Basic information

1996/2077(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
European Union's relations with the New Independent States of central Asia **Subject** 6.40.04.06 Relations with central Asian countries	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	TRUSCOTT Peter (PSE)	11/06/1996

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
RELA External Economic Relations	TINDEMANS Leo C. (PPE)	28/01/1997
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
DEVE Development and Cooperation		

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/10/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0206	Summary
08/05/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/02/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
17/02/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0069/1999	
11/03/1999	Debate in Parliament		
12/03/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/06/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2077(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/4/07808

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0069/1999 OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0004	17/02/1999	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0200/1999 OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0416-0432	12/03/1999	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0206	10/10/1995	Summary

European Union's relations with the New Independent States of central Asia

1996/2077(COS) - 12/03/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The Parliament adopted its report, drafted by Mr. Peter TRUSCOTT (PES, UK) concerning an EU strategy for relations with the Independent States of Central Asia. It drew attention to the unsatisfactory human rights abuses situation in all the Central Asian republics, and pointed out to the Commission that implementing fundamental rights and human rights must be an EU priority in those countries. It called on all Central Asian governments to further their efforts to abolish the death penalty and on the EU to support UN and OSCE initiatives in the field of conflict prevention and peacekeeping in the region. It recognised that political stability, both at State and regional level, is an essential factor in investment decisions. Parliament also called for: - more support through the Tacis Democracy Programme for NGOs so that they can monitor more effectively democracy and human rights, and for a suitable increase in appropriations for the democratisation process for the NIS, in particular for the partnership programmes which are of crucial importance in developing a civil society; - greater EU support in funding and technical assista,ce to help repair the environmental damage inflicted on Central Asia over the last 70 years; - the Commission and the Council to consider, together with the international financial institutions measures to help protect the population of the region against severe economic hardship resulting from the external effect of the Russian crisis.

European Union's relations with the New Independent States of central Asia

1996/2077(COS) - 10/10/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to present a communication identifying the interests of the EU in the New Independent States of Central Asia, pinpointing the prospects for success of the partnership and cooperation agreements currently being negotiated and determining possibilities for the development of an overall strategy with regard to this region, taking account of the large existing divergences between these States. CONTENT: According to the communication, the transformation of the former republics into independent States (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) has proved difficult, notably in political terms but also in economic terms. From an economic point of view, the success of the transition process is dependant upon the exploitation of the region's natural resources - something which the EU is particularly interested in as a potential energy consumer as well as a provider of services and equipment for the exploitation of this energy. From a political point of view, the EU's primary objective is to maintain stability by: - developing representative democratic institutions; - minimising areas of conflict; - economic reform. The achievement of these objectives will take a

long time and will require the EU to assert itself more strongly in the region. The communication proposes a series of measures to achieve these objectives, catered to the differing needs of each of the 5 republics. - technical assistance and cooperation: partnership and cooperation agreements (PCAs) have already been or are on the verge of being ratified with certain republics (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan). Sectoral agreements may also be signed, notably with regard to steel and trade in nuclear materials. Food aid actions could also prove useful in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, as well as humanitarian assistance in all 5 republics. At the same time, the TACIS programme should pursue its actions by including projects involving the reinforcement of democracy. - new contractual relations: the communication states that all of the political conditions have not been met in Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan to allow the conclusion of PCAs (in particular, respect for the principles expressed in the CSCE documents). As a result, the communication proposes a regular dialogue to enable the partners concerned to measure the progress in meeting the political and economic conditions. The EU will only approve such an agreement once significant progress has been made in these areas. Beyond this regular informal contact, formal contacts should continue in the context of the general agreement made with the USSR in 1989 or other sectoral agreements still in force. - political and diplomatic relations: the PCAs and the dialogue with Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan would also be the principal vehicles for promoting the EU's objectives. But there should also be a possibility for such dialogue at regional level. The Union should also use its influence to support the efforts of the UN and the OSCE to maintain the momentum of the Inter-Tajik peace process. Political issues affecting Central Asia, including Tajikistan and access to energy, should be discussed as part of ongoingpolitical contacts with Russia, Turkey and Pakistan, both bilaterally and in multilateral fora. In order to strengthen its political presence in the region, the Commission will consider the possibility of reinforcing its diplomatic representation in the region, budgetary means permitting.