Basic information

1996/2080(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Linking relief, rehabilitation and development LRRD **Subject** 6.50 Emergency, food, humanitarian aid, aid to refugees, Emergency Aid Reserve	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
DEVE Development and Cooperation	FASSA Raimondo (ELDR)	21/06/1995

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	DUPUIS Olivier (ARE)	23/07/1996
RELA External Economic Relations	SMITH Alex (PSE)	29/05/1996

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	1943	1996-07-16
Development	1928	1996-05-28
Development	2052	1997-11-28

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
30/04/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0153	Summary
20/05/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/05/1996	Debate in Council		Summary
16/07/1996	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
22/01/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
22/01/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0021/1997	
20/02/1997	Debate in Parliament		

21/02/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
17/03/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		
28/11/1997	Debate in Council		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2080(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	DEVE/4/07822

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0021/1997 OJ C 085 17.03.1997, p. 0004	22/01/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0075/1997 OJ C 085 17.03.1997, p. 0172-0181	21/02/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1996)0153	30/04/1996	Summary

Linking relief, rehabilitation and development LRRD

1996/2080(COS) - 28/05/1996

At the end of the debate the presidency noted that none of the delegations had any basic problems with the content of the draft conclusions submitted by the Permanent Representatives Committee. However, one of the delegations refused to give its consent because of the general position (linked to the BSE problem) it had adopted on Council decisions to be taken by unanimous agreement. From the initial experience that the Commission and Member States had had in drawing up a global political framework the Council was of the opinion that another exchange of views should take place at the next meeting of the Development Council in November 1996. The presidency expressed the hope that the text could be adopted by the Council as soon as possible.

Linking relief, rehabilitation and development LRRD

1996/2080(COS) - 30/04/1996 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE:. The aim of the communication is to review the link existing between relief aid, rehabilitation and development to find ways of improving the impact and efficiency of these policies. SUBSTANCE: in its communications, the Commission seeks to show that the link between relief, rehabilitation, and development should be seen from a more holistic point of view. The idea is that at all phases of their development and implementation - not only when a crisis is imminent - there is a need for a strategic planning policy including all the political, social and technical

aspects of development as part of a global framework. In particular, the strategic planning policy should foster coordination between donors and the relevant services (internal coordination). At the same time, the communication stresses that the relief - rehabilitation - development combination should be part of a dynamic and appropriate continuum that will enable donors to better appreciate the effects of their assistance and beneficiaries to draw greater benefits from the actions carried out. With this in view, the Commission makes a series of recommendations designed to make the system of aid to developing countries part of a new and more effective dynamic. It calls for: - the preparation of global policy frameworks for each region and country concerned based on a risk analysis and with the aim of achieving 'structural stability' (embracing economic, social and political factors development factors and human rights, etc.,) with a pilot phase in each case for a representative sample of countries particularly prone to political tensions and natural disasters. - conflict prevention in order to anticipate social or political explosions and taking into account the concept of 'peace' as a vital element in global policy frameworks - strengthening capacity for analysis so as to identify potential trouble spots (with the help of the heads of Commission delegations in the countries concerned). - intensified political cooperation and development coordination with Member States and other donors, - improved internal coordination by the creation of country task forces at field level and in Brussels, consisting of officials dealing with relief, rehabilitation, and development, - country specific relief impact analysis, - drawing up rehabilitation planning strategies for the management of post-emergency situations (updated assessments of causes of crises and continuing weaknesses) and introduction of rapid and flexible procedures for post-relief measures. - disaster preparedness programmes, , - macroeconomic reform programmes where the programming of assistance takes account of the risk of natural or manmade disasters, - sectoral policies and programmes.

Linking relief, rehabilitation and development LRRD

1996/2080(COS) - 21/02/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Raimondo FASSA (ELDR, I) Parliament pointed out that between 1988 and 1993 relief expenditure by OECD member states rose from US$500 million to US$3 500 million per year at a time when overall aid programmes are tending to stagnate or even decline. It considered it essential that there should be better coordination of humanitarian aid actions between the Community, the Member States and the United Nations agencies. It hoped that there would be a strengthening of the Union's common foreign policy and considered that the external services as a whole should be brought under the competence of a single Commissioner. It considered that the delegations had a necessary role to play especially in the event of a major crisis and regretted the shortage of staff made available at times of crisis. It recommended that in the event of crisis the financial and human resources of the delegations should be reinforced and also hoped that such exceptional provisions would be maintained until the situation had stabilised. It called for ECHO to be allocated sufficient financial resources in order to put an end to the practice of setting up a reserve which hinders its operation and delays its intervention. It was concerned at the too frequent shifting of ECHO staff and suggested that in its recruitment policy this body should take account of the experience gained by candidates on the ground. It called for an assessment of the coordination between ECHO and the unit responsible for food security. It called on the Commission in particular to reorganize its management structure in order to allow for a more global, coherent and integrated strategy in the complementary fields of humanitarian aid and development aid. As crises of a chronic nature are more and more frequent, rehabilitation efforts should not be short term, designed to facilitate the passage from emergency aid to development but rather should aim to manage prolonged situations of instability. Greater financial means must be made available for rehabilitation programmes. In general the Commission's actions should take greater account of the needs of women and children, support the functioning of local, national and regional markets by giving priority to local sourcing possibilities. With regard to conflict prevention Parliament repeated its call for programmes aimed at the prevention of crises (in particular the creation of a European research centre for the active prevention of crises) and called in particular for the setting up of a European corps consisting of civilian and military units in cooperation with the WEU responsible for keeping and re-establishing peace (Petersberg missions). This European civil peace corps would strengthen humanitarian action, lead to the peaceful settlement of conflicts, prevent the outbreak of new conflicts and provide the necessary measures of confidence-building. It also called for the setting up of a permanent international criminal court as an instrument of conflict prevention. It also hoped to see measures to promote democracy aimed at achieving fuller social participation and integration of local populations. It considered that prevention policy for both natural disasters and armed conflicts must allocate an important role to development and the integration and social participation of women. It called for European monitoring of arms exports. Lastly, it was essential for the Commission to define clearly under what circumstances and at which point conditionality became an integral part of the relief-rehabilitation-development process and to draw up at the same time a timetable for progress to be made. Parliament called for a reform of the CFSP to enable the Union to combine diplomatic efforts and (military and civilian) humanitarian intervention capacity with trade and development aid policies.