


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2003/2106(INI)	Procedure completed
NEPAD, the new partnership for Africa's development		
Subject 6.30 Development cooperation 6.40.07 Relations with African countries		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	DEVE Development and Cooperation		20/02/2003
		PPE-DE BÉBÉAR Jean-Pierre	

Key events			
03/07/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
01/10/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
01/10/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0329/2003	
13/01/2004	Debate in Parliament		
14/01/2004	Decision by Parliament	T5-0021/2004	Summary
14/01/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2106(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/5/19730

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0329/2003	01/10/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0021/2004	14/01/2004	EP	Summary
OJ C 092 16.04.2004, p.					

NEPAD, the new partnership for Africa's development

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Jean-Pierre BEBEAR (EPP-ED, F) on NEPAD, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, which forms part of an ambitious project known as the 'African Renaissance'. NEPAD has been adopted as an operational programme of the African Union (AU) which replaced the OAU. It is based on the following priorities, which MEPs felt should constitute the major innovative features of development aid for Africa: taking control of development, peace and security through conflict prevention and resolution, human rights, democracy and good governance and accelerating regional integration. While welcoming the NEPAD initiative, the committee noted the criticisms from some quarters that African civil society had scarcely been involved. It therefore encouraged the AU Member States to allow the "active and democratic participation" of all sectors of civil society, including NGOs, trade unions, employers' organisations and churches. MEPs commended the AU on having made provision for a Pan-African Parliament and called for it to be established rapidly through the ratification by the African parliaments of the necessary protocol. They added that the role of providing the impetus for and exercising parliamentary control over NEPAD should naturally fall to the Pan-African Parliament. The committee also attached great importance to the implementation of the African Peer Group Mechanism (APRM), saying that this would help to realise NEPAD's basic political and economic principles by providing a framework for monitoring processes and for promoting responsible governance, democracy and respect for human rights and the rule of law. It urged all the countries of Africa to join the APRM and said that the EU should increase its development cooperation funding for countries which successfully participated in the Mechanism as a way of acknowledging their efforts. It also called on all the African countries to ratify the AU Convention against Corruption. The report also highlighted the need to support Africa's capacity to settle its own disputes and establish peace under the authority of the African Union. It congratulated the AU on its decision, the first of its kind, to send a military force to Burundi (the MIAB) to achieve peace in that country. MEPs added that the AU's conflict prevention policy should also combat structural causes, such as economic disparities, social injustice, absence of democratic participation in decision-making, environmental degradation, human rights violations and access to and control of natural resources. They also congratulated the Commission on its efforts to reduce the debt burden for the most heavily indebted countries and called for further measures in this direction. Lastly, the committee urged African countries to encourage and facilitate participation by the private sector and expressed support for an International Funding Facility to attract private finance to developing countries.?

NEPAD, the new partnership for Africa's development

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Jean-Pierre BEBEAR (EPP-ED, France), warmly welcoming the establishment of the African Union and expressing great interest in its NEPAD programme. (Please see the summary of 01/10/03.) It called on the Council, the Commission and the High Representative for the CFSP to develop a structured global political dialogue, on a union-to-union basis, between the EU and the African Union. It encouraged African States, African regional organisations and the Commission to ensure that NEPAD's priorities are reflected in Community aid programmes and to seek greater consistency between the NEPAD objectives and regional programmes (in the context of agreements with ACP countries, MEDA countries and South Africa). Parliament believes that the credibility of NEPAD will depend on the decisions - some of them involving difficult cases - taken by the AU regarding countries that fail to respect the APRM criteria in the medium term. It congratulated the African Union on the gradual development of a principle of 'non-indifference' and its willingness to intervene in individual member states in the event of war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. Parliament called on the AU member states, and in particular the SADC members, to take an initiative in support of the political and constitutional transition process in Zimbabwe, under which elections should be held within the next 24 months. It congratulated the AU on its commitment to achieving peace in Burundi through the MIAB. Parliament expressed its support for the AU's Peace and Security Council, as a political authority and coordination body for the efforts achieved by the external partners and encourages the AU member states to ratify the protocol relating to this Council. On the question of private finance, Parliament also stressed that the appeal to the private sector should not lead donors, including the EU Member States, to shirk their responsibilities. It recalled its requests for a reform of and an increase in public development aid.?