: to present the European Union's priorities and policy objectives for external relations in the field of justice and home affairs (JHA).

CONTENT: The report deals with the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) dimension of external policies of the Union, the priorities to be set, the means to implement these priorities and working structures. The Report stresses the need for the Union to integrate JHA matters fully in the Union's external policy so that a comprehensive, integrated, cross-pillar action is carried out by the Union as a whole. The priorities for this action are defined in the report and include in particular immigration and asylum matters, fight against organised crime and terrorism, drugs and money laundering, high-tech crime and trafficking in human beings, civil law cooperation and building partnerships with important countries including the candidate countries, international organisations and bodies relevant to the Union's priorities. The Report suggests ways and means to make full use of all instruments available to the Union to integrate JHA matters in Union policies, and deals with representation of the Union both in Title IV and Title VI matters. The Report suggests appropriate working structures to ensure a coherent approach to these matters under the authority of COREPER. The present Report has been drawn-up, pursuant to a mandate given by COREPER, by JHA Counsellors at meetings of 23 April, 8, 16 and 23 May 2000. It was based upon a draft of the Presidency and a contribution of the Commission services. JHA Counsellors agreed that the external dimension of the Union's work in the JHA field would entail the following: developing long-term strategies; preparing positions on subjects going beyond the terms of reference of a single working party or incorporating cross-pillar aspects; ensuring for attention of COREPER, overall consistency of external JHA aspects by drawing up a body of general principles; monitoring work carried out by other bodies relevant to JHA external relations; early warning mechanism on new problems that might arise and finally, identifying, for the attention of COREPER, priorities in this field. These tasks would require a thorough knowledge of programmes and measures taken in the JHA field, ongoing activities in international fora and oversight of upcoming events to enable the Union to take a more proactive approach to these matters. The role of the COREPER is crucial in this respect since it is the only Committee in a position to assess the overall objectives of the Union's external policy. In order to ensure coherence, COREPER will, where appropriate, assess on a regular basis and give guidance on the development of the external dimension of the Union's work in the JHA field. The mandate of geographical and thematic merged Working Parties of the Council extends, where appropriate, to the JHA dimension, receiving for that purpose substantive input from the existing structures, in particular the existing formal JHA working groups. Assistance of the JHA/Relex Counsellors will be available to COREPER. COREPER will evaluate how such an arrangement has worked in the interest of strengthening EU external dimension in JHA matters within one year. The European Council is invited to endorse the above orientations based on the attached report and to ask COREPER/Council to start implementation and to submit a progress report to the meeting of the European Council in December 2001 together with the report requested in the Conclusions of the Tampere European Council. ?

Justice and home affairs: priorities and policy objectives for external relations

In adopting the resolution drafted by Adeline HAZAN (PES, F), Parliament stresses the importance of the external dimensions of EU policy in the area of justice and home affairs. A coherent, coordinated and proactive European strategy in this area is lacking. Justice and Home affairs issues should be integrated into the definition and implementation of other Union policies and measures, most notably in the protection of human rights. However, such an external strategy should meet the criteria of subsidiarity and Community added-value. The priorities Parliament mentions are coordination amongst Member States and candidate countries as regards training for the judiciary and police authorities; reinforcement of the dialogue between EU Member States and third countries examining the causes of migration, readmission clauses and external border controls, in addition to addressing the needs of asylum seekers; support for the development and implementation of a broad anti-discrimination policy; preventing and combating organised crime; extending the competence of Eurojust in coordination combating terrorism with third countries; developing joint efforts to strengthen children's rights. Lastly, the Parliament notes with concern that a certain level of corruption persists in the administrations of the countries applying for membership which, if care is not taken, may compromise the efforts made by these countries to achieve reform and also the impact of the Community's financial aid.?