Basic information

1996/2248(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Relations EU/Canada **Subject** 6.40.11 Relations with industrialised countries **Geographical area** Canada	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	GRAZIANI Antonio (PPE)	24/04/1996

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL Elly (ELDR)	03/12/1996
RELA External Economic Relations	MANN Erika (PSE)	27/06/1996
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	SCHNELLHARDT Horst (PPE)	17/12/1996
LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	SCHMID Gerhard (PSE)	17/12/1996
PECH Fisheries	GALLAGHER Pat the Cope (UPE)	19/12/1996

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	1911	1996-03-25
General Affairs	1984	1997-01-20

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary

27/02/1996	Additional information		Summary
28/02/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	SEC(1996)0331	Summary
25/03/1996	Debate in Council		
28/11/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/01/1997	Debate in Council		
14/04/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
14/04/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0140/1997	
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	1996/2248(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/4/08437

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0140/1997 OJ C 150 19.05.1997, p. 0003	14/04/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0474/1997 OJ C 325 27.10.1997, p. 0010-0020	02/10/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	SEC(1996)0331	28/02/1996	Summary

Relations EU/Canada

1996/2248(COS) - 28/02/1996 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: the aim of this communication is to assess the state of EU-Canada relations and to present proposals aimed at strengthening those relations in the light of the transatlantic partnership forged between the EU and the USA. SUBSTANCE: In its communication, the Commission makes a series of proposals aimed at giving a new direction to EU-Canada relations and which could be the subject of a policy declaration by the two parties and be accompanied by a plan of action to be adopted at the next EU-Canada Summit. Essentially, the Commission's proposals relate to the following: - foreign and security policy: in this area only matters of common interest would be dealt with (e.g. respect for human rights in the former USSR, strengthening of dialogue with the UN, development of the structures that safeguard the security of the continent, in particular NATO and OSCE); - trade, cooperation and investment: In the multilateral context, the two parties have committed themselves to supporting the WTO and an increasingly multilateral world trading system. Certain subjects of common interest could be addressed jointly: * working together for the completion of unfinished WTO business (in particular on public procurement), * conclusion of a multilateral investment agreement in the OECD, * addressing together in international fora the new issues on the trade policy agenda (trade, investment, the environment, competition and social issues). In the bilateral context, the bulk of the discussions must focus on clarifying the situation as regards the settlement of disputes. The EU and Canada must in particular commit themselves to developing more healthy patterns of bilateral trade, investment and technology transfer. A number of steps need to be taken to support this process, including: * more effective use of existing mechanisms to provide 'early warning' of trade and investment disputes, * a joint study on ways of facilitating trade in goods and services and reducing or eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers, * development of regulatory cooperation and early completion of MRA negotiations, * joint contribution to a global navigation satellite system, * promotion of cooperation in areas of common interest in the employment and social policy fields, * ongoing negotiations on competition policy, mutual assistance on customs matters and veterinary equivalency. - other areas of cooperation, foremost amongst which are: science and technology, telecommunications, development of the Information Society, the environment, energy, industrial cooperation, statistics, combating the diversion of drugs precursor chemicals and fisheries (including the reopening of Canadian ports to EU vessels in accordance with the 1992 fisheries agreement). - justice and home affairs: in this field, the Commission anticipates increased cooperation in the fight against organized crime and drugs, as well as on matters relating to immigration and the right of asylum (including the smuggling of illegal immigrants). - strengthening of business links: the Commission advocates a strengthening of links between the two parties' citizens and business communities, in particular by means of stepping up cooperation activities, developing joint programmes in the context of the Information Society, discussions on regional development policies, increased contact between citizens, studying each other's systems of government and cooperation on the mutual recognition of university studies and degrees.

Relations EU/Canada

1996/2248(COS) - 02/10/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Antonio GRAZIANI (PPE, I) on relations between the European Union and Canada, Parliament welcomed the signing of the joint political declaration and the joint plan of action between the EU and Canada. It stated that there was an important trilateral dimension (EU, Canada, US) to cooperation in certain sectors covered by the Action Plan (with particular regard to the North Atlantic economic area). It was convinced, however, that a better balance was required in transatlantic relations. This should be more in keeping with the political and commercial interests of Europe, which did not always coincide with those of the United States. In this respect, Parliament recalled the joint interests of Canada and the EU concerning liberalizing trade, strengthening the role of the WTO and rejecting the use of unilateral measures (such as the Helms-Burton and d'Amato Acts). Parliament also called on the Commission to become involved with the work of the Arctic Council. Parliament stated that the existence of divergent opinions on issues such as fishing, leghold traps and trade in animal furs should not undermine the enhancement of bilateral relations. It rejected the extraterritorial provision of the Canadian Coastal Fisheries Protection Act. It hoped that the EU and Canada would work closely together to bring about a ban on anti-personnel mines, as provided for at the Ottawa Conference. It asked that cooperation on justice and home affairs be incorporated, as necessary, into a legally effective convention, through cooperation between Europol and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. It was also in favour of strengthening cooperation on applied research for advanced technologies, linguistic and cultural matters (cinema co-productions, creation of television networks, etc.), environmental protection - through the exchange of information - and, in particular, the preservation of fishery resources under NAFO. Parliament was convinced that resuming the parliamentary dimension in relations between the EU and Canada would strengthen bilateral relations and hoped to be kept fully informed about the evolution and implementation of the Action Plan between the two parties. Finally, Parliament was pleased with the extent to which the Canadian provinces were fully associated with the joint plan of action and the strengthening of transatlantic relations. It believed that the indigenous populations had a role to play in the implementation of environmentally sound development and should be involved in decisions relating to the exploitation of natural resources and the development of their territory.