Basic information

1995/2317(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
San Jose Dialog between the European Union and Central America **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	CARNERO GONZÁLEZ Carlos (GUE/NGL)	24/04/1996

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
RELA External Economic Relations	VALDIVIELSO DE CUÉ Jaime (PPE)	21/02/1996
DEVE Development and Cooperation	DURY Raymonde M.E.A. (PSE)	25/04/1996

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	1891	1995-12-04
General Affairs	1989	1997-02-24

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
28/11/1995	Additional information		Summary
29/11/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0600	Summary
27/03/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/12/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
18/12/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0418/1996	
15/01/1997	Debate in Parliament		
16/01/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		

03/02/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		
24/02/1997	Debate in Council		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/2317(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/4/07383

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0418/1996 OJ C 033 03.02.1997, p. 0023	18/12/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0014/1997 OJ C 033 03.02.1997, p. 0059-0092	16/01/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0600	29/11/1995	Summary

San Jose Dialog between the European Union and Central America

1995/2317(COS) - 16/01/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Carlos CARNERO GONZALEZ (E, GUE/NGL) Parliament pointed out the extent to which action against poverty and in support of the re-establishment of justice are and remain key problems for Central America. While noting the importance of the Florence Declaration of March 1996 which set new objectives for cooperation between the Union and Central America, it advocated a rapid implementation of this new cooperation and expressed its satisfaction at the progress achieved since the San José dialogue process was institutionalised in 1985. It was, however, in favour of extending the political dialogue to other topics such as social issues, the rules for applying the democracy clause, human rights, decentralization, trade policy and macro-economic policies. It called for a comprehensive, highly specific, well-defined and adequately funded CFSP action programme for Central America to be drawn up. The Union must extend its cooperation, in particular by strengthening regional cooperation, in order to satisfy the new aspirations of these countries for balanced, consistent relations between the European Union and Central America which exclude any kind of double standard. In particular it called for: - the creation of an institutional framework to strengthen regional cooperation, - support for regional policy coordination in the areas of agriculture, industry, trade, energy, services and customs, - support for regional compensatory funds to rectify social imbalances, - measures to promote cross-border cooperation. It attached priority to measures designed to consolidate the rule of law through the creation of an independent judiciary and the modernization of the state, decentralization and municipal development, the promotion of concerted action between governments and the general public, equal treatment of men and women and fiscal reform and education and health care. It reaffirmed its support for action against impunity and urged all bodies in Central America to support the efforts of the United Nations 'Truth Commission' which resolutely opposes any impunity for serious human rights abuses. Similarly, it called on the Commission to devote particular attention to impunity and suggested the drawing up of a proposal for an international convention against impunity. Budgetary resources should be increased and the cooperation framework agreement should be accompanied by a financial protocol, both for the agreement and for future agreements

of the same type. This action should be accompanied by another, namely the remission, at least in part, of the external debt. Other areas to be considered were the extension to Central America of the new Generalized System of Preferences for industrial products, of which the Andean Pact countries are already beneficiaries. Lastly it called for a consultative forum with the civil society to be set up , for example within the framework of the Civilian Initiative for Central American Integration (ICIC).

San Jose Dialog between the European Union and Central America

1995/2317(COS) - 29/11/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: with a view to the meeting in March 1996 to renew the San José process, this communication assesses the areas and sectors where relations between the EU and Central America should be strengthened and adapted. SUBSTANCE: given the significant geo-political and strategic changes that have taken place in the world, the Community has constantly adapted its relations with third countries and the same is true for the countries of Central America. Relations were established with these countries in 1984 (San José process) to support in particular the emergence of new social and political forces, the spread of new technologies and the promotion of trade. This process also had a significant impact in terms of stabilising the political situation. The Commission is now proposing to reaffirm this commitment by renewing the San José process and particularly the following objectives: A) to reshape the basic aims of dialogue: - consolidating the rule of law, - stabilising society, including the reduction of inequalities and the protection of the environment, - helping the region to integrate into the world economy; B) to revise the substance of the cooperation process: - providing support for the consolidation and modernisation of the rule of law through measures promoting human rights and stronger democratic institutions and through measures to improve the operation of the state, - providing support for social policies through measures strengthening citizens' economic and social rights (land ownership and popular savings) with a view to improving systems in the fields of education, training and health (fight against drugs), - improving the ability of Central America to integrate into the international economy through measures to enhance regional integration, diversify exports and facilitate the role of private operators (industrial cooperation, AL-INVEST, ECIP); C) to introduce new methods of cooperation concerning: - coordination: specialisation by financial backers (particularly NGOs) and greater coordination, - multiannual programming broken down according to the Community resources available, - reorientation of projects: support for sectoral policies implemented by the beneficiaries themselves, which requires greater dialogue and commitments on the part of the beneficiaries, assurances on the part of the EU and better information on projects; D) to adapt to the mechanisms of the San José process: - plenary ministerial meetings (every two years) which are better prepared and more specific, - ad hoc ministerial meetings (Troïka convened to deal with significant problems) between the two-yearly meetings, - joint committee with an enhanced role in the areas of cooperation and trade relations (greater participation of civil society in the work of the Commission). In conclusion, the Commission calls for a solemn declaration to be signed at the Twelfth San José Ministerial Conference (March 1996, Italy) incorporating the new elements of the San José process as described above.