Basic information

1998/2027(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Middle East: role of the European Union in the peace process and its future assistance **Subject** 6.10.01 Foreign and common diplomatic policy 6.40.05.06 Relations with the countries of the Middle East	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	COLAJANNI Luigi Alberto (PSE)	22/04/1998

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets		
CONT Budgetary Control	TOMLINSON The Lord John E. (PSE)	26/11/1998

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2070	1998-02-23

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/01/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0715	Summary
20/02/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/02/1998	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
21/01/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
21/01/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0042/1999	
11/03/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/06/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/2027(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/4/09700

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0042/1999 OJ C 153 01.06.1999, p. 0003	21/01/1999	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0191/1999 OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0192-0282	11/03/1999	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)0715	16/01/1998	Summary

Middle East: role of the European Union in the peace process and its future assistance

1998/2027(COS) - 16/01/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to redefine the role which should be played by the European Union in the Middle East peace process. SUBSTANCE: The Commission document is a response to the stalemate in the Middle East peace process and its direct impact on the intiatives adopted by the Community in connection with the Barcelona Conference. The failure of the peace process has had a disastrous impact on Europe's economic assistance programme, and the knock-on effect which the Union envisaged in terms of helping to stabilize the region has not been achieved. Instead of attracting private foreign investment, the massive aid from the Union has got bogged down, and economic indicators now show that the living conditions of the Palestinians are deteriorating. Nonetheless, the communication shows that international economic aid, particularly from Europe, has made it possible to keep the process alive and with it the Palestinian Authority. This paradoxical situation therefore makes it desirable to continue the aid. 1998 is the last budgetary year of the aid plan initiated in 1993. In view of the gravity of the situation and in order to give the peace process of chance of survival, the Commission proposes a series of initiatives for the future. These are primarily designed to enhance the role of the Union, both economic and political: 1) bilaterally: the aim is to guarantee the economic development of the Palestinians by eliminating barriers to both domestic and foreign trade. The Commission proposes that the Union should help Israel to eliminate these barriers in the context of common dialogue. It also proposes granting adequate financing for technical assistance projects for the Palestinians; 2) multilaterally: the Union should formulate practical proposals within the framework of the Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWG) which it chairs in order to impart renewed impetus to the regional economic integration process; 3) regionally: the Union should renew its efforts to implement its Euro-Mediterranean policy, which has been at a standstill since the peace process reached deadlock. The Commission particularly proposes organizing a ministerial conference to review the Barcelona process in mid-1998; 4) politically: the Union has positioned itself as an intermediary complementing the USA, as the economic engine of the peace process. It is important that this role should be more correctly recognized and rewarded. The Commission therefore proposes that the role of the Union be re-evaluated in coordination with all parties concerned (Israelis, Palestinians, USA and international community). This new role should be reflected in practical terms at two levels: -with regard to participation, where the Union should be recognized in all the fora established in support of the negotiations between the parties to the conflict, alongside the USA; -with regard to the coordination of financial aid in accordance with a formula to be negotiated with other donors (the Union being the main net contributor to the peace process).

Middle East: role of the European Union in the peace process and its future assistance

1998/2027(COS) - 11/03/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The Parliament adopted its report, drafted by Mr. Luigi COLAJANNI (I, PES), on the peace process and future of assistance to the Middle East. The House expressed its support for the Middle East peace process and called on all sides to avoid taking actions that would exacerbate the situation. One amendment regrets the fact that the Israeli government subsequently added new unilateral conditions to the original Wye agreement that had brought the implementation of the accord to a standstill. MEPs also want to see an independent Palestinian state and the recognition by the Arab world of the State of Israel's existence. It goes on to express concern over the gaps in proper financial control over EU funding to the region, and an amendment that was passed expresses interest in the outcome of the investigation by the Court of Auditors into the issue.