


Procedure file

Basic information		
AVC - Assent procedure (historic)	1995/0129(AVC)	Procedure completed
EC/Latvia Europe Agreement		
Subject 6.40.02.02 Relations with northern Europe and the Baltic States		
Geographical area Latvia		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy		21/02/1995
		ELDR REHN Elisabeth	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy		
	RELA External Economic Relations		25/01/1995
Council of the European Union		PSE TITLEY Gary	
	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Fisheries	2063	19/12/1997
	General Affairs	1853	12/06/1995
	General Affairs	1847	29/05/1995

Key events			
02/06/1995	Initial legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0207	Summary
08/08/1995	Legislative proposal published	09196/1995	Summary
18/09/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/10/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
17/10/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0263/1995	
14/11/1995	Debate in Parliament		Summary
15/11/1995	Decision by Parliament	T4-0536/1995	Summary
19/12/1997	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		

19/12/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
02/02/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/0129(AVC)
Procedure type	AVC - Assent procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 238; ECSC Treaty C 095; EC before Amsterdam E 228-p2/3-a2; Euratom Treaty A 101-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/4/06994

Documentation gateway

Initial legislative proposal		COM(1995)0207	02/06/1995	EC	Summary
Legislative proposal		09196/1995	08/08/1995	CSL	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0263/1995 OJ C 323 04.12.1995, p. 0004	17/10/1995	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0536/1995 OJ C 323 04.12.1995, p. 0026-0041	15/11/1995	EP	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

[Decision 1998/98](#)
[OJ L 026 02.02.1998, p. 0001](#) Summary

EC/Latvia Europe Agreement

This proposal for a Council and Commission decision aimed to conclude a Europe Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Latvia, of the other part. It was a preferential agreement designed to establish a close and lasting relationship between the parties and create an appropriate framework for the gradual integration of this country into the Union. It was concluded for an indefinite period and was based on respect for democratic principles and human rights. With regard to trade and accompanying measures, the Europe Agreement fully integrated the provisions of the agreement on the liberalisation of trade which was signed on 18 July 1994. It included political dialogue at the highest possible level together with a transitional period expiring on 31 December 1999 for the definitive establishment of the Latvia-European Communities association. The agreement also contained provisions concerning: - the right of establishment, - the free movement of workers, - the provision of services (with a clause maintaining the status quo), - the free movement of capital, - economic, cultural and financial cooperation. The agreement also made provision for the establishment of an Association Council responsible for supervising the implementation of the agreement and with the power to take decisions in specific cases provided for in the agreement. An Association Committee and a Parliamentary Committee were also established. Finally, and for the first time in a Europe Agreement, provisions were included on cooperation in the prevention of illegal activities (including drug trafficking, organised crime, illegal trade in nuclear materials and illegal immigration, taking account of the principle of readmission). The agreement replaced the agreement on trade and economic and commercial cooperation between the Community and Latvia which entered into force on 1 February 1993 and, as regards trade and accompanying measures, the agreement on the liberalisation of trade which entered into force on 1 January 1995. ?

EC/Latvia Europe Agreement

The Committee unanimously adopted the report by Mrs Elisabeth REHN on the European association agreements between the European Union and Latvia. The Committee proposed that the European Parliament give its assent to this Association Agreement. The prospects for the

accession of the Baltic States to the Union are clearly stated. This European Agreement replaces the previous agreements on trade and economic and commercial cooperation between the Community and each of the Baltic States. It fully integrates the free-trade agreement which entered into force on 1 January 1995 and also proposes three additional fields of intervention: - multilateral political dialogue - the fight against illegal activities - cultural cooperation. The Committee called on Latvia to participate fully in the multilateral political dialogue which had been established between all potential new members from Central and Eastern Europe and the European Union. For the first time in a European agreement provisions were made for close cooperation in the fight against illegal activities, in particular against corruption, illegal immigration, trafficking in industrial-waste, counterfeit goods and drugs, and against organized crime. On a cultural level the agreement seeks to provide support for the audiovisual industry, to harmonize rights relating to international broadcasting and to promote language learning for the Russian-speaking population. The Baltic States would also be able to participate in a large number of Community programmes and projects in many different sectors. The Committee drew attention to two important aspects of the agreements: - Respect for democratic principles, human rights and the market economy. These principles are the subject of a suspensive clause (the so-called "democracy clause"), which stipulates that the agreement will be suspended in the event of a flagrant violation of its principles. To this effect, an Association Committee and a Joint Parliamentary Committee will be set up to verify that all the provisions of the association agreements are being implemented. - Intra-regional cooperation between the Baltic States and between these States and Russia, which will help establish stability and security in the region as a whole. The agreements are concluded for an unspecified period. However, in the case of Latvia the agreement provides for a transition period which will run until the end of 1999. ?

EC/Latvia Europe Agreement

Recalling the various stages involved in the run-up to the signature of the Europe Agreements by the Council of Ministers in June 1995, Commissioner van den Broek noted that, in comparison to the agreements concluded with the CEECs, these Agreements provided for cooperation in the fight against crime. A series of measures, including special regional assistance, had been implemented to prepare for their pre-accession strategy, even before ratification of the Europe Agreements by the countries in question. The Commissioner thus called on the European Parliament to approve this Agreement in order to eliminate any obstacles to the launch of the pre-accession strategy.

EC/Latvia Europe Agreement

In adopting the report by Mrs REHN (ELDR, FIN), Parliament gave its assent to the proposal for concluding a Europe Agreement with Latvia. ?

EC/Latvia Europe Agreement

OBJECTIVE: to conclude the Europe Agreement between the European Communities and Latvia. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council and Commission Decision 98/98/EC/ECSC/Euratom on the Conclusion of the Europe Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Latvia, of the other part. CONTENT: this is a preferential agreement to establish a close, permanent association between the parties and create a suitable framework for the gradual integration of Latvia in the European Union. It is of unlimited duration and is based on respect for democratic principles and human rights. As far as trade and accompanying measures are concerned, the Europe Agreement fully integrates the provisions of the free trade agreement signed on 18 July 1994. It includes political dialogue at the highest level and incorporates a transitional period to expire on 31 December 1999, when the final association between the European Community and Latvia will be implemented. This agreement makes provision, inter alia, for: - the right of establishment; - the free movement of workers; - the provision of services (with a standstill clause); - the free movement of capital; - economic, cultural and financial cooperation: the numerous areas of cooperation include nuclear safety, the environment, transport, banking services, monetary policy, cooperation in social affairs, consumer protection, tourism and customs cooperation. Provisions have also been included in the area of justice and internal affairs (fight against drugs and money-laundering, fight against organized crime and corruption, the black market in nuclear materials and illegal immigration, taking account of the principle of respective readmission). The agreement also provides for the creation of an association council responsible for monitoring the implementation of the agreement and authorized to take decisions in specific matters as set out in the agreement. An association committee and a parliamentary committee have also been set up. This agreement replaces the agreement on trade and economic and commercial cooperation between the European Community and Latvia which entered into force on 1 February 1993 and, as far as trade and accompanying measures are concerned, the free trade agreement which entered into force on 1 January 1995. ENTRY INTO FORCE: the Europe Agreement between the EC and Latvia will enter into force on 1 February 1998.?