Basic information

1995/2065(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Development policy: complementarity between the Community policy and the policies of the Member States **Subject** 6.30 Development cooperation	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	DEVE Development and Cooperation	MCGOWAN Michael (PSE)	21/06/1995
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
03/05/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0160	Summary
12/06/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/12/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
18/12/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0028/1997	
20/02/1997	Debate in Parliament		
21/02/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
17/03/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/2065(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	DEVE/4/06604

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0028/1997 OJ C 085 17.03.1997, p. 0004	18/12/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0074/1997 OJ C 085 17.03.1997, p. 0172-0178	21/02/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0160	03/05/1995	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0700	15/12/1995	

Development policy: complementarity between the Community policy and the policies of the Member States

1995/2065(COS) - 03/05/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: this communication summarizes the current situation with regard to complementarity between the Community's development cooperation policy and the policies of the Member States and presents a number of proposals designed to guarantee complementarity. CONTENT: the Commission calls in its communication for various coordination mechanisms in order to guarantee complementarity between the Community's development policy and the policies of the Member States. The Community's development policy and the policies of the Member States need to be based on common objectives and these objectives need to be translated into action taken and evaluated jointly. The Commission points out in this respect that, although a number of such mechanisms have been implemented over recent years, they operate somewhat sporadically and it feels that a more structured device needs to be defined and sectoral policies need to be re-updated if project programming and evaluation are to be better coordinated. It therefore recommends that: . the Council define or update sectoral policies, in order to guide the Community and the Member States in the practical aspects of development cooperation, agree on joint priorities and conduct a joint analysis of and adopt mutually acceptable solutions for certain countries or regions; . the Committees (MED, ALA, EDF) establish national and regional programmes based on information collated in the field; . developing countries increase cooperation on and coordination of national and Community projects; . groups of experts introduce monitoring of action undertaken and jointly evaluate the results obtained. At the same time, the Commission pinpoints all the areas which coordination should cover: . as far as long-range planning is concerned, it pinpoints the need to strengthen existing mechanisms so as to improve the involvement of the Member States; . in the ACP countries, the programming document for the operations to be implemented should be drawn up in consultation with the Member States' representatives in the countries in question. This form of cooperation could also be extended at planning committee level by making provision for a preparatory discussion before programmes which appear to qualify for Community aid are drawn up. Transparent information from the Commission to the Member States and vice versa would need to be introduced in order to achieve this; . in the Mediterranean and ALA countries, mechanisms should be introduced to strengthen coordination during preparations for work over the entire range of current cooperation; . as far as evaluation is concerned, action undertaken should be evaluated jointly by the Community and the Member States (the Commission will draw up an action programme for forthcoming years).

Development policy: complementarity between the Community policy and the policies of the Member States

1995/2065(COS) - 21/02/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Michael McGOWAN (PSE, UK) Parliament considered that the European Union's inability to achieve complementarity between the Member States' and the Union's policies was a political failure on the part of the European Union. It considered that this inability was primarily due to the absence of political will and that it was caused by the difficulty of making progress in the CFSP and by neglect of the objectives of development cooperation. It considered that the values of development policy confer on the EU a real identity and recognition on the world stage and therefore was in favour of an improvement in coordination not only with regard to coordination of the Union's actions but also their implementation at national level in order to ensure overall coordination of the Union's external action. As democratic control of expenditure requires entry of the EDF in

the budget, Parliament stressed that the Community nature of aid should have a higher profile, in particular as the Community is (by far) the largest donor of development aid in the world. It considered that this coordination is essential to reduce the world's arms trade. It also stressed the need for closer coordination between the Member States and the Union on aid so as to avoid duplication of effort at national and Community level. Lastly, it considered that it is necessary to seek more political and public support in Europe and proposes various institutional initiatives such as: - invitation to members of the Council to meetings of the European Parliament's Committee on Development, - provision for a debate in this committee before and after each Development Council, - provision for observer status for the Committee on Development at each meeting of the Development Council, - provision for a question and answer session with both Council and Commission at each meeting of Parliament's committee, - invitation to members of national parliaments to certain committee meetings, - provision for half an hour at the beginning of each sitting of the committee for hearing the views of the NGOs.