Basic information

1994/2158(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) Strengthening the Mediterranean Policy of the European Union: establishing a Euro-Mediterranean partnership **Subject** 6.40.05 Relations with the Mediterranean and southern European countries **Geographical area** Mediterranean Sea area	Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET	Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	SAKELLARIOU Jannis (PSE)	02/12/1994

Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AGRI	Agriculture and Rural Development	DIMITRAKOPOULOS Giorgos (PPE)	19/07/1995
BUDG	Budgets	FABRA VALLÉS Juan Manuel (PPE)	19/07/1995
ENER	Research, Technological Development and Energy		
RELA	External Economic Relations	FERRER Concepció (PPE)	30/11/1994
REGI	Regional Policy	BAGGIONI Jean (RDE)	26/01/1995
TRAN	Transport and Tourism		
DEVE	Development and Cooperation		

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	1853	1995-06-12

General Affairs	1847	1995-05-29
General Affairs	1825	1995-01-23
General Affairs	1844	1995-04-10
General Affairs	1806	1994-11-28
General Affairs	1830	1995-03-06
General Affairs	1871	1995-10-02

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
19/10/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1994)0427	Summary
28/11/1994	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
30/11/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/01/1995	Debate in Council		
06/03/1995	Debate in Council		
10/04/1995	Debate in Council		Summary
29/05/1995	Debate in Council		
12/06/1995	Debate in Council		
28/09/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
28/09/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0232/1995	
11/10/1995	Debate in Parliament		Summary
11/10/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/10/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1994/2158(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/4/06116

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0232/1995 OJ C 287 30.10.1995, p. 0005	28/09/1995	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0456/1995 OJ C 287 30.10.1995, p. 0077-0121	11/10/1995	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1994)0427	19/10/1994	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(1995)0072	08/03/1995	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0371/1995 OJ C 126 29.04.1996, p. 0012	15/11/1995	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1332/2001	18/10/2001	

Strengthening the Mediterranean Policy of the European Union: establishing a Euro-Mediterranean partnership

1994/2158(COS) - 02/10/1995

The Council approved the draft declaration, which it would examine with its Mediterranean partners at a meeting in Brussels on 5 and 6 October 1995.

Strengthening the Mediterranean Policy of the European Union: establishing a Euro-Mediterranean partnership

1994/2158(COS) - 11/10/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr SAKELLARIOU (PSE, D), Parliament called on the Commission to present a further communication on the "security" aspects of the region, which would serve as a basis for a joint action of the Council, in accordance with Article J.8(3) of the Treaty on European Union. It recommended that the Presidency, while remaining extremely mindful of the ideas and values of our future partners, should take a firm line during the discussions on the founding principles of the European Union (human rights, democracy, social justice and the rule of law) in order that the debate might be productive and useful to all parties. Parliament called for a general conception of the Europe-Mediterranean partnership to be drawn up based on three pillars: - harmonization of the policies which are provided for under the Treaty on European Union and which are applicable to the region, - extension of the bilateral policies of the Member States by a framework agreement of a multilateral kind (which the Commission would present to Parliament), - demonstration of a high degree of flexibility in the application of policies, as a function of developments in the partner countries. Parliament considered that the creation of a free-trade zone was a worthwhile objective with regard to the promotion of the various interests of those involved, but pointed out that such measures should go hand in hand with the reorganization of the economy of the countries concerned. In this respect it recalled that the essential conditions for attracting investment to the region were the application of market-based economic policies, the existence of a small and efficient public administration and an improvement in infrastructure and in education and health facilities. With this in mind, Parliament called on the EC to implement cooperation programmes with its Mediterranean partners, along the lines of what had been achieved with the CEECs and with the countries of the former USSR. In addition to those participating by right in the programmes (the 15 Member States and the countries of the south and south-east Mediterranean zone which have signed cooperation agreements with the Community), Parliament also called on the Council to invite other countries to take part as observers. At the same time, it thought that it was not desirable for other countries, who might be interested, to attend the conference and therefore called on the Council to limit the number of countries participating by right. On the other hand, it welcomed the participation of a large delegation from the European Parliament (in an official capacity), as well as NGOs. Finally, Parliament insisted that the Conference of Barcelona (27 and 28 November 1995) should lead to the creation of a permanent and flexible framework for monitoring the progress of Euro-Mediterranean policy.

