Basic information

1995/2211(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) China-Europe relations: long-term policy relations **Subject** 6.40.08 Relations with Asian countries **Geographical area** China	Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	MCMILLAN-SCOTT Edward (PPE)	06/09/1995

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
RELA External Economic Relations	HINDLEY Michael J. (PSE)	07/09/1995

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2011	1997-06-02
General Affairs	1989	1997-02-24
General Affairs	1891	1995-12-04
General Affairs	1871	1995-10-02

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
05/07/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0279	Summary
18/09/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
02/10/1995	Debate in Council		Summary
04/12/1995	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
24/02/1997	Debate in Council		
26/05/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
26/05/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0198/1997	

02/06/1997	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
11/06/1997	Debate in Parliament		
12/06/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/06/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/2211(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/4/06870

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0198/1997 OJ C 200 30.06.1997, p. 0004	26/05/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0321/1997 OJ C 200 30.06.1997, p. 0100-0158	12/06/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0279	05/07/1995	Summary

China-Europe relations: long-term policy relations

1995/2211(COS) - 12/06/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Edward McMillan-Scott (EPP, UK) on relations between China and Europe, Parliament calls on the Council and Commission to enter into direct negotiations with the authorities of the People's Republic of China as soon as possible with a view to signature of the framework economic and trade cooperation agreement at a level that reflects the potential of relations between the European Union and the People's Republic of China subject to the traditional human rights clause and the possibility of suspending it in the event that these essential values are not respected. It confirms its wish to see China a full member of the World Trade Organization and calls on the Commission to submit a six-monthly evaluation of developments there regarding human rights respect for international economic instruments and the situation regarding trade between the two parties. - Regarding cooperation it calls, 1. on China: . to legislate on the right of establishment of NGOs within its territory, . to support fully international environmental initiatives, . to undertake a programme of legislative reforms compatible with development and a market economy (freedom of movement of persons etc.) and to provide guarantees for the rights of foreign investors, . to introduce a constitutional democracy based on universal principles including the rule of law, freedom of opinion, freedom of association, respect for and protection of privacy, integrity of the person, the right to a fair trial, the right to own sell and fructify agricultural holdings; 2. on the Union: . to develop special programmes for environmental cooperation in order to limit environmental pollution and the environmental impact of the developing Chinese industrial industry, . to establish schemes for legal cooperation (such as the training of lawyers and judges) and to intensify its programme of education and cultural exchanges, . to establish vocational

training schemes in areas such as compliance with environmental law, information technology etc., . to support the establishment in Beijing of an office representing the commercial interests of the EU and to develop the Code of Conduct covering economic and social aspects for EU companies doing business in China, . to set up a task force to assist in the development of China's internal market according to the principle of sustainable development. - Concerning international affairs, Parliament deplores the role played by China in the development of nuclear arms in Pakistan and calls on it to cease its support for the Burmese military junta. In particular, it urges China to impose a total ban on anti-personnel mines and sees no justification for the lifting of the EU arms embargo imposed on China in 1989. It also notes with concern the 'strategic alliance' with Russia which may lead to unprecedented arms sales to China and calls on China to have recourse to the mechanisms of the UN to resolve regional territorial and sovereignty problems. - Concerning respect for human rights Parliament calls on China: . to sign without reservations the international covenant on civil and political rights, . to abolish the death penalty and proclaim forthwith a moratorium on executions, . to release all political prisoners, . to allow Wei Jingsheng, the winner of the Sakharov prize to be received by the European Parliament, . to repeal its laws that are incompatible with the development of a State governed by the rule of law and respect for individual rights, . to expand cooperation with international human rights organizations, . to accept the Dalai Lama's proposal concerning recognition of the cultural and religious autonomy of the Tibetan people and its right to self government, . to improve Chinese labour standards to bring them into line with international rules. In addition, it calls on the Commission to open investigations into forced labour and prison labour in China. - Concerning Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, Parliament insists on the full implementation of bilateral agreements on Hong Kong and Macao and resolves to monitor closely the situation in these two enclaves after the handovers. In particular it condemns the Chinese Government's decision to dissolve Hong Kong's elected legislative council and to introduce laws limiting freedom of assembly and political freedoms. It calls on the Commission to draw up an annual report on political and economic development in Hong Kong and Macao and calls on the Member States to grant a permanent right of residence for the victims of political discrimination in Hong Kong. It also calls on China to undertake publicly not to resort to force in its differences with Taiwan and calls on the Commission to open an information office in Taipeh.

