Basic information

1997/0036(AVC) AVC - Assent procedure (historic)	Procedure completed
EC/Palestine Liberation Organisation PLO agreement: Euro-Mediterranean interim association agreement Amended by 2011/0042(NLE) **Subject** 6.40.05.06 Relations with the countries of the Middle East **Geographical area** Palestine	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	ALAVANOS Alexandros (GUE/NGL)	19/11/1996

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
RELA External Economic Relations	FERRER Concepció (PPE)	20/01/1997

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2011	1997-06-02
General Affairs	1984	1997-01-20
General Affairs	1902	1996-01-29
General Affairs	1989	1997-02-24
General Affairs	1950	1996-01-10
General Affairs	1922	1996-05-13

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/01/1996	Debate in Council		Summary
13/05/1996	Debate in Council		
20/01/1997	Debate in Council		Summary
		COM(1997)0051	

05/02/1997	Initial legislative proposal published		
10/03/1997	Legislative proposal published	06527/1997	Summary
14/03/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/03/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
20/03/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0103/1997	
09/04/1997	Debate in Parliament		
02/06/1997	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
02/06/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
16/07/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/0036(AVC)
Procedure type	AVC - Assent procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Amendments and repeals	Amended by 2011/0042(NLE)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 130Y EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 113 EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 228-p2/3-a2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/4/08726

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0103/1997 OJ C 132 28.04.1997, p. 0006	20/03/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0152/1997 OJ C 132 28.04.1997, p. 0069-0112	09/04/1997	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	06527/1997	10/03/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Initial legislative proposal	COM(1997)0051 OJ C 128 24.04.1997, p. 0001	05/02/1997	

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Decision 1997/0430 OJ L 187 16.07.1997, p. 0001	Summary

EC/Palestine Liberation Organisation PLO agreement: Euro-Mediterranean interim association agreement

1997/0036(AVC) - 29/01/1996

The Council reiterates the European Union's desire to conclude with the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as soon as possible a Euro-Mediterranean association agreement tailored to the particular situation of these territories and calls on the Commission to begin exploratory talks at an early date with the Palestinian Authority to this end.

EC/Palestine Liberation Organisation PLO agreement: Euro-Mediterranean interim association agreement

1997/0036(AVC) - 09/04/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report of Mr Alexandros ALAVANOS (GUE/NGL, GR), the European Parliament gave its assent to the conclusion of the interim agreement on trade and cooperation between the Community and the PLO.

EC/Palestine Liberation Organisation PLO agreement: Euro-Mediterranean interim association agreement

1997/0036(AVC) - 20/01/1997

The Council reiterated its commitment to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and, in view of the second meeting of Foreign Ministers to take place on 15-16 April 1997, recalled that the Barcelona Declaration underlined the importance of strengthening bilateral relations as a counterpart to the multilateral framework. The Council welcomed the recent conclusion of negotiations with the PLO on an interim association agreement and invited the Commission to submit a formal proposal for signature as soon as possible. The Council encouraged the Commission to pursue actively its exploratory talks with Syria.

EC/Palestine Liberation Organisation PLO agreement: Euro-Mediterranean interim association agreement

1997/0036(AVC) - 10/03/1997 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: Conclusion of a Euro-Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Community and the PLO for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority. SUBSTANCE: General principle: the agreement which was initialled on 10 December 1996 is concluded for an interim period of five years and seeks to strengthen links between the Palestinians and the European Union. It respects the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement of 28 September 1995 on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, under the terms of which the PLO may conclude international agreements for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority only in certain areas. The agreement therefore covers only matters of trade and cooperation falling under Community competence and seeks to establish a free trade area over a transitional period not extending beyond 2001. No later than 4 May 1999 negotiations should commence with a view to concluding a Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement (until such an agreement is