Strengthening the Mediterranean Policy of the European Union: establishing a Euro-Mediterranean partnership

1994/2158(COS) - 28/11/1994

Strengthening the Mediterranean Policy of the European Union: establishing a Euro-Mediterranean partnership

1994/2158(COS) - 10/04/1995

In preparation for the Euro-Mediterranean Conference scheduled to be held in Barcelona on 27 and 28 November 1995, the Council agreed on the summary report to serve as a basis for the exploratory talks that the Troika would be conducting with the twelve Mediterranean partners in the coming weeks. Those contacts were intended to prepare for the Council’s subsequent deliberations for the purpose of finalising the European Union’s negotiating position concerning a Euro-Mediterranean partnership. That partnership will need to comprise three main aspects: - a political and security aspect aimed at establishing a common area of peace and stability; - an economic and financial aspect aimed at building a zone of shared prosperity; - a social and human aspect.

Strengthening the Mediterranean Policy of the European Union: establishing a Euro-Mediterranean partnership

1994/2158(COS) - 19/10/1994 - Non-legislative basic document

This Commission communication to the Council and the European Parliament deals with strengthening the European Union's Mediterranean policy and establishing a "Euro-Mediterranean" partnership. Its main purpose is to start a debate with a view to a possible Euro-Mediterranean conference in 1995 and to define the Community's strategy towards this changing region of the world. It deals mainly with the Maghreb, the Mashrek and Israel, but also stresses the importance of the Community's special relations with Turkey, Cyprus and Malta with a view to their accession to the Union. This communication mainly points out that: - the pre-accession strategy with the countries of eastern Europe does not affect the Community's commitments in the Mediterranean region; - Europe and the Mediterranean are interdependent at several levels: environment, energy, emigration, commerce and investments; - the Community's objective should be a partnership with the countries in the region, starting by liberalizing trade, providing financial assistance (the Commission is quoting a figure of ECU 5.5 billion between 1995 and 1999), strengthening cooperation in all areas (including interregional), gradually setting up an association, the details of which will be decided at a later date, and developing political dialogue at the highest level.

Strengthening the Mediterranean Policy of the European Union: establishing a Euro-Mediterranean partnership

1994/2158(COS) - 08/03/1995 - Document attached to the procedure

OBJECTIVE: to set out the main direction of Euro-Mediterranean partnership and put forward priorities for financial and technical cooperation for 1995-1999. SUBSTANCE: the Commission proposes three main priorities for action, with specific areas of action for each one of them: * assistance with economic transition: . the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area by 2010, . promotion of the private sector in the countries concerned, including modernizing/restructuring industry and establishing a suitable regulatory system, . promotion of European private investment in these countries, . updating of economic and social infrastructures; * assistance with achieving a better socio-economic balance: . improving social services, particularly in towns, . promoting harmonious and integrated rural development, . greater cooperation in fisheries, . protection of the environment, . contribution of civil society to development, . integrated development of human resources, particularly education and vocational training, . consolidation of democracy and respect for human rights (basis for relations between the Community and the Mediterranean countries), . support for cultural exchanges, . cooperation and technical assistance in order to reduce illegal immigration, drug trafficking and terrorism and international crime; * support for regional integration: . Community encouragement for the creation of regional cooperation structures, . financing for economic infrastructures to step up regional trade (transport, communications and energy). To ensure that such cooperation is established, the Commission makes provision, apart from the relevant economic and social policies in the countries concerned, for two major Community instruments which should, as far as possible, be combined to create synergy: . budgetary resources for financing activities in the private sector and for technical assistance, . EIB own-resources loans for financing long-term loans for economic infrastructure projects. The Commission makes provision, as in its first Communication (COM(94)427) for a sum of ECU 5.5 billion in budget funds for the period in question, to which will be added an equivalent amount in EIB own resources, with the appropriate budgetary guarantees. This sum from the EIB should be set bearing in mind the principles of balance set out at the Essen European Council. With regard to the arrangements for implementation, the Commission provides that, with effect from 1997, the main cooperation activities will come under a single budget heading: MEDA (B7-410), which will take the place of the financial protocols expiring on 31 October 1996.

Strengthening the Mediterranean Policy of the European Union: establishing a Euro-Mediterranean partnership

1994/2158(COS) - 15/11/1995 - Committee of the Regions: opinion

At its plenary session of 15 and 16 November, the Committee of the Regions welcomed the gradual establishment of a Mediterranean free trade area, to be completed by 2010. However, the Assembly of local and regional authorities of the European Union had stressed that Euro-Mediterranean cooperation should encompass measures on illegal immigration, organised crime, human rights and environmental protection. The Committee of the Regions had adopted its Opinion, presented by the President of the Region of Tuscany, Mr CHITI, on strengthening the EU's Mediterranean policy only 10 days before the Euro-Mediterranean Conference held in Barcelona (Spain). In its Opinion it called for greater efforts to encourage cooperation between the democratically elected local and regional authorities in the area. It also called for the Interreg programme, which supported projects in the border regions of the Member States, to serve as a reference for cooperation between the Mediterranean non-member countries and between all the countries in the Mediterranean region. Finally, the Committee called for the creation of an environmental agency to deal with the specific problems in the region.