China-Europe relations: long-term policy relations

1995/2211(COS) - 05/07/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: the purpose of this communication is to set out guidelines for relations between the European Union and China between now and the 21st century. CONTENT: according to this document, China is undergoing radical social and economic change and is gradually taking its place in the world as a military, political and economic power. The Community, which entered into diplomatic and cooperation relations with China some twenty years ago, must take account of these changes and review its policy in order to help China implement efficient, lasting reforms and take better account of its role and influence on the international stage. The series of measures opening up new cooperation prospects, as presented by the Commission in its communication, is predicated on this premise. Europe and China need to establish long-term bilateral relations which will guarantee their joint objectives. Some of these objectives, such as their mutual interest in a smooth transition in Hong Kong and Macao, date back a long way. Others reflect more recent interests. But in both cases, Europe and China can work together along several specific lines in order to achieve a number of major objectives relating to: . progress towards the full integration of China in the world market economy; . a stronger civil society; . less poverty; . environmental protection; . the development of human resources; . scientific and technological development; . the information society; . cooperation in trade and investment. Within this framework, the Commission defines a new approach to cooperation with China which focuses on: - encouraging China to integrate fully into the international Community by: . extending the scope of current political dialogue to all questions of common interest and global import, . advocating the accession of China to the WTO on the basis of clear commitments to build up a real market economy; - contributing to the reform process currently under way in China by: . continuing to highlight the EU's concerns in the area of human rights and supporting the opening up of the country, the establishment of public and private bilateral contacts and dialogue within multinational fora in order to help develop a civil society in China, . using cooperation between the EU and China to develop human resources and to promote economic and social reform and cooperation between economic actors, including action in the fields of the environment and science and technology; - strengthening links between the EU and China by: . developing commercial contacts in order to improve the conditions surrounding the EU's industrial presence in China and extending access to the market on a non-discriminatory basis, . encouraging contacts between Europeans and Chinese, with particular emphasis on industrial cooperation.

China-Europe relations: long-term policy relations

1995/2211(COS) - 04/12/1995

After examining the Commission’s communication on the Community’s future relations with China , the Council endorsed the broad lines of its future policy towards China . The policy should focus on the following strategic guidelines: - developing relations: Europe should develop a relationship with China that reflects its global and regional importance and potential influence. In this respect, the Union’s priorities should be to maintain stability in the common and security policy, promote an open economy, support sustainable development, promote China’s gradual integration into the world economy, combat poverty, and promote democracy, the rule of law and human rights; - external policy and security: the Union should help China to implement constructive measures for the management and proliferation of weapons (including nuclear weapons) and to resolve its territorial disputes. As regards the specific issue of Hong Kong and Macau , the EU must play a part in ensuring the smooth transition of these regions into the Chinese system. The Union should also strive to support the establishment in China of institutions and a civil society based on the rule of law; - human rights: the Union once again calls for human rights to be respected fully in China (including Tibet) and welcomes the efforts already made in this direction as part of the bilateral political dialogue and ad hoc dialogue on human rights; - economic reforms: the Union supports China’s participation in multilateral economic agreements and organisations, in particular the World Trade Organisation (WTO). This would be facilitated by the establishment of market economy mechanisms in China and by the convertibility of its currency. Efforts must be made to improve access to the Chinese market and eliminate customs duties and non-tariff barriers. The Union also supports the development of agreements on trade in services, maritime transport and telecommunications. Further measures are expected on company law, respect for disciplines in the field of subsidies and respect for intellectual property; - enhancing cooperation: the Union hopes to focus its cooperation on several key areas that will enable China to promote its integration into the global trading and investment system. The Community will concentrate on four areas in particular: . the development of human resources, . support for training and technical assistance to modernise the Chinese economy, . cooperation among businesses to ensure a greater presence of European companies in China , . support for the authorities responsible for environmental standards. The Union also aims to enhance cooperation in the fields of

urban and rural development, women’s rights, the development of research and science, the development of civil society and the rule of law, the fight against illegal drugs trafficking, the fight against organised crime, and illegal immigration; - enhancing coordination: here the Union’s goal is to enhance coordination among the Member States, the Commission, the EIB and the private sector in Europe and in China. The priority is to improve the information on China available to potential European investors, to encourage European studies in China and to develop cultural relations. This requires close coordination. A group of experts could be appointed within the appropriate body to improve coordination. Finally, the Council notes that the programme proposed by the Commission in its communication to support businesses is a positive step and should complement the Member States’ activities. The Council also calls on the Commission to draw up a strategy document for China , setting out the proposed cooperation measures. The Council stressed in particular that the available resources should be used to concentrate on a limited number of priority activities in accordance with the guidelines described above.

China-Europe relations: long-term policy relations

1995/2211(COS) - 02/10/1995

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to give this communication a detailed examination and to prepare, in the light of delegations’ statements during the debate, draft conclusions to be submitted to the Council at its meeting in November in preparation for the discussions of the European Council on the subject in Madrid .