Basic information

1997/2119(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
TACIS: cross-border cooperation **Subject** 4.70.05 Regional cooperation, cross-border cooperation 6.30.02 Financial and technical cooperation and assistance **Geographical area** Community of Independent States	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
REGI Regional Policy	KARAMANOU Anna (PSE)	15/07/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
BUDG Budgets	PIMENTA Carlos (PPE)	01/07/1997
RELA External Economic Relations	SEPPÄNEN Esko (GUE/NGL)	30/06/1997

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
27/05/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0239	Summary
13/06/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/04/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
23/04/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0179/1998	
13/07/1998	Debate in Parliament		
14/07/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		

21/09/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2119(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	REGI/4/08975

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0179/1998 OJ C 195 22.06.1998, p. 0003	23/04/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0416/1998 OJ C 292 21.09.1998, p. 0017-0029	14/07/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)0239	27/05/1997	Summary

TACIS: cross-border cooperation

1997/2119(COS) - 14/07/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Anna KARAMANOU (PSE, GR) on the Tacis programme, Parliament welcomed the introduction of cross-border cooperation in this programme but considered that the budget appropriations available for this purpose were insufficient.. This cooperation required resources if the stability of regions close to the EU's borders and to the borders of future member states was to be preserved. Future regional policy should increasingly stress such cooperation. It called on the Commission to bear in mind the enlargement when implementing the Tacis-CBC programme so as to strengthen the new external borders of the EU. Parliament, which stressed the importance of the principle of partnership and decentralisation of activities, considered that care should be taken to ensure that cross-border cooperation should contribute towards maintaining peace and security, respect for human rights and the protection of minorities. It also considered that the role of the regions was important in the process of unification and coexistence of the peoples of Europe. With regard to the Tacis guidelines the Commission should use the model of democratic co-decision used in the structural measures and should support small projects. Parliament also stressed the importance of coordinating the Union's cross-border cooperation programmes (Phare, Tacis, Interreg) in order to avoid overlapping. Joint funding could be provided for this purpose. It considered that the joint cross-border programmes should be prepared at regional level for sections of the frontier, rather than for the whole length of national borders, and on the basis of a joint socio- economic analysis. In future Tacis cross-border cooperation should be based on integrated multiannual programming so as to make it more consistent with other programmes. Parliament also regretted that the effectiveness of the programme had been affected by the bureaucratic procedures. It was therefore necessary to alter the existing system to reduce the Commission's administrative bias. It also regretted the lack of information about projects and the excessive centralisation of the Tacis administration (in major capitals). It therefore called for resources to be allocated to regional offices. Lastly, Parliament called for the Tacis-CBC programmes to define the environmental policy objectives (in particular along the Russia-Union border) and for a strengthening of the provisions on training, business development, new technologies and SMUs and a revision of public tender contracts so as to ensure that regional authorities participate in projects. It also called for the Commission to put forward the creation of a specific Baltic Sea Programme

TACIS: cross-border cooperation

1997/2119(COS) - 27/05/1997 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: The communication sets out the Community's policy on crossborder cooperation within the framework of the TACIS programme up to 1999. SUBSTANCE: One of the key factors for crossborder cooperation in the region is the need to ensure the stability of the common frontier of the EU and the former Soviet republics (the 'newly independent states' or NIS) following Finland's accession to the EU, and to lay the foundations of sustainable social and economic development among the frontier communities. This form of cooperation is part of a broader policy for the strengthening of relations between border regions of the EU, the countries of central and eastern Europe (CCEE) and the NIS. Crossborder cooperation is also part of the pre-accession strategy of the CCEE, in the context of complementary funding for border-crossing facilities (in particular, so as to address the increasing concern which has arisen about the inadequacy of the borders concerned, and to promote crossborder relations, especially where problems relating to minorities still exist). In this connection, the Commission considers that crossborder cooperation should be reinforced, and that priority should go to projects characterized by a high degree of local or regional commitment. These projects should concern the following aspects: 1) improvement of the effectiveness of border control and transit, especially via the strengthening of existing networks and the creation of appropriate infrastructure. In particular, the aim should be to facilitate local border transit and to reinforce the crossings linking the EU, the CCEE and the NIS; 2) assistance to help border regions overcome their specific development problems stemming from being on the periphery of their national economies, especially via the establishment of links between border networks and the creation of joint ventures; 3) action to address the two main types of crossborder ecological problem. those for which simultaneous action is needed on both sides of the border (e.g. pollution of border lakes), and those whose effects are felt on the 'other' side only (e.g. upstream waste): in this context, it will be necessary to finance studies of local ecological problems and to make follow-up investment in support infrastructure (for instance, via the continuation of Community actions already begun under the EC's fifth environmental action plan). Concerning the priority aspects, the Commission considers that in its first years the programme should focus on institutional support and the development of crossborder networks (frontier management). Other priorities should include the creation of direct links between border communities (via joint ventures), and ecological projects. Geographically speaking, this cooperation will especially concern the frontiers between the NIS and the Community and between the NIS and the Baltic states. It will also relate to the frontiers between the CCEE and Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova. On the approach to be adopted, the Commission considers that local and regional authorities should be involved as fully as possible. Synergies with other Community programmes should be identified (especially with INTERREG and the PHARE crossborder cooperation programme). Special attention should be paid to small-scale projects, local actions and consciousness-raising actions.