Basic information

1995/2036(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Central and Eastern countries CEECs: industrial cooperation **Subject** 6.40.02 Relations with central and eastern Europe	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
RELA External Economic Relations	PEX Peter (PPE)	20/04/1995

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	OOSTLANDER Arie M. (PPE)	19/07/1995
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	GLANTE Norbert (PSE)	13/09/1995

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
14/03/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0071	Summary
25/04/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/03/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
21/03/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0084/1996	
23/05/1996	Debate in Parliament		
24/05/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
10/06/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/2036(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	RELA/4/06464

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0084/1996 OJ C 141 13.05.1996, p. 0005	21/03/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0305/1996 OJ C 166 10.06.1996, p. 0235-0262	24/05/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0071	14/03/1995	Summary

Central and Eastern countries CEECs: industrial cooperation

1995/2036(COS) - 24/05/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Parliament adopted the report by Mr Peter PEX (PPE, NL) on the communication on "Industrial cooperation with the countries of central/eastern Europe". The report begins by pointing out that the eventual enlargement of the Union to include central and eastern Europe is changing the locational parameters for European industry and calls on the Commission to take account of this in its growth and pre-accession strategy. It regards close cooperation between the industrial sectors of the EU and the CEECs as playing an important role in the process of economic reform and the preparation of the CEECs for eventual membership of the Union. Pointing out that it lies within the Commission's responsibilities to develop the framework conditions for rapprochement between the countries of central and eastern Europe, the report draws attention to the problematic situation of the infrastructure of environmental services in those countries, which do not provide a basis for environmentally-acceptable investment. It therefore supports the Commission's intention to make the modernization of industry in central and eastern European countries subject to an environmental impact assessment in line with European standards. It points out that cooperation between industrial undertakings and associations in the EU and the CEECs is primarily a task for industry itself and that the EU's main role is to create the necessary legal framework. It regards the creation of a favourable business climate and the promotion of the exchange of information between the industries of the EU and the CEECs as an important area for action by the Commission. It therefore calls on both sides to cooperate closely in strengthening industrial cooperation, harmonizing technical standards, quality controls and testing and licensing procedures, and to prevent social and environmental dumping. The report also stresses the need for the CEECs to continue with the privatization of previously state-owned undertakings. It also calls on the Commission to give greater support to promoting local trade (in particular on the basis of direct cross-border cooperation between regions) and to ensure that CEEC products have unrestricted access to the EU market. It also stresses the importance of comprehensive professional training and retraining, and hopes that exchange programmes for young people will be implemented with a view to encouraging industrial cooperation. Recalling that industrial cooperation must go hand in hand with a competition policy, the report regards the Europe Agreements as an appropriate basis for close cooperation between both sides. It notes that closer industrial cooperation with CIS states would be desirable in the context of the partnership agreements and the TACIS programme and should be coordinated with the EU's industrial cooperation with other CEECs. Close coordination with the other western industrialized nations, international organizations and the IMF should also be strengthened. Finally, underlining the urgent need to transform the energy sector, the report points out that it is the basis of the process of economic transformation and that existing traditional and centralized structures are not suited to the development of an environmentally sound industrial landscape in the CEECs. It therefore calls for the introduction of a new legal framework and swift investment.

Central and Eastern countries CEECs: industrial cooperation

1995/2036(COS) - 14/03/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

This Commission document summarises the main cooperation objectives in relation to the pre-accession of central and eastern European counties (CEECs) to the Community and studies the industrial implications of the gradual integration of these countries into the European economy. This communication focuses on the CEECs which have already concluded or are due shortly to conclude Europe agreements with the Union (Poland, Hungary, Czech and Slovak Republics, Romania, Bulgaria, Baltic states, Slovenia). According to the Commission, the rate of progress of industrial privatisation varies considerably from one country to another but, as a whole, industry in eastern Europe is in dire need of restructuring and renovation and this cannot be achieved without foreign investment and transfers of technology and know-how. For its part, the Union has already made a huge contribution to the transition process as the result of: - the Europe agreements, the aim of which is to guarantee free trade and provide a broad cooperation platform in all sectors of the economy; - the decisions of the Essen Council encouraging regional cooperation and stimulating commercial cooperation; - assistance and cooperation in the industrial and R&D sectors in order to help these countries increase their industrial potential. The future strategy should pursue three priority objectives: - to improve general conditions for industrial growth; - to privatise, restructure and modernise enterprises; - to promote investment (by working with other entities such as the EBRD and the EIB). Three types of instrument should be implemented as a matter of priority in order to achieve these objectives: - the Europe agreements are the basic guide to Union policy on assistance, with PHARE playing an increasingly important role in paving the way for cooperation and then integration. Within this framework, action is planned in the following main areas: . exploiting the institutional structure of the Europe agreements (joint committees), . white paper on preparing associated countries for integration into the internal market, . quality management (standards/certification), . regulatory and administrative framework for investments, . aid for privatising, restructuring and modernising industry, . promoting trade relations and cross-border and interregional cooperation, . competition, trade, environmental and training policy; - scientific and technological cooperation should be reinforced and geared to the information society; - industry in the Union should be mobilised more strongly.