Basic information

1995/2194(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
EC/developing countries relations: support for regional economic integration efforts **Subject** 6.40.12 Relations with developing countries in general	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	DEVE Development and Cooperation	NEEDLE Clive John (PSE)	19/07/1995
	Committee for opinion	**Rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	RELA External Economic Relations	DIMITRAKOPOULOS Giorgos (PPE)	20/07/1995
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/06/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0219	Summary
10/07/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/02/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
25/02/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0086/1997	
11/04/1997	Debate in Parliament		
11/04/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/04/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/2194(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/4/06801

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0086/1997 OJ C 132 28.04.1997, p. 0005	25/02/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0190/1997 OJ C 132 28.04.1997, p. 0304-0316	11/04/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0219	16/06/1995	Summary

EC/developing countries relations: support for regional economic integration efforts

1995/2194(COS) - 11/04/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Adopting the report by Mr Clive NEEDLE (PSE, UK), the European Parliament saw the main purpose of regional economic integration among developing countries as being to reduce poverty and to promote sustainable economic, social and human development, whereby the integration of developing countries into the world economy was a means but not an end. Integration should be seen as a tool for economic promotion as well as a means of bringing people closer together and reinforcing peace. Parliament supported the Commission's efforts to monitor integration programmes but called for better coordination with the other donors and agencies involved. It considered that, where the conditions for integration were not in place, other forms of cooperation could be supported and that regional economic integration should be based on: - an understanding of regional specificities (historical, economic, political, social and institutional); - an evaluation of the degree to which the pre-requisites to economic integration were in place in the various regions of the developing world (as opposed to operational regional cooperation programmes); - a realistic evaluation of the timetable and stages in the regional cooperation process on which integration could be built. It also considered that efforts to achieve integration should include a whole range of preferential measures to support weaker economies. In this respect, Parliament considered it essential for integration agreements to allow countries to achieve greater economic and trade integration than the WTO required, provided that these liberalization agreements did not lead to increased protectionism against outsiders. It also felt that the impact on each country of abandoning unilateral preferences should be studied. It was also of the opinion that the increase in the number of regional organizations in Africa was resulting in a costly dispersion of effort and efficiency and called for support and backing for efforts to rationalize the current number of organizations, provided that the countries in question so wished. It also called for the Commission and the Member States only to support organizations capable of making a sustained contribution to improvement in these countries. Particular attention also needed to be paid to enhancing regional cooperation between the outermost regions of the Union and neighbouring territories. Parliament emphasized that regional economic integration could prove to be the best way of developing the Maghreb, the Mashrek and the Near East and called on the Commission to make provision for the application of cumulation of rules of origin to the main exports from the Mediterranean basin and for the procedures and provisions governing cumulation laid down in Lomé IV/2 to be simplified. It was also in favour of action which allowed these countries to make more flexible use of rules of origin and supported cumulation at sub-regional level. Parliament also called for an agency with greater environmental responsibility and for national economic reform programmes to take account of the regional dimension, vulnerable groups, women and children. Finally, the European Parliament called on the Commission to present a new report on a series of points not addressed in its document (infrastructures, political, cultural and ethnic aspects).

EC/developing countries relations: support for regional economic integration efforts

1995/2194(COS) - 16/06/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: this communication deals with regional economic integration efforts among developing countries and the support which the Community can give to regional programmes, especially given its experience in this area and the positive effects which integration can have on these countries. A strategy is proposed to promote integration, including at the commercial level. CONTENT: the communication addresses the problem of regional integration, mainly from the economic point of view, and attempts to set it within the wider context of regional cooperation. The Commission sees regional integration as the most effective means of reducing obstacles to the free movement of goods, services, capital and people (abolition of tariff and non-tariff barriers and easier payments), whereas regional cooperation covers areas of common interest such as transport, telecommunications, the environment etc. As far as the regional integration of developing countries is concerned, it is clear from European experience that this depends on a number of factors: . complementary economies, geographical proximity and similar cultural and historical backgrounds; . political commitment, peace and security, respect for the rule of law and democracy; . a favourable economic climate and macro-economic stability; . strong and relatively flexible institutions allowing for different rates of progress ("variable geometry") and the efficient application of subsidiarity. The Union supports the regional integration of third countries and considers that it should come under both development cooperation policy and commercial policy. . At the commercial level, the Union plans to apply cumulative rules of origin to several groupings and to sign trade agreements subject to the implementation of regional liberalization measures; . At the cooperation level, 3 sets of measures are planned: - development of regional capacities, including training, research and technical assistance (with designing sectoral policies, harmonizing standards etc.), - adjustment aid to allow the private sector to exploit the new potential for integration, - in certain regions (sub-Saharan Africa in particular), support for governments which move along the path towards integration.