Basic information

1994/2210(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) A support programme for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland **Subject** 6.10.05 Peace preservation, humanitarian and rescue tasks, crisis management **Geographical area** United Kingdom	Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
REGI Regional Policy	HUME John (PSE)	25/01/1995

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	NICHOLSON James (PPE)	01/02/1995
BUDG Budgets	KÖNIG Friedrich (PPE)	21/02/1995
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	GALLAGHER Pat the Cope (RDE)	02/02/1995

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
07/12/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1994)0607	Summary
16/01/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/03/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
23/03/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0068/1995	
05/04/1995	Debate in Parliament		Summary
06/04/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		

01/05/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1994/2210(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	REGI/4/06264

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0068/1995 OJ C 109 01.05.1995, p. 0005	23/03/1995	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0157/1995 OJ C 109 01.05.1995, p. 0099-0158	06/04/1995	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1994)0607	07/12/1994	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(1995)0279	14/02/1995	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0138/1995 OJ C 100 02.04.1996, p. 0013	21/04/1995	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0413/1995 OJ C 155 21.06.1995, p. 0028	27/04/1995	
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0580/1995 OJ C 236 11.09.1995, p. 0029	31/05/1995	

A support programme for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland

1994/2210(COS) - 21/04/1995 - Committee of the Regions: opinion

In its Opinion the Committee welcomed the consultation that had been organised as part of this initiative, which had included members of the Committee of the Regions. It underlined the positive role that this initiative could play in the regeneration of deprived areas and in the reconciliation of

communities, and emphasised that local authorities would have a pivotal role to play in defining the measures to be financed. The Committee was particularly pleased that at least 15% of the overall amount would be devoted to cross-border activities and that the funding would be paid directly to the regional and local authorities. Finally, in addition to the measures envisaged, the Committee hoped that it would be possible to fund twinning activities between the three parties concerned. It also hoped that it would be involved in the process to evaluate this initiative.

A support programme for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland

1994/2210(COS) - 07/12/1994 - Non-legislative basic document

This Commission communication to the Council and the European Parliament relates to a support programme for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. The Commission deals in its communication with the new potential created by the cessation of violence in this country and the measures which could be used to respond to this new political situation. According to the Commission's analysis, the best way of taking advantage of this chance for reconciliation would be to launch a special support programme which would have an immediate and lasting impact on the ground and would complement intervention by the Structural Funds. It would be based on the following: - a commitment by the two governments to adapt the programmes implemented under the Structural Funds to the new challenges created by the cessation of violence; - a commitment by the two governments to take maximum advantage of the new political situation when implementing Community initiatives; - a new separate Commission initiative for the benefit of Northern Ireland and the border counties based on support for disadvantaged and marginalised zones in the form of urban and rural regeneration programmes, employment development measures, the development of cross-border activities and social insertion; - extending the benefit of interest rate subsidies on loans granted by the EIB to local SMEs beyond the date currently planned (1 July 1995); - re-evaluating local infrastructures in the context of the trans-European networks (e.g. Newry-border motorway); - ensuring that existing and new political instruments are consistent (e.g. joint funding of programmes with agencies such as the International Fund for Ireland). The Commission feels that the new initiative complementing the Structural Funds should last 5 years, thereby coinciding with the length of Structural Fund programmes and has proposed a budget of ECU 300 million for the first three years (the budget for the last two years will be reviewed on the basis of a Commission report). The main fields of intervention under this initiative will be as follows: - employment, by developing the economy and professional qualifications; - urban and rural regeneration, by promoting extensive local development and a process of economic and social recovery in urban zones, towns and villages (renovation, redevelopment, new small rural infrastructures, parks etc.); - the development of cross-border activities, by strengthening commercial, economic and agricultural cooperation and providing aid for new "joint ventures"; - social insertion, by encouraging cooperation between basic local authorities in the most disadvantaged areas of Northern Ireland and in the border counties.

A support programme for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland

1994/2210(COS) - 14/02/1995 - Document attached to the procedure

In this draft memorandum to the Member States of the Community, the Commission sets out the guidelines for the special support programme for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. This memorandum complements the Commission communication to the Council and the European Parliament on the same subject. The purpose of the Commission memorandum is to justify the need for this initiative to the Member States and to reiterate the main lines of approach of the programme in question, which has a budget of ECU 300 million for the period from 1995-97 and which the Essen European Council endorsed in December 1994. It will seek to consolidate the new peace process in Northern Ireland by taking action in 5 main areas of intervention: - employment; - urban and rural regeneration; - the development of cross-border activities; - social insertion; - productive investments and industrial development. At the same time, the Commission includes an open-ended list of measures which qualify for the programme in the above priority areas, together with a proposed breakdown of aid between the areas in question (the Commission proposes a ceiling of 80% for projects in Northern Ireland and no less than 20% for projects implemented in the border counties). At the same time, the Commission feels that at least 15% of overall funding should be earmarked for cross-border activities. In order to implement this programme, the Member States must present detailed proposals for the operational programme within four months of the date of this memorandum (i. e. 14 June 1995). The memorandum sets out the presentation criteria to be used for the operational programme and the objectives on which the proposed projects should be based.

A support programme for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland

1994/2210(COS) - 06/04/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In its resolution on the Commission communication and the draft memorandum to the Member States on the special aid programme in favour of peace in Northern Ireland, the European Parliament welcomed the speed with which the Commission and the Essen Council had reacted to the peace-keeping agreement in this country in order to support and facilitate lasting peace in Northern Ireland. It considered the Commission proposal to be encouraging and welcomed the fact that the programme gave priority to growth and employment, social inclusion, urban regeneration and cross-border cooperation. At the same time, the European Parliament welcomed the new and comprehensive consultations with local authorities, enterprises and associations in the debate and hoped that this practice would become a permanent feature of the Community initiative. As far as the programme itself is concerned, Parliament was in favour of applying the principle of additionality during the implementation of the programme and called on both the Commission and the Council to coordinate this action with other structural measures cofinanced by the Union. Parliament hoped that this programme would benefit all the communities in the region and would be implemented in a balanced manner both in Northern Ireland and in the border counties. In this sense, the most disadvantaged sections of the population should take priority. The European Parliament also called for all aid projects in Northern Ireland to preserve the natural and cultural environment. Parliament hoped that a certain flexibility would be applied to the daily management of this initiative during implementation, although not at the expense of strict budgetary control, and stated that it was prepared, if necessary, to increase the funding for this programme and called on the Commission to submit proposals along these lines or at least to amend the financial statement accompanying the programme. It also called for the 4 month deadline for local authorities to submit proposals to be reduced to 2 months.