Basic information

1995/2270(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
The European Union and Latin America: the present situation and prospects for closer partnership, 1996-2000 **Subject** 6.40.10 Relations with Latin America, Central America, Caribbean islands	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	BERTENS Jan Willem (ELDR)	22/11/1995

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	ESTEVAN BOLEA María Teresa (PPE)	16/01/1996
RELA External Economic Relations	VALDIVIELSO DE CUÉ Jaime (PPE)	28/11/1995
TRAN Transport and Tourism		
DEVE Development and Cooperation	AÑOVEROS TRIAS DE BES Julio (PPE)	24/11/1995

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	1878	1995-10-31

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/10/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0495	Summary
31/10/1995	Debate in Council		
13/11/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		

18/12/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
18/12/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0416/1996	
15/01/1997	Debate in Parliament		
16/01/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
03/02/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/2270(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/4/07205

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0416/1996 OJ C 033 03.02.1997, p. 0022	18/12/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0013/1997 OJ C 033 03.02.1997, p. 0059-0086	16/01/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0495	23/10/1995	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(1999)0105	09/03/1999	

The European Union and Latin America: the present situation and prospects for closer partnership, 1996-2000

1995/2270(COS) - 23/10/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to present a list of proposals and priority lines of action with a view to extending relations between the European Union and Latin America between now and the year 2000, based on a diagnosis of existing relations and a review of cooperation between 1991 and 1995. CONTENT: the first section of the Commission communication sets out the strategic interest for the Community of strengthening relations with this region of the world. Some of the main factors which support closer relations are historical and cultural, but there are also political and economic factors (especially the consolidation of democratic institutions, the peaceful resolution of regional conflicts, the beginnings of economic growth offering important trade prospects for the European Union, making the region a potential investment area etc.). In the second section of the communication, the Commission

highlights the progress made by the region in the light of Community cooperation projects implemented over recent years (1991-1995): humanitarian aid, rural development, regional integration (support for the Andean Pact and MERCOSUR), support for the development of the sea fisheries sector. More recently, cooperation has focused on actions to promote the sustainable and lasting development of Latin America and modernize its economy. In most cases, the regional approach has been preferred (strengthening relations between the EU and MERCOSUR and with other regional groupings). In the third section, the Commission addresses new forms of partnership between the Community and Latin America. The main strategies which the Commission considers should be implemented are: - closer political links, - stronger action in the field of free trade and integration, - more relevant, flexible and targeted cooperation in 3 priority areas: . institutional support and consolidation of democratic processes (including sectoral policies such as education, health and rural development), . the fight against poverty and social exclusion, . support for economic reform and improving international competitiveness (promoting external trade, strengthening industrial promotion). At the same time, three horizontal issues will be dealt with for each of these priority areas: regional cooperation and integration, education and training and management of north/south interdependencies, especially in the environment, energy and drug sectors. Finally, the communication addresses the means to be used to implement this cooperation. It calls for existing Community projects to be made more efficient through more active involvement of beneficiaries (search for complementarity or cofinancing with the countries themselves), better coordination between projects implemented by the Member States of the Union, more decentralized cooperation and projects concentrated in multiannual horizontal programmes. In addition, Community projects should be more visible.

The European Union and Latin America: the present situation and prospects for closer partnership, 1996-2000

1995/2270(COS) - 16/01/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Jan-Willem BERTENS, Parliament welcomed the Commission communication on strengthening the partnership between the European Union and Latin America but considered that the Commission's proposals were 'vague and little innovative'. The communication lacked a global approach and was not based on an effective CFSP. With regard to the CFSP and the political dialogue, Parliament called for a new wide-ranging 'transatlantic dialogue' and called on the Commission and Council to establish a well defined and precise global action programme with sufficient budgetary resources. Calling for Latin America to be considered as a geographic area of great importance for the Union it proposed that this new dialogue should be based on a high-level ministerial framework similar to that for the San José dialogue. Peace, democracy and respect for human rights in Latin America remained essential to all Union action in this region. It was necessary, however, to go further and to involve 'civil society' by having it participate in this cooperation through the establishment of fora for consultation. These were all aspects which would contribute to combat the poverty and social inequalities which threatened to cause serious social unrest. With regard to trade and integration, it stressed that the Commission should include in its action programme a global vision for contractual relations between the EU and this region. It supported in particular the progress made in the sectors of free trade and integration and requested that future economic cooperation agreements should be accompanied by financial protocols incorporating a substantial increase in resources and including a negotiated and reciprocal opening up of markets with no exclusions. It called on the Commission, therefore, before the adoption of the new financial perspective to enter into force by the year 2000, to submit a report assessing the budgetary appropriations and loans which would be necessary to ensure adequate support for EU-Latin America partnership. It also asked for a yearly report on the progress made in removing the obstacles to trade between the two parties. With regard specifically to cooperation, the EP considered that the budget funds for 1996-2000 were insufficient and called on the Commission to use the funds available to give priority to the least developed countries. While supporting the priorities and themes chosen by the Commission in its communication, it stressed the importance of action against drugs, a real scourge in these countries, and called for greater efforts to be made by the Community in this field. It also stressed the extent to which the economic growth of these countries was closely linked to the debt burden. It therefore requested the Council to look into the possibility of applying innovative formulae to reduce the debt (conversion into environment and vocational training projects, tax relief etc.). Lastly, with regard to security and defence cooperation it called on the Commission, the Council and the Member States to increase their cooperation and dialogue with a view to establishing a climate of mutual confidence (in particular with regard to arms control). It encouraged in particular the conclusion of cooperation agreements between the different organizations of which the countries of the EU and Latin America are members.