Basic information

1996/2014(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Baltic region: current state and prospects for cooperation in the Baltic region **Subject** 4.70.05 Regional cooperation, cross-border cooperation **Geographical area** Baltic Sea area	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
RELA External Economic Relations	TOIVONEN Kyösti (PPE)	21/02/1996

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	BURENSTAM LINDER Staffan (PPE)	06/02/1996
REGI Regional Policy	SCHROEDTER Elisabeth (V)	21/03/1996

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/11/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0609	Summary
12/02/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/07/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
25/07/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0259/1996	
19/09/1996	Debate in Parliament		
20/09/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/10/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2014(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	RELA/4/07485

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0259/1996 OJ C 277 23.09.1996, p. 0005	25/07/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0495/1996 OJ C 320 28.10.1996, p. 0236-0248	20/09/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0609	29/11/1995	Summary

Baltic region: current state and prospects for cooperation in the Baltic region

1996/2014(COS) - 29/11/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: this report on the state of cooperation in the Baltic Sea region summarizes: . various actual and estimated contributions for the period 1991-1994 and . contributions which various sources could make to the Baltic region between 1995 and 1999. It takes stock of all foreign aid channeled to the Baltic states, Poland and the Russian Federation which affects the Baltic coast and summarizes both the assistance granted by the EU and its Member States (on a bilateral basis) and by the other G-24 countries and international financial institutions. CONTENT: the report states that aid channeled to the Baltic region by all donor countries and organizations from 1990-1994 totaled an estimated ECU 4,534 million (of which ECU 517 million in EC subsidies). This sum includes both Community aid per se under various programmes (PHARE and TACIS mainly) and aid from Member States and other financial backers in the G-24 countries. As far as the Union is concerned, the strategy applied was a regional strategy based on more extensive bilateral relations with the EU which actively encouraged cooperation between or within regions. This strategy is based on a number of key factors, such as reinforcing political dialogue, fostering regional stability and security, continuing the Community's commitment to the CBSS (Council of Baltic Sea States), coordinating multinational assistance, giving priority to the promotion of infrastructures, the environment and investments within the framework of combined Community resources (Structural Funds, PHARE and TACIS), supporting economic activity and encouraging cooperation between and within regions. The report details all the actions financed in the region. Most Community aid (mainly PHARE /TACIS) has been used for economic infrastructures and services (transport, communications, environment, energy), social infrastructures (education, health, public administration), the productive sector (agriculture, industry, commerce, banking and tourism), social adjustment (balance of payments) and horizontal aid for training, export credits and support for private investment and economic reforms. Inter-regional cooperation projects have been implemented, as have projects to strengthen democracy. Other Community programmes being implemented in the region are the LIFE programme (environment), the SYNERGY and SAFE programmes (energy) and the Structural Funds (mainly INTERREG II and other relating funding). The report also summarizes bilateral aid granted by Denmark, Finland, Germany and Sweden and financial institutions involved in re-launching the region (EIB for the Community, Nordic Investment Bank, EBRD, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, IMF). . Prospects: finally, the report sets out a series of general guidelines for implementing a general initiative in the region from 1995-1999 targeting the long term, the main thrust of which is as follows: - total aid must not fall below aid for 1990-1994 (the report quotes a total of ECU 4,655 million, of which ECU 950 million in EC subsidies); - the

level of technical aid should be based on investments financed by both loans and non-refundable grants; - in addition to public investments in infrastructures, resources earmarked for investment should be channeled more towards economic investment to develop the private sector (SMEs, agricultural restructuring); - EC assistance and bilateral assistance from Member States should be used to support the process of integration as part of a pre-accession strategy.

Baltic region: current state and prospects for cooperation in the Baltic region

1996/2014(COS) - 20/09/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Parliament unanimously adopted the report by Mr Kyösti TOIVONEN (PPE, Fin) on the Commission communication on cooperation in the Baltic Sea region. Parliament stressed that cooperation in the Baltic Sea region must focus in particular on the development of democracy and the market economy, and attach particular importance to the development of human resources. When implementing its association and partnership agreements, the Union must make use of the political provisions designed to uphold human rights in the third countries party to those agreements. Parliament called on the Commission to support moves to establish a free trade area between the Baltic States, to enable it to come into being as early as 1998. Parliament also emphasized environmental protection and considered that the Union should take measures to help solve the environmental problems of the Baltic Sea region. It called on the Commission to give particular attention to stepping up cooperation with the countries of the Baltic Sea region on asylum policy and combating crime. The same approach should be taken in action to counter trafficking in drugs, hazardous substances and human beings, and in tackling money-laundering. Finally, the plenary believed that the Union can only exercise positive influence in the Baltic Sea region if it joins and lends its support to the existing structures for interregional cooperation.