## Basic information

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|---|---|
| **1995/2249(COS)**<br>COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) | Procedure completed |
| Europe and the United States US: the way forward<br>**Subject**<br>6.40.11 Relations with industrialised countries<br>**Geographical area**<br>United States | |

## Key players

### European Parliament

| Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy | SOUCHET Dominique F.C. (EDN) | 22/11/1995 |

| Committee for opinion | Rapporteur for opinion | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy | TAPPIN Michael (PSE) | 28/11/1995 |
| RELA External Economic Relations | The committee decided not to give an opinion. | 17/10/1995 |

### Council of the European Union

| Council configuration | Meetings | Date |
|---|---|---|
| General Affairs | 1883 | 1995-11-21 |
| General Affairs | 1871 | 1995-10-02 |
| General Affairs | 2057 | 1997-12-08 |

## Key events

| Date | Event | Reference | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| 26/09/1995 | Non-legislative basic document published | COM(1995)0411 | Summary |
| 02/10/1995 | Debate in Council | | |
| 09/10/1995 | Committee referral announced in Parliament | | |
| 21/11/1995 | Debate in Council | | |
| 08/12/1997 | Debate in Council | | |

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| 08/12/1997 | Vote in committee | | Summary |
| 08/12/1997 | Committee report tabled for plenary | A4-0410/1997 | |
| 13/01/1998 | Debate in Parliament | | |
| 14/01/1998 | End of procedure in Parliament | | |
| 02/02/1998 | Final act published in Official Journal | | |

| Technical information | |
|---|---|
| **Procedure reference** | 1995/2249(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/4/07121 |

Documentation gateway

**European Parliament**

| Document type | Committee | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading | | A4-0410/1997<br>OJ C 014 19.01.1998, p. 0005 | 08/12/1997 | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading | | T4-0023/1998<br>OJ C 034 02.02.1998, p. 0059-0100 | 14/01/1998 | Summary |

**European Commission**

| Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| Non-legislative basic document | COM(1995)0411 | 26/09/1995 | Summary |

# Europe and the United States US: the way forward

1995/2249(COS) - 26/09/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to analyze the main aspects of US-EU relations and define a new framework for these relations in the light of international developments (end of the Cold War) and internal changes within the Community (entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty). CONTENT: the Commission communication reaffirms the central role played by US-EU relations, for both parties and for the world as a whole, in political, economic and security terms. However, the Commission feels that these relations can no longer be based on structures which go back to the Cold War and do not take adequate account of developments within the Community. For these reasons it proposes a series of measures with a view to establishing a new joint action programme to be adopted at the Transatlantic Summit in December 1995: 1) security: the two sides should focus their dialogue on the place of the Union within NATO, the non-proliferation of nuclear arms, preventing the illicit sale of nuclear materials, controlling the international arms trade, export controls on dual-use goods, early identification of conflicts, preventive diplomacy and the monitoring of human rights and minority problems; 2) foreign policy: joint projects should be drawn up in the fields of human rights, nuclear safety, assistance to the Palestinians etc. and cooperation should be strengthened in the field of humanitarian and development assistance; 3) economy and trade: - at multilateral level, an ambitious programme of liberalization and deregulation of trade should be established. The parties must pursue the task of building up the WTO by developing a new

programme of work for it and moving towards the inclusion of Russia and China. At the same time, the EU must oppose any unilateral action by the USA and ensure that new regional agreements are compatible with WTO rules; - at bilateral level, discussions must focus on the possibility of creating a transatlantic economic area, including a free trade zone. Cooperation in the fields of competition policy and services must continue. Concerning macroeconomic issues, there must be ministerial-level dialogue between the US Treasury and the ECOFIN Council and the Commission (particularly on the effects of EMU in international terms); 4) other areas of cooperation: the main questions relate to: - environment: strengthening regulatory cooperation, new joint programmes, extending cooperation on the subject of chemicals and biotechnology and introducing comparable emission standards for vehicles; - information society and telecommunications: strengthening cooperation in the satellite sector and in the fields of standards and research; - social policy and employment: more systematic exchange of information; - justice and home affairs: increased cooperation in the fight against organized crime and drugs, as well as on immigration and the right of asylum; - science and technology: global cooperation agreement in this sector; - education and training: implementation of the agreement on cooperation in higher education and vocational training; - transport; - information and culture; - urban decay; 5) at institutional level, the Commission advocates consolidating links between the European Parliament, national parliaments and the US Congress with a view to developing the dialogue.

# Europe and the United States US: the way forward

1995/2249(COS) - 14/01/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Dominique SOUCHET (I-EDN, F) on Europe's relations with the USA, the European Parliament welcomed the New Transatlantic Agenda and the Joint Action Plan. It considered that strengthening relations between Europe and the United States would enhance the stability of the international community. However, it took the view that this must be achieved by striking a new balance in relations between the parties in order to attain genuine partnership. It expressed itself in favour of the adoption of joint international political initiatives on condition that balance between the partners was respected and that the Union and its Member States were not associated with them solely in the capacity of paymasters. It wished the current dialogue to be enhanced and deepened, particularly with regard to terrorism and organized crime, trafficking in human beings and drugs, trafficking in fissile material, illegal immigration and the environment. In this respect it condemned the USA's retrograde position on leghold traps. It called for greater Euro-American cooperation within international organizations, in managing crises and deploying peace-keeping forces in sensitive regions. It called on the Union, the Member States and the USA to continue and coordinate their development aid efforts to enable the funds available to be put to the best possible use. At the same time, Parliament called on the Commission to defend European interests in the sphere of external trade relations firmly and vigilantly, taking care in particular, when negotiating with the United States, to ensure the strict reciprocity of concessions, symmetry in the granting of advantages, and linkage (globalization) of negotiations, especially with regard to WTO panels. On this subject, Parliament again called on the Commission to ensure openness in its handling of negotiations with the USA, keeping Parliament informed of the guidelines it intended to follow (e.g. the multilateral agreement on investment). It again condemned the extraterritorial application of the Helms-Burton and D'Amato-Kennedy Acts to transatlantic trade relations, hoped that dialogue would make it possible to attain more flexible positions on the part of the Americans, and called on the Union to adopt equivalent instruments to enable it to defend its interests better. In passing, it recalled its full endorsement of the action taken by the Union in connection with the WTO with a view to settling the dispute and expressed the view that if the arrangement of April 1997 between the EU and the USA did not result in a valid solution, the Union should again resort to the WTO trade panel procedure. Parliament condemned the recent initiatives by certain US federal states with extraterritorial repercussions in the form of barriers to trade (e. g. the Buy American Act). It called on national parliaments and Congress to do everything possible to help prevent Euro-American crises, notably by explaining to American Congressmen that the same political objectives (e.g. the fight against terrorism) could be pursued by different means. It called for cooperation between the Union and the USA in external affairs to be stepped up. Similarly, the EU and the USA should coordinate their arms export policies. Parliament called on the Union to draw the USA's attention to consumer protection and health standards, and called for imports into Europe of bovine meat containing hormones to be banned. It called on the Union to increase its representation in certain states of the USA (e.g. California). On another point, Parliament called on the USA to abolish the death penalty and called for the ban on landmines (Ottawa Declaration) to be placed on the agenda for the transatlantic dialogue.