Basic information

1996/2121(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Creating a new dynamic in EU-ASEAN relations **Subject** 6.40.08 Relations with Asian countries	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
RELA External Economic Relations	HINDLEY Michael J. (PSE)	25/09/1996

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	CACCAVALE Ernesto (UPE)	19/11/1996
DEVE Development and Cooperation	JANSSEN VAN RAAY James L. (UPE)	26/02/1997

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	1996	1997-03-24

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
03/07/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0314	Summary
03/07/1996	Additional information		Summary
16/09/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/03/1997	Debate in Council		Summary
03/09/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
03/09/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0262/1997	
01/10/1997	Debate in Parliament		
02/10/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/10/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2121(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/4/08044

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0262/1997 OJ C 304 06.10.1997, p. 0007	03/09/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0472/1997 OJ C 325 27.10.1997, p. 0010-0016	02/10/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1996)0314	03/07/1996	Summary

Creating a new dynamic in EU-ASEAN relations

1996/2121(COS) - 03/07/1996 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: the document seeks to propose a new dynamic in EU-ASEAN relations based on an active partnership which both involves business circles and strengthens political dialogue. CONTENT: a partner of long standing, ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations, consisting of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) represents a major economic challenge for Europe, since its global volume of trade has tripled in ten years (the EC is the third largest trading partner of this region after Japan and the USA). The basis of EC-ASEAN relations is an agreement which has linked the two groups since 1980 on a donor-recipient basis. Today, relations are characterized more by a balanced trade relationship geared towards economic development and cooperation, which is why the Commission is attempting in this communication to define the outlines of a new approach to bilateral relationships based on partnership. The objectives of that partnership may be summed up as follows: - a stimulated political dialogue: topics of mutual interest would be addressed such as disarmament, peace-keeping operations, respect for democracy and human rights; - strengthening the interregional dynamic: the EC and ASEAN could build a partnership of equals to promote their respective regional market and create links of solidarity (where similar programmes exist, reciprocal participation in these programmes by traders from the other region would be envisaged); - upsurge in trade and investment: progress should be made in the following areas: . facilitating and liberalizing trade on the basis of the principles defined by the WTO; . facilitating investment (the European contribution is still inadequate): definition of statutory or administrative obstacles and assistance for the abolition of such obstacles; - reorientating cooperation: development cooperation should be targeted on the less-favoured areas and categories, while a new type of economic cooperation should be established with other countries which would: . emphasize regional integration in the following fields: customs, statistics, standards and other technical barriers; . define priority fields (industrial cooperation, the information society and transport); . support SMEs (joint ventures); . select new initiatives aimed at creating links between the EC, its Member States and ASEAN (promotion of trade, cultural links etc.). Cooperation would also relate to other areas, in particular environmental protection, bringing the two societies together, the fight against organized crime and science and technology. In order to attain these various objectives, the Commission proposes two approaches: - strengthening the existing (1980) agreement relating to interregional cooperation: this would take the form of a protocol to the 1980 agreement which would include interregional objectives, strengthen economic cooperation and redefine

development cooperation; - creating an active partnership based on a joint declaration signed by the heads of state defining the general objectives of such new cooperation. This more flexible formula would enable the private sector to be very closely involved with development in the region: . either by isolated work by the business sector which would subsequently report to the bodies of the Agreement; . or by direct participation of industry within the different committees. The Commission favours the second option and proposes that it be made the subject of a joint declaration at the next EU-ASEAN ministerial meeting, scheduled to be held in February 1997.

Creating a new dynamic in EU-ASEAN relations

1996/2121(COS) - 02/10/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr HINDLEY (PSE, UK) on creating a new dynamic in EU-ASEAN relations, Parliament highlighted the need for permanent political dialogue between the EU and ASEAN within an appropriate framework which should also include parliamentary cooperation. It hoped, in particular, for a comprehensive debate on the implications of the expansion of ASEAN and supported the advancement of cooperation between the parties. Parliament recalled the aims of ASEAN (economic cooperation between the ASEAN countries, promotion of peace, stability and mutual prosperity and enhanced policy cooperation) and was glad that there was increased cooperation between the Union and ASEAN. It underlined the fact that this cooperation should cover the movement of goods and services, investment and intellectual property, industrial cooperation, services and technology and human resources. It welcomed the launch of the Junior EU-ASEAN Managers Exchange Programme in November 1996 and also underlined the importance of the development of SMUs and tourism. However, it drew attention to the detrimental effects of tourism in the region and called for the introduction of an effective system to combat the sexual exploitation of children and the proliferation of drugs. To this end, Parliament requested that the bilateral agreements be concluded with each of the ASEAN countries concerning Drug Precursors control. In addition, Parliament highlighted the importance of respect for human rights in EU-ASEAN relations and, in particular, the adherence to this respect for human rights in the bilateral relations between the EU and ASEAN. It asked Portugal to waive its opposition to the granting of a mandate to the Commission to negotiate the new Cooperation Agreement with ASEAN: its human rights clause would then constitute a legal basis for the protection of human rights in East Timor. It also pointed out that the ASEAN countries had to respect UN agreements, conventions and resolutions on the principles of self-determination, freedom and human rights. It asked the ASEAN countries which had not already done so to sign up to the international protocols on human rights and the abolition of torture. It also asked that these countries abolish the death penalty. Finally, Parliament called on each of the ASEAN countries to comply fully with the common criteria agreed on in 1991 regulating the exportation of arms to South-East Asia. It asked ASEAN to respect, in particular, the provisions of the embargo on the delivery of arms from to Myanmar Union and to consider ending such deliveries to Indonesia. As regards the anticipated enlargement of ASEAN, it also called for separate negotiating mandates for Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar with respect to their adhesion to the EU-ASEAN agreement. It called on the United Kingdom and France to renounce their efforts to become participants in the ASEAN Regional Forum separately from the EU.

Creating a new dynamic in EU-ASEAN relations

1996/2121(COS) - 24/03/1997

The Council examined the Commission's communication which is referred to in Paragraph 18 of the Joint Declaration of the 12th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (approved in Sigapore on 13-14 February 1997). The Council approved the measures proposed in a package for future action.