concluded, the present agreement will remain in force). .Democratic clause: respect for democratic principles and human rights is a fundamental element of the agreement; Main components: - establishment of a free trade area between the Community, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (31.12.2001): it will be established progressively in accordance with WTO provisions. Although flows have been small, trade between the EU, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has in fact been free for a considerable period. According to Council Regulation 1134/91/EEC, the Community has granted free access to Community markets for industrial goods produced in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Under this regulation and regulations 1981/94 and 539/96/EC, 22 Palestinian agricultural products have enjoyed similarly free access to Community markets (within reference quantities, or, in some cases, tariff quotas). On processed agricultural goods only the agricultural portion of duty has been levied. At the same time, since Israel has concluded free trade agreements with the Community, by virtue of its Association Agreement with the Community and since the Economic Protocol to the Israel/EU Interim Agreement lays down that, for the majority of products, Israel and the Palestinian Authority will maintain the same import policy, trade between the EU and the West Bank and Gaza Strip is already free. The agreement would contractualise this situation between the Community and the Palestinians; - special provisions on agricultural and fishery aspects: the agreement stipulates that both parties will examine the situation in order to determine the measures to be applied from 1 January 2000, in the interest of a greater liberalization of trade in agricultural and fishery products. The agreement furthermore leaves open the possibility of the parties granting each other further concessions on a product-by-product basis during the life of the agreement; - financial and development cooperation: the Community already provides an extensive programme of support for the development of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The agreement confirms that a financial cooperation package will be made available to the Palestinian Authority. Specific annual amounts will be allocated for Community operations connected with the Israel/Palestinian peace agreement and by the internal procedure provided for under the MEDA regulation (Regulation 1488/96/EC). The agreement also specifies the areas which can be covered by economic cooperation between the Palestinian Authority and the Community; - other forms of cooperation: there are provisions covering audiovisual and cultural matters and the areas of information and communication; - specific provisions: the Parties undertake to impose no restrictions on current payments or capital relating to direct investments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, while both parties will seek to protect intellectual property and to ensure fair competition. On an institutional level, the agreement provides for the establishment of a joint committee for European Community-Palestinian trade and cooperation which will supervise the implementation of the agreement.

EC/Palestine Liberation Organisation PLO agreement: Euro-Mediterranean interim association agreement

1997/0036(AVC) - 02/06/1997 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: conclusion of a Euro- Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Community and the PLO for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Decision 97/430/EC concerning the conclusion of a Euro-Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Community and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. SUBSTANCE: .General principle: the agreement is concluded for an interim period of 5 years, and has the aim of strengthening relations between the Palestinian entity and the European Union. It respects the terms of the Israeli-Palestinian interim agreement of 28 September 1995 on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, under which the PLO may conclude international agreements for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority only in certain areas. The agreement covers matters of trade and cooperation falling under Community competence, and has the purpose of establishing a free-trade area for a period not extending beyond the year 2001. No later than 4 May 1999 the Parties are to start negotiations with a view to concluding a Euro-Mediterranean association agreement (until which time the present agreement will remain in force). .Democracy clause: respect for democratic principles and human rights is a basic element in the agreement; . Main elements : - establishment of a free-trade area between the Community, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (31.12.2001): this is to be established gradually in accordance with the provisions of the WTO. In practice, despite the relatively small volume of trade between the EC, the West Bank and Gaza, this trade has been free for a long time. By Regulation (EEC) No 1134/91, the Community granted free access to the Community customs area to industrial goods produced in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The same Regulation and Regulations (EC) Nos 1981/95 and 539/96 likewise guarantee free access to Community markets for 22 Palestinian agricultural products (subject to reference quantities or, in certain cases, tariff quotas). Moreover, in the case of processed agricultural products, only the agricultural part of the duties is levied. In parallel, as Israel has concluded free-trade agreements with the Community, based on its association agreement with the Community, and as the Economic Protocol to the Interim Agreement between Israel and the Community stipulates that, in the case of most products, Israel and the Palestinian Authority are to maintain the same policy on imports, trade between the Union and the West Bank and Gaza Strip is already free. The agreement serves only to formalize the situation between the Community and the Palestinians; - specific provisions on agriculture and fisheries: the agreement lays down that the two parties will review the situation in order to determine what measures should apply from 1.1.2000 in the interests of greater liberalization of trade in agricultural and fishery products. The agreement also provides for the possibility that the parties may reach mutual agreement on additional concessions product by product during the lifetimes of the agreement; - financial and development cooperation: the Community is already carrying out a huge development aid programme in the territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The agreement confirms that the Palestinian Authority will be granted a financial cooperation instrument. Specific annual amounts will be allocated for Community operations associated with the peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians and through the internal procedure provided for by the MEDA Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1488/96). The agreement also specifies the fields in which economic cooperation between the Palestinian Authority and the Community is possible; - other types of cooperation: provisions are included concerning the audiovisual and cultural sectors and in the fields of information and communication; - specific provisions: the parties undertake not to impose any restriction on current payments of capital associated with direct investment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, while seeking to protect intellectual property and ensure fair competition. In the institutional sphere, the agreement provides for the setting-up of a joint committee on trade and cooperation between the Community and the Palestinian Authority to implement the agreement. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 01.07.1997.