Basic information

1997/2240(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Environment: Europe-Asia cooperation strategy **Subject** 3.70 Environmental policy 6.40.08 Relations with Asian countries	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	DYBKJÆR Lone (ELDR)	27/11/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
RELA External Economic Relations	HINDLEY Michael J. (PSE)	25/02/1998
DEVE Development and Cooperation	GÜNTHER Maren (PPE)	25/02/1998

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/10/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0490	Summary
28/01/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
04/06/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
04/06/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0231/1998	
14/07/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/09/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/2240(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	ENVI/4/09396

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0231/1998 OJ C 210 06.07.1998, p. 0008	04/06/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0415/1998 OJ C 292 21.09.1998, p. 0017-0025	14/07/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)0490	13/10/1997	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0290/1998 OJ C 129 27.04.1998, p. 0048	25/02/1998	

Environment: Europe-Asia cooperation strategy

1997/2240(COS) - 13/10/1997 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE : achieving more effective cooperation between Europe and Asia in the field of the environment and proposing key measures in this area to achieve long-term results. SUBSTANCE : The severity of the environmental problems in Asia have implications for Europe (particularly with regard to economic stability and business opportunities). It is therefore necessary to help the Asian countries protect their natural resources and prevent pollution. Europe has a great deal of experience in this field with nearly 60% of the world patents in environmental technology especially in the urban environment and in pollution reduction and prevention. There is currently no monitoring system covering all environmental cooperation measures taken by the Member States in Asia. The communication therefore proposes the introduction of a voluntary system of coordination involving all European undertakings cooperating or wishing to cooperate with Asia in this area. The strategy proposed by the Commission is based on three lines of action: 1) increasing environmental management capacity in Asia, encouraging more efficient and sustainable use of natural resources and supporting a more sustainable pattern of wealth creation; 2) facilitating market-based approaches to environmental protection with emphasis on pollution reduction and prevention and protection of natural resources; 3) developing, promoting and supporting Europe-Asia environmental R&D networks and facilitating the rise of environment awareness and training. In order to implement this strategy, the Commission proposes four criteria for pursuing cooperation activities: - mutual interest for Europe and Asia, - complementarity with Member States' activities, - synergy with international donors and lending agencies, - sustainability. The Community should develop with each Asian country or region concerned specific environmental priorities based on their needs. The Community strategy based on the three pillars should set out to identify the countries most serious problems and pursue a dialogue on environmental aspects of mutual interest with local beneficiaries. It should also endeavour to promote a participatory approach, increase awareness of the importance of the environment, improve capacity building programmes and assist European companies active in this area.

Environment: Europe-Asia cooperation strategy

1997/2240(COS) - 14/07/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting without debate the report by Mrs Lone DYBKJAER (ELDR, DK) on a Europe-Asia cooperation strategy in the field of the environment, Parliament agreed with the principles set out in the Commission communication but was surprised at the lack of concrete suggestions in the document. It therefore intended to stress the measures the Commission should take to that end. In particular it wished a stronger commitment to combat climate change and a clear linkage to the clean technology and technology transfer schemes agreed at Kyoto. It regretted the Commission's focus on the export-led industrialising Asian countries and affirmed that a cooperation strategy should actively include the South Asian developing countries to a greater extent and should seek sustainable development. The strategy proposed should also help the Asian countries to fulfil the obligations derived from international agreements such as Agenda 21, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Montreal Protocol, etc. Parliament noted that the actions proposed failed to reach the poorest sections of the population and called for specific initiatives. The European Investment Bank should have clear policies concerning the environmental impact of its operations. At the same time Parliament hoped that European Union companies would comply with a uniformly high level of environmental standards. It called for a code of conduct containing environmental standards which European Union companies should uphold when carrying out activities in Asia. It also called on the Commission to develop plans to assist capacity building in national, regional and local government administrations in Asia with regard to environmental management and it stressed the need to support Asian governments in the reducing of administrative deficiencies in this area. Parliament considered it a matter of urgency to integrate experiences from existing programmes into the cooperation process (e.g. the EU-China cooperation programme). With regard to financing, Parliament hoped that public and private funding would be involved with some specific European funding. The programmes financed should be subject to continuous evaluation and should have direct effects on biodiversity. The Union should also, in the financing agreements which it concludes with the Asian countries, impose environmental management conditions. Parliament considered in particular that it would be more efficient to gather together all budgetary elements concerning the environment and cooperation with Asia with a framework programme. It pointed out that water pollution was responsible for more than 500 000 infant deaths a year in Asia and stressed that a significant part of the programme should be devoted to air pollution and renewable sources of energy. It also hoped that more consideration would be given to the problem of forest fires (in particular in Indonesia). Lastly Parliament hoped that in both Asia and Europe the Commission would act to promote greater public awareness of environmental problems and called for a report evaluating the implementation of the strategy after a period of three years.