


Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) 1995/2022(COS)	Procedure completed
EU/Mexico relations: closer relations	
Subject 6.40.10 Relations with Latin America, Central America, Caribbean islands	
Geographical area Mexico	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	RELA External Economic Relations		22/02/1995
		PSE MIRANDA DE LAGE Ana	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy		12/04/1995
		PPE FERNÁNDEZ-ALBOR Gerardo	
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy		18/04/1995
		PPE PEIJS Karla M.H.	
	DEVE Development and Cooperation		
Council of the European Union			

Key events			
08/02/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0003	Summary
13/03/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
31/10/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
31/10/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0270/1995	
16/11/1995	Debate in Parliament		
17/11/1995	Decision by Parliament	T4-0571/1995	Summary
17/11/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
04/12/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/2022(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	RELA/4/06421

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(1995)0003	08/02/1995	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0270/1995 OJ C 323 04.12.1995, p. 0005	31/10/1995	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0571/1995 OJ C 323 04.12.1995, p. 0142-0163	17/11/1995	EP	Summary

EU/Mexico relations: closer relations

In its communication to the Council and the European Parliament, the Commission examines how the Community could achieve closer relations with Mexico. The Commission starts by defining the main strategic implications of these relations, recent developments in Mexico and its place on the international stage. It then goes on to detail specific measures which could be taken in order to achieve closer relations. The Commission considers that the only way to do justice to the mutual interests of the Union and Mexico is to conclude an agreement governing economic partnership and political dialogue, the objective of which would be to implement stronger cooperation between the EC and Mexico on the basis of a fair and mutually supportive partnership in the economic, political and commercial sectors. This agreement would need to take account of the Community's international obligations vis-?-vis the WTO and would include three main strands: - political strand: dialogue based on respect for human rights and democratic principles, good management of public affairs and the rule of law would form the basis of overall relations between the parties. Bilateral meetings (EU-Mexico) would therefore be arranged at the highest level (president, ministers etc); - economic strand: as far as economic and commercial relations are concerned, the agreement should make express provision for the gradual and mutual liberalisation of all trade (taking account of the sensitivity of certain products). A special protocol would need to make provision to combat fraud, provide reciprocal administrative assistance in the customs sector and for rules of origin. Particular attention would need to be paid to the gradual and mutual liberalisation of investment terms and regulations governing goods and services; - cooperation strand: cooperation would be achieved by reinforcing programmes to bring companies together and cooperation between administrations, implementing projects to promote the transfer of European environmental know-how and developing cooperation in science and education. In addition, Mexico could take part in certain European industrial, cultural, R&D, information technology and telecommunications cooperation projects. Finally, specific areas of cooperation could be developed, such as statistics, customs, competition, indirect taxation, standards and energy. The Commission will propose a draft directive for negotiating this new agreement during the course of 1995.?

EU/Mexico relations: closer relations

The Committee adopted the draft report by Mrs MIRANDA de LAGE (PSE, E) on closer relations between the European Union and Mexico. It stressed the need for the European Union to promote political relations with Mexico and to consider the possibility of negotiating a free-trade agreement with Mexico. According to the rapporteur, the North-American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which entered into force on 1 January 1994, has had an adverse impact on political, economic and trade relations between the EU and Mexico. The Committee on External Economic Relations also proposed that the EU and Mexico strengthen commercial relations between the two partners by negotiating a preferential agreement, the final objective of which would be to: - gradually establish a free trade zone for the majority of products (mainly in the industrial and service sectors) and - progressively and reciprocally liberalize agricultural trade, taking account of the sensitivity of certain products and in accordance with the rules of the WTO and investment conditions. The rapporteur took the view that this form of free zone could only be established on the basis of an asymmetrical timetable governing the dismantling of customs tariffs and the elimination of tariff trade barriers. Mexico should be able to continue to benefit from a reasonable preference margin in its access to the Community market for its manufactured and industrial products under the SGP (system of generalized preferences), thereby enabling it to compete with the CEECs and the CIS which exported similar products. As far as services were concerned (transport, telecommunications, tourism, financial services, insurance, culture, audiovisual), the future agreement should guarantee Community enterprises the same treatment and the same access to the Mexican market as American and Canadian enterprises. The Committee on External Economic Relations called for the new agreement to be accompanied by a significant increase in financial aid in order to encourage private European investment and technical and financial assistance for rural development projects, allow Mexico to join certain R&D and other Community programmes and enable environmental protection, infrastructure and energy projects to be cofinanced. In addition to an economic and commercial agreement, the Committee called for regular, institutionalized political dialogue between the EU and Mexico on bilateral and international questions of common interest. Respect for the fundamental principles of a democratic country, especially respect for human rights, should be governed by a democratic clause. Similarly, the legitimate rights, both economic and social, of the indigenous communities of Chiapas should be respected by implementing a programme of technical and financial assistance to promote the rural development of the region.?

EU/Mexico relations: closer relations

In adopting the report by Mrs MIRANDA DE LAGE (PSE, E), the European Parliament welcomed the decision of 2 May 1995 concerning the rapid conclusion of a political, economic and commercial agreement between the European Union and Mexico. However, it called for this agreement to include a democratic clause (respect for human rights and democracy). Although it supported the reforms implemented in the country, the EP highlighted the fact that Mexico needed to create the basic framework for sustainable development. It also supported the establishment of future political dialogue, which should include consultation at parliamentary level between members of the Mexican Congress and Members of the European Parliament. Parliament was equally in favour of the conclusion of a new preferential agreement and the eventual establishment of a free trade area in the industrial and services sector as well as progressive, reciprocal liberalisation of agricultural trade. It asked that the harmonisation of standards together with provisions on scientific and technological cooperation be included in the agreement. Furthermore, as a safety measure, Mexico should be able to benefit from a reasonable margin of preference in its access to the Community market if it suffered significant market losses. The future agreement should also guarantee Community undertakings parity of treatment and of access to the Mexican market with US or Canadian undertakings. At the same time, the EP believed that this agreement should be accompanied by a significant increase in financial aid from the Community with the goal of encouraging European private investment and economic and social development in Mexico in accordance with the arrangements made with the CEECs. Provision should also be made for EIB loans. Finally, Parliament highlighted for the Commission the importance of a detailed study of the technical issues raised by the negotiation of this new agreement, particularly the definition of a transition period for industrial products, the arrangements for the progressive, reciprocal liberalisation of agricultural trade, and the rules of origin that would apply, in view of the discrepancies between NAFTA and European Union rules for certain industries, such as motor vehicles, textiles, and so on. ?