


Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) 2001/2153(COS)	Procedure completed
Linking relief, rehabilitation and development: assessment	
Subject 6.10.05 Peace preservation, humanitarian and rescue tasks, crisis management 6.30 Development cooperation 6.50 Emergency, food, humanitarian aid, aid to refugees, Emergency Aid Reserve	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	DEVE Development and Cooperation		25/06/2001
		PSE VAN DEN BERG Margrietus	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Development	2352	31/05/2001
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Development		

Key events			
23/04/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0153	Summary
31/05/2001	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
03/09/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/12/2001	Vote in committee		
19/12/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0464/2001	
04/02/2002	Debate in Parliament		
05/02/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0033/2002	Summary
05/02/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/11/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2153(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	DEVE/5/15120

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2001)0153	23/04/2001	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0464/2001	19/12/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0033/2002 OJ C 284 21.11.2002, p. 0024-0108 E	05/02/2002	EP	Summary

Linking relief, rehabilitation and development: assessment

PURPOSE: to present a Communication from the Commission concerning the linking of relief, rehabilitation and development - an assessment. **CONTENT:** recent evaluations of the Community external aid instruments have confirmed that linkages between relief and development should be improved, witness the EC assistance provided in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch. The pursuit of effective linkage is not simply a matter of ensuring a smooth transition from emergency to development assistance. It must be seen in a broader context, as part of an integrated approach towards prevention of crises and disasters, in particular through disaster preparedness, as well as preventing and resolving conflicts and assuring a return to structural stability. 'Gaps' in the international community's response to conflicts can play a role in the development of the conflict itself. This Communication must also be seen in the context of the overall efforts to increase the effectiveness of the Union's external action, including the reform of the Community's external assistance and to improve the quality of development policy and of ECHO strategies. Against this background, this Communication describes the difficulties to be addressed, recognises the limits of the approach and identifies a range of measures that could improve the Community's contribution to international efforts in post-crisis situations. Proposals include the following elements: - firstly, on the basis of experience gained in international donor initiatives, suggestions are made to facilitate coordination on a more systematic basis. The international community must improve its response to disasters and other crises in a developmental perspective; - secondly, measures are proposed to re-adjust and streamline the Community's own instruments, working methods and internal institutional mechanisms. New instruments and additional funding are not proposed. Rather, Country Strategy Papers, which form the basis of the new programming process for EC co-operation, must be used as the central reference for guiding different interventions at different stages of the crisis cycle and through the inclusion of conflict indicators, as a forward planning and preventative tool. This will allow interventions to be decided in a longer term perspective. In the implementation phase, increased flexibility and rapidity for mobilising development and co-operation funds will be needed with a view to facilitating the takeover from emergency interventions and, where appropriate, from the Rapid Reaction Mechanism.?

Linking relief, rehabilitation and development: assessment

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Mr Max Van den BURG (PES, NL). The House reaffirmed the importance of linking relief, rehabilitation and development and welcomes the Commission's communication. It believes that, whenever practically feasible, EU relief efforts should reinforce development, or at least not undermine it, and vice-versa, development efforts should prepare people and countries to better withstand disasters and emergencies. The Parliament considers it necessary to guarantee that aid actually reaches the target group for which it is intended. The Parliament is in agreement with the Commission in that the main problems to be addressed are slow decision-making procedures, the ability to mobilise resources through appropriate instruments, the scope of available instruments, and the availability of appropriate implementing partners for various phases of assistance. It believes that the important issue of internal and external coordination must also be addressed. Parliament believes that co-ordination and complementarity, both internally, as regards the Commission, the EIB and the Member States, and at external level, in relation to the other bi- and multilateral donors (UN agencies, the World Bank, the IMF and the Paris Club), should form an integral part of the planning of CSPs and the addenda to them. In addition, it believes that donor coordination involving the local authorities of the country, multilateral financial institutions, local and European NGOs, the UN and the appropriate Commission services is imperative to guaranteeing a successful linkage strategy and therefore asks the Commission to create a taskforce including the aforementioned actors as soon as a crisis erupts with the aim of identifying coordinated emergency and rehabilitation priorities, strategies and methodology that should be included in the addendum to the Country Strategy papers. With regard to country strategy papers and addenda, the Parliament is of the opinion that it is of the utmost importance that Commission, Council and Parliament can agree quickly upon a simplified and accelerated procedure that should ensure the drafting and approval of the addenda within a maximum period of 2 months. Lastly, with regard to the specific budget lines and programmes, the Parliament approves, subject to the budgetary procedures in place, the Commission's proposal to merge the regional budget lines for reconstruction and rehabilitation into one single line. It is, on the other

hand, seriously worried that the Commission may be considering, for the future, the merger of existing horizontal regulations into main geographical instruments as these large geographical instruments are not designed for flexible interventions in post-emergency situations, neither in terms of content nor as regards procedures for the approval of programmes and projects.?