


# Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	<a href="#">2002/2157(INI)</a>	Procedure completed
Strengthening the capacities of the developing countries		
Subject 6.40.12 Relations with developing countries in general		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>DEVE</b> Development and Cooperation	PPE-DE <a href="#">FERRER Concepció</a>	20/06/2002

Key events			
10/10/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/03/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
18/03/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A5-0066/2003</a>	
14/05/2003	Debate in Parliament		
15/05/2003	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T5-0212/2003</a>	Summary
15/05/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
17/03/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2157(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/5/16637

Documentation gateway				
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A5-0066/2003</a>	18/03/2003	EP

## Strengthening the capacities of the developing countries

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The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Concepció FERRER (EPP-ED, E) on capacity-building in the developing countries. It wanted to see a refocusing of development policy so that it could be based on capacity-building, underpinned by the following principles: - involvement of aid beneficiaries in the selection of priority development objectives, with the emphasis on adaptation to local needs; - the setting of multidimensional qualitative objectives encompassing the various players within society; - ensuring the continuity and sustainability of the development process; - exchanges of experience between grassroots communities, NGOs, local authorities and the developing countries' state bodies. The report added that the capacity-building process should also include measures designed to establish a universal right to education and to eradicate AIDS and poverty-related diseases. It also stressed the particular importance of capacity-building in the case of parliamentary institutions as a means of ensuring the proper operation of democracy, constitutional government and good governance and of combating corruption. Amongst its other recommendations, the committee urged the Commission to place greater emphasis on building agricultural and trade capacity, on improving knowledge of and compliance with the relevant rules in force in the target countries, and on more extensive monitoring of market networks. Although it welcomed the aid which the EU had provided to set up an office in Geneva to help the ACP countries to increase their capacity in the field of multilateral negotiations, it warned against selective ad hoc technical aid intended solely to enable the developing countries to meet their obligations under trade agreements, which alone was not sufficient to strengthen actual capabilities. Lastly, the report wanted to see the necessary structures put in place in order to guarantee proper coordination of the activities of all the international institutions working in the capacity-building field. ?

## Strengthening the capacities of the developing countries

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Concepcio FERRER (EPP-ED, Spain) on capacity-building. (Please see the summary dated 18/03/03.) As well as developing four principles upon which capacity-building policy should be based, Parliament placed particular emphasis on developing countries' industrial and agricultural capability. It stated that even if the poorest countries have a non-reciprocal right of access to the markets of the developed countries, this will be a totally inadequate means of ensuring that trade actually develops, unless at the same time, those countries' industrial and agricultural development capability is increased, their ability to comply with the rules and meet the standards (in particular health and plant-health standards) in force in the importing countries is enhanced and their knowledge of marketing networks is improved. The Commission is asked to ensure that specific objectives in this area are laid down in national strategic documents. Parliament stressed the need to promote the self-organisation of marginal groups within society in order to enable the communities most affected by poverty to play a part in their own development. Parliament went on to ask the European Community's delegations, when drawing up national strategic documents, to hold regular consultations with local NGOs and grassroots communities on the capacity-building objectives to be achieved. Finally, the capacities of small and medium-sized businesses in developing countries should be increased to enable them to compete with products from the European Union or from other developed countries. The Commission is asked to carry out a systematic assessment of capacity-building policies and, for that purpose, to perform multi-disciplinary research, including a study of the sociological aspects. Local NGOs and grassroots communities should be consulted in connection with that process.?