

Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) 2001/2139(COS)	Procedure completed
EU/USA relations: reinforcing the transatlantic cooperation, strategy and results	
Subject 6.40.11 Relations with industrialised countries	
Geographical area United States	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense		28/05/2001
		PPE-DE ELLES James	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		29/05/2001
		PSE MANN Erika	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2411	28/02/2002
	General Affairs	2346	14/05/2001
	General Affairs	2342	09/04/2001
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	External Relations		

Key events			
20/03/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0154	Summary
09/04/2001	Debate in Council	2342	
14/05/2001	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
03/09/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/02/2002	Debate in Council	2411	
23/04/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
23/04/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0148/2002	
	Debate in Parliament		

15/05/2002			
15/05/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0243/2002	Summary
15/05/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
31/07/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2139(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 050; Rules of Procedure EP 142
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/5/14961

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(2001)0154	20/03/2001	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0148/2002	23/04/2002	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0243/2002 OJ C 180 31.07.2003, p. 0162-0392 E	15/05/2002	EP	Summary

EU/USA relations: reinforcing the transatlantic cooperation, strategy and results

PURPOSE : to assess the New Transatlantic Agenda and offer proposals to reinforce EU-US co-operation. **CONTENT :** In 1995 the New Transatlantic Agenda (NTA) extended EU-US co-operation beyond questions of EC core competence to the full range of political and economic issues, thus recognising the growing role of the EU as an international actor. At the outset of a new US administration, we need to assess this partnership. Many of the objectives set out in 1995 have been achieved, but there have been difficulties in setting priorities to ensure a focused and sustained co-operation. The six-monthly cycle of EU-US summits and ministerial meetings has not developed its full potential. No amount of strategic planning can guarantee fewer disputes or deeper co-operation. Although trade relations are generally harmonious, there will always be some disputes, but they must be managed and kept in perspective. EU-US leadership on new global challenges is necessary if international action is to have any impact on issues such as organised crime, spread of infectious diseases or the proliferation of weapons. European Security and Defence Policy and the Euro will also bring new challenges. Summits should concentrate on the most important challenges - strategic themes- facing the EU and US. Possible themes could be emerging security challenges, globalisation and the multilateral trading system, the fight against organised crime, energy issues, consumer protection, macroeconomic issues, the fight against poverty in developing countries and the digital economy. The bi-annual summits should be slimmed down reverting to the original format of a restricted leaders meeting. The US has formally mentioned the need to review the format and frequency of summits. A reduction in the number could have a knock-on effect on other high level meetings with third countries. Fewer meetings, better prepared might be more productive. It is necessary to ensure that the political leadership exercises close control of a process that risks becoming too bureaucratic and cumbersome. Strong political leadership is needed to set a co-operative agenda and to garner the true potential of transatlantic co-operation. ?

EU/USA relations: reinforcing the transatlantic cooperation, strategy and results

The committee adopted the report by James ELLES (EPP-ED, UK) on the Commission communication. While stressing the historical contribution of the transatlantic partnership to the democratic values and stability of the EU, the report said that this partnership and its fundamental texts had not evolved since the 1995 New Transatlantic Agenda, which had become largely a 'bureaucratic inter-administration exercise' rather than an instrument for political leadership. During this period the EU had undergone considerable change, the European Parliament had acquired extra powers and the international scene had been thrown into turmoil by the events of 11 September. MEPs deplored the US trend towards unilateralism and, in some cases, disengagement from many of the world's problems and called for transatlantic ties to be strengthened, on equal terms, in all areas where the two sides share common interests and values. The committee reaffirmed the key role of NATO as the guarantor of Euro-Atlantic stability and security and said that increased transatlantic cooperation would make a decisive contribution towards resolving major international crises. However, the EU must be prepared to take courageous steps towards a more strongly integrated ESDP. The USA, for its part, should encourage technological cooperation and open up its defence procurement markets. However, the committee stressed that, despite terrorism, the world's problems could not be solved by purely military means and added that the emphasis must shift from collective defence to collective security. Concerned at the very different approaches on the two sides of the Atlantic to this issue, MEPs called for closer transatlantic dialogue on the non-political causes of insecurity, in the belief

that the economic and environmental causes as well as those relating to international justice must also be given priority. The committee also wanted to see institutionalised or negotiated multilateral arms controls. The report made a number of suggestions for a renewed transatlantic partnership for the third millennium, such as streamlining transatlantic discussions as well as increased involvement of parliaments, including a fresh impetus for the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue. ?

EU/USA relations: reinforcing the transatlantic cooperation, strategy and results

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the Transatlantic relationship, drafted by James ELLES (EPP-ED, United Kingdom). (Please refer to the document dated 23/04/02.) Parliament acknowledged the depth of emotions caused by the events on September 11, but stated that the attacks had nothing to do with either the so-called clash of civilisations nor with a single act of terrorism, but rather with a conflict aimed at undermining open societies, which makes it indispensable to reinforce ties between the EU and US. International terrorism must be combated not only by military means but by addressing the roots of the tremendous political, social, economic and ecological problems of today's world. Parliament notes the importance of the concept of linkage, whereby aspects of economic, political and security policy are tied closely together. Closer institutional relations between NATO and the EU are needed in order to make them both stronger. Parliament expressed its concern about the very different approaches to the issue of collective security that seem to exist on both sides of the Atlantic. Priority must be given to important security topics such as non-proliferation of weapons of mass-destruction, missile defence systems and the role of the UN, and the Security Council in particular. The strongest terms were used to express Parliament's disapproval of the USA's unsigned Treaty establishing the International Criminal Court. Members noted the dramatic difference in "value for money" between EU defence spending and that of the US. This can only be overcome by courageous steps in the field of arms procurement. Balanced cooperation between the EU and the USA in the field of external relations is vital to solve the major conflicts in the world. Parliament welcomes the positive results of joint post-war actions in the Balkans. The Israel-Palestine conflict does require an active approach of both transatlantic partners working closely together. On economic and trade relations, Parliament strongly condemned the unilateral measures taken by the US in the case of steel, as well as the recent decision to approve a huge increase in agricultural subsidies in breach of the commitments made at Doha in 2001. This action will undermine WTO negotiations, with appalling consequences for world trade and for sustainable development and export prospects for developing countries. A number of suggestions are made for an update of the TEP. There are suggestions for a renewed transatlantic partnership, where the pursuit of common global interests act as the central defining political purpose of the transatlantic partnership. Finally, Parliament calls for an end to the embargo against Cuba, and the rescinding of the extra-territorial "Helms-Burton" law.?