Basic information

1995/2273(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
West Bank and the Gaza Strip: future European economic assistance **Subject** 6.40.05.06 Relations with the countries of the Middle East	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	GAHRTON Per (V)	22/11/1995

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	KUCKELKORN Wilfried (PSE)	24/11/1995
RELA External Economic Relations	DIMITRAKOPOULOS Giorgos (PPE)	28/11/1995
DEVE Development and Cooperation	PETTINARI Luciano (GUE/NGL)	24/11/1995
CONT Budgetary Control	THEATO Diemut R. (PPE)	26/10/1995

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	1902	1996-01-29
General Affairs	1878	1995-10-31

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/10/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0505	Summary
31/10/1995	Debate in Council		
13/11/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		

29/01/1996	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
24/04/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
24/04/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0129/1996	
23/05/1996	Debate in Parliament		
24/05/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
10/06/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/2273(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/4/07226

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0129/1996 OJ C 152 27.05.1996, p. 0004	24/04/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0302/1996 OJ C 166 10.06.1996, p. 0235-0253	24/05/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0505	23/10/1995	Summary

West Bank and the Gaza Strip: future European economic assistance

1995/2273(COS) - 23/10/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: this communication describes the key elements of a joint Union strategy for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in order to support the acquisition by the Palestinian Authority of political, institutional and economic powers. CONTENT: the strategy envisaged by the Union includes: - political powers: the Union has deployed 300 observers on the ground in order to monitor the elections of the Palestinian Authority. This electoral unit should be maintained throughout the electoral process; - institutional powers: the Union should support the extension of current Community aid programmes to the creation of Palestinian institutions, but should adapt them to the need to develop autonomy and the requirements of the various Palestinian ministries and local authorities; - economic powers: * The tripartite action plan to balance the budget of the Palestinian Authority and accepted by all parties (Palestinian Authority, Israel and international community) should be adapted to the economic impact of the development of Palestine. The main adjustments needed involve: . defining measures to improve taxation, spending controls and the economic management of the Palestinian Authority, together with a timetable, . defining the action to be taken by Israel in order to make it easier for the Authority's goods, labour, equipment and staff to cross the border, . regulating the problem of start-up aid for actions which has not yet been underwritten by donors, in order to

eliminate the current deficit, . stipulating the means of international control of actions started. * The development strategy implemented to date needs to be converted to a sound, global, long-term strategy and the Palestinian Authority needs to draw up and adopt its own strategy in order to attract foreign investment. The Union should help the Authority in this respect by recommending that a working party of all parties be set up and by giving its active support to the efforts being made to ensure that any new aid is in keeping with the development strategy. * Trade: the Community, which should grant new agricultural trade concessions, should find practical ways of promoting Palestinian exports. * Community assistance: the Community should continue to play a central role in aid projects, especially by granting non-refundable aid from 1996 onwards and through contributions from the EIB. It also plans to conclude an agreement with UNRWA (1996-98). * Finally, the Union hopes that the Palestinian Authority will be included in the new Euro-Mediterranean partnership in order to strengthen relations between Palestine, the Mediterranean partners and the Community.

West Bank and the Gaza Strip: future European economic assistance

1995/2273(COS) - 24/05/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Adopting the report by Mr Per GAHRTON (V, S) on the Commission communication on assistance to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Parliament welcomed the implementation of this aid and believed that assistance would contribute to sustainable economic and social development in those territories and consolidate democracy and the rule of law. Parliament regarded as very important the contribution which the European Union could make to Palestine's development and hoped that this initiative would permit the full integration of all forces which reject terrorism. Parliament called for assistance aimed at creating a unified political entity and facilitating the implementation of the future Israeli-Palestinian agreement on the Israeli settlements and the Palestinian refugees. Aid was to be regarded as a contribution to peace, the consolidation of Palestinian administrative structures and the establishment of efficient technical and financial machinery, the strengthening of social infrastructure, family planning etc. Parliament insisted that support should be given to the NGOs but not, on any account, to Hamas or related organizations and that it should promote the strand of public opinion which supports the peace process. The Union's priority aid objectives should lie in the job-creation sectors and benefit the most disadvantaged social categories. Measures should be taken to eliminate the administrative distortions which harmed the competitiveness of Palestinian firms. The European Parliament noted that, although the European Union gives certain Palestinian products preferential access, these concessions were insufficient. It was therefore necessary to strengthen existing facilities, notably through the extension of trade concessions for agricultural products. It also emphasized that respect for human rights must be the driving force behind European aid and called on the NGOs active in this area to step up contacts with their Palestinian counterparts. It insisted that the Palestinians must be free to decide how development operations should be carried out. It called for the following actions to be developed: - conclusion of bilateral agreements with the EU and other industrialized countries so that they open up their markets to Palestinian goods; - regional cooperation in the field of transport and water and energy supply; - the creation of an enterprise climate for the promotion of private investment; - coverage for insurance in respect of investment risks. Relations between the Union and Palestine should be boosted by: - making representatives of the territories fully-fledged participants in a Euro-Mediterranean partnership; - formalizing bilateral relations through the conclusion of an interim agreement as the first step towards a future EC/Palestine association agreement. Finally, Parliament urged that assistance to the Palestinians should include an environmental aspect in order to avoid irreparable errors such as those already committed in the industrialized countries.