Basic information

1994/2107(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
A new Asia strategy **Subject** 6.40.08 Relations with Asian countries	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET	Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	GOL Jean (ELDR)	05/10/1994

Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
RELA	External Economic Relations	HINDLEY Michael J. (PSE)	07/09/1994
ENVI	Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		
DEVE	Development and Cooperation		

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	1830	1995-03-06

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/07/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1994)0314	Summary
14/09/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
06/03/1995	Debate in Council		Summary
12/04/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
12/04/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0080/1995	
14/06/1995	Debate in Parliament		
14/06/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		

03/07/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1994/2107(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/4/05877

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0080/1995 OJ C 126 22.05.1995, p. 0003	12/04/1995	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0289/1995 OJ C 166 03.07.1995, p. 0047-0064	14/06/1995	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1994)0314	13/07/1994	Summary

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1994/2107(COS) - 06/03/1995

In response to the idea of a Euro-Asian summit floated by the Prime Minister of Singapore, the Council stated that it was favourably inclined to the holding of such a summit in the first half of 1996 at the latest. It instructed the Presidency and the Commission to hold the necessary talks in order to convey that favourable approach and settle the organisational arrangements for such a meeting in the light of the ASEAN discussion paper. The Council finally decided to consider the matter again at its next meeting in May.

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1994/2107(COS) - 14/06/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In its resolution, the European Parliament stated that it was very much in favour of stepping up relations with the Asian countries. Although it stressed the importance of the Commission communication and need to accord greater priority to Asia, the EP felt that this could only be regarded as a first step and that the framework proposed by the Commission should be supported by more intense and differentiated strategies for the various parts of Asia. To this end, Parliament recommended a genuine partnership with these countries and called on the Commission to take a series of initiatives, in collaboration with Parliament itself, to strengthen relations between Europe and that part of the world: - provision for new budgetary items broken down by geographical region, - establishment of training programmes as well as exchanges for young people, - promotion of Asian studies, modelled on the Community's work relating to Latin America (IRELA), - support for regional institutes pursuing European studies in Asia, - expansion and strengthening of the Community's presence in Asia, including its commercial presence. In particular, the EP called on the Council to give priority to security and peace issues involving Asia and it hoped that the Union would have a higher profile at local level as a provider of development aid. Political dialogue

with these countries should be stepped up, including dialogue on nuclear issues (nuclear test ban). Parliament again stressed that any agreements concluded with Asian countries should be based on a clause concerning "respect for human rights and democratic principles". With regard to "social dumping", which was a source of conflict between Europe and Asia, Parliament pointed out that the growth in Asian countries was largely due to government investment, foreign capital and low wages. The economic growth of these countries should thus be accompanied by an improvement in social and economic safeguards. With regard to trade, the Union should identify the priority areas for economic cooperation to assert Europe's trade interests. The liberalisation of trading relations with the Asian countries should also be based on open dialogue resulting in the inclusion of environmental and social clauses in the agreements concluded with Asia. Similarly, Parliament stressed that all comprehensive cooperation agreements should contain provisions on investment protection. The EP also called on Japan, the EU's main commercial partner in the region, to intensify its efforts at market liberalisation. There should be sustained efforts to help the poorest countries in the region. Finally, Parliament called on all the Asian countries to ratify the Law of the Sea Treaty and on China to join the WTO. Parliament also called for the rapid conclusion of an agreement with Vietnam and proposed that consideration be given to concluding contractual relations with Iran at the appropriate time.

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1994/2107(COS) - 13/07/1994 - Non-legislative basic document

The purpose of this Commission communication is to define the scope of future European policy on Asia. According to this communication, 400 million Asians will have at least the same, if not more purchasing power than Europeans or Americans by the year 2000. This proves that the Union urgently needs to amend its policy on this part of the world and, more importantly, to strengthen its economic profile in Asia if it is to maintain a dominant position in the world economy. The Union must also endeavour, in the current political context (end of the Cold War etc.), to develop political dialogue with Asia and find ways of involving it in the management of international affairs (especially by monitoring regional conflicts such as Korea and Kashmir). As regards trade, this document proves that it is in the Union's interest to continue to open up markets for goods and services and overcome obstacles to European trade and investment. However, these aspects should not obscure the development aspect, which will continue to characterize European policy on southern Asia beyond the year 2000. The communication therefore proposes implementing a coordinated programme to take account of these different aspects.