Basic information

1996/2262(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Ukraine: action plan **Subject** 6.40.04 Relations with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) **Geographical area** Ukraine	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	TITLEY Gary (PSE)	20/03/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	ESTEVAN BOLEA María Teresa (PPE)	21/10/1997
RELA External Economic Relations	MANN Erika (PSE)	17/04/1997

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	1977	1996-12-06

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
20/11/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0593	Summary
14/03/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
04/02/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
04/02/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0059/1998	
11/03/1998	Debate in Parliament		
12/03/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
06/04/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2262(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/4/08474

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0059/1998 OJ C 104 06.04.1998, p. 0005	04/02/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0152/1998 OJ C 104 06.04.1998, p. 0199-0226	12/03/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1996)0593	20/11/1996	Summary

Ukraine: action plan

1996/2262(COS) - 20/11/1996 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: this document has two complementary objectives: to send the Ukrainian authorities a political message of increased support from the European Union and to improve existing Community assistance and aid synergisms between the Community and the Member States. CONTENT: as far as the political message is concerned, the Community is responding to the request by Ukraine for more visible EU aid. In the longer term, the Union is taking note of the request by the Ukrainian authorities to anchor their country firmly within Europe, with a view to possible accession. At the political level, Ukraine has faced serious challenges to its independence and integration in the global marketplace. It has laid the foundations for democracy, achieved real macro-economic stability, started transforming its economy and found a place in the international community. It now needs to restructure the energy sector and industry, implement the rule of law and a democratic society and improve the parameters of its independence (mainly by having the Russian mortgage lifted). The political question of the place of the Ukraine in Europe is not resolved in this document. However, the Commission suggests opening a discussion within the framework of the Community and the CFSP on the type of relations which should be established with this country. As far as European assistance is concerned: the document proposes 6 lines of approach to action by the Community and its Member States: - support for economic reform; - social transformation; - incorporation of Ukraine into the European security structure and strengthening of political dialogue; - support for regional cooperation; - more extensive contractual relations; - reform of the energy sector. Priority action in the short term is as follows: - ratification by the Member States and entry into force of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA); - decision on macro-financial assistance in 1997; - funding and implementation of the agreement between G7, the Community and the Ukraine on the closure of Chernobyl; - continuing work on bilateral trade; - implementation of a framework to foster private investment. These actions are not all decided and implemented in the same way: the Community alone is responsible for technical assistance (TACIS regulation); some actions are the responsibility of the Community but are implemented under the Interim Agreement; some actions are the joint responsibility of the EC and the Member States and will be implemented under the PCA once it has been ratified; some actions come under the CFSP (especially political dialogue) while others are the responsibility of the Member States alone. Finally, the Commission points out that the action plan as presented in this document has no budgetary implications, except for the Chernobyl file (for which Community financing has been planned for 1997 in order to respect the undertakings given within the framework of G7) and macro-financial assistance.

Ukraine: action plan

1996/2262(COS) - 12/03/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Gary TITLEY (PSE, UK) on the action plan for Ukraine, the European Parliament expressed the view that the European Union should continue to support the democratic process in Ukraine by promoting the development of civil society, particularly by means of its TACIS programme for democracy. It welcomed the ratification by Ukraine of the European Convention on Human Rights. However, it hoped that Ukraine would soon ratify Protocol no 6, which provides for the abolition of capital punishment, and deplored the execution of thirteen prisoners in 1997. Observing that Ukraine did not meet the criteria to qualify as a safe third state, particularly because it had no legislation on the status of refugees, Parliament called on Ukraine to accede to international agreements on protecting migrants and to implement them without delay. Recognizing Ukraine's efforts to stabilize its economy, Parliament stressed the need to continue to support the economic transition by implementing all the available financial instruments (macro-financial aid, TACIS, etc.) and by developing joint undertakings with Ukraine in the industrial and commercial field (aeronautics, space, energy, transport, etc.). Parliament stressed the need to carry out radical structural reforms in the field of privatization, reorganization of the tax system and energy. Ukraine should also be involved in Community programmes in the fields of education, culture, the information society, science and environmental protection. Judicial cooperation should likewise be stepped up in order to combat international crime and illegal immigration effectively. Parliament recalled Ukraine's commitment to close down Chernobyl nuclear power station completely in the year 2000, insisted that this deadline must be adhered to and called on the Union and the G7 to support Ukraine in this undertaking by encouraging it to diversify its sources of energy, combat energy waste and increase the safety of its nuclear installations, whether still in use or decommissioned. The international community should finance the reconstruction of the sarcophagus housing the old reactor at Chernobyl (estimated cost: $750 m). The Member States and financial institutions should likewise cooperate with Ukraine's electricity industry with a view to ensuring more efficient energy use. The Commission should introduce effective energy saving programmes in all sectors of the Ukrainian economy. Parliament accordingly called on the Commission to develop legislative and financial frameworks geared to the establishment of industrial cooperation and joint undertakings in the energy sector. Parliament welcomed the increase in trade between the Community and Ukraine, but drew attention to the restrictions on access to the Ukrainian market for EU businesses. It called on the Commission to support Ukraine in its efforts to become integrated with the world economy, and hoped that Ukraine would soon join the WTO. Parliament took the view that the partnership agreement (which had been signed on 11 June 1994, but had not yet entered into force) was merely a stage in the development of closer association between Ukraine and the EU, and that when the conditions were right, talks on new instruments should be envisaged so as to permit such an association to be implemented. Meanwhile, it hoped that the possibilities afforded by the existing partnership agreement would be fully exploited. Parliament welcomed the agreement on long-distance air transport signed by the WEU and Ukraine on 30 June 1997, and considered that Ukraine should be associated, in the most appropriate fashion, with the activities of the WEU, starting with Petersberg-type missions. Parliament noted that such cooperation could also be developed with Russia and the other CIS states which were members of the Council of Europe.