Basic information

1998/2031(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Agenda 2000, Accession partnerships: principles, priorities, intermediate objectives and conditions **Subject** 8.20.04 Pre-accession and partnership	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	WIERSMA Jan Marinus (PSE)	02/03/1998
	DONNER Jörn Johan (PSE)	02/03/1998
	SPECIALE Roberto (PSE)	02/03/1998
	HOFF Magdalene (PSE)	02/03/1998
	CARNERO GONZÁLEZ Carlos (GUE/NGL)	02/03/1998
	VON HABSBURG Otto (PPE)	02/03/1998
	KRISTOFFERSEN Frode (PPE)	02/03/1998
	BERNARD-REYMOND Pierre (PPE)	02/03/1998
	OOSTLANDER Arie M. (PPE)	02/03/1998
	AELVOET Magda G.H. (V)	02/03/1998
	CACCAVALE Ernesto (UPE)	02/03/1998

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	2073	1998-03-16

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
04/02/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1998)0053	Summary
09/03/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		

09/03/1998	Vote in committee		
09/03/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0087/1998	
11/03/1998	Debate in Parliament		
11/03/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
06/04/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/2031(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/4/09756

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0087/1998 OJ C 104 06.04.1998, p. 0015	09/03/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0132/1998 OJ C 104 06.04.1998, p. 0098-0113	11/03/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1998)0053	04/02/1998	Summary

Agenda 2000, Accession partnerships: principles, priorities, intermediate objectives and conditions

1998/2031(COS) - 11/03/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Arie OOSTLANDER (PPE, NL) on the proposals for decisions on the principles, priorities, intermediate objectives and conditions contained in the accession partnerships, Parliament regretted that the Commission and Council had refused formally to consult Parliament on the draft Decisions. It asked to be formally invited to give its opinion in future, before any decision entailing a possible change to the accession partnerships was taken. It regretted, in particular, that some of the points to which it had drawn attention in its resolution of 4 December 1997 (AGENDA 2000 - COS/1997/2183) were included among the objectives to be attained in the medium term, and called for them to be attained in the short term. It called for the abolition of the death penalty to be included among the objectives for all applicant countries, and called on the Commission to develop a strategy for human rights and the rights of minorities in each country. It called on the Commission to introduce as a short-term priority the creation of conditions to make the abolition of visa requirements feasible and for financial resources also to be available for sectors such as health care. It called for institution-building to be made a new priority so as to strengthen regional and local authorities in the countries concerned. It hoped

that the partnerships would enhance cross-border cooperation in all sectors, especially at the external borders of the Union, thereby demonstrating to public opinion the benefits of enlargement.

Agenda 2000, Accession partnerships: principles, priorities, intermediate objectives and conditions

1998/2031(COS) - 04/02/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: defining for each of the applicants for accession in Central and Eastern Europe a programme of work setting out the priorities and short and medium term objectives regarding accession to the Union ('accession partnerships'). SUBJECT: The proposal for a regulation on assistance to the applicant countries in Central and Eastern Europe in the framework of the pre-accession strategy (CNS/1997/0351) states that the principles, priorities and intermediate objectives of accession shall be contained in the individual 'accession partnerships' to be adopted by the Council on a proposal from the Commission. This proposal accordingly sets out the short and medium term objectives and priorities for each of the countries concerned. Concerning the substance of these partnership agreements, which provide a standard framework setting out all pre-accession assistance (Phare, European agreements, etc.), the Commission has consulted the countries concerned in drawing up an outline of measures to be taken sector by sector, the applicant countries being required to establish a number of priorities and a timetable for their realization. For each of the countries concerned, the priorities combine national objectives with the implementation of the Community acquis. They are divided into two groups: 1) Priority questions to be settled in 1998 which will be given particular attention in the Commission report at the end of 1998 on each of the applicant countries. 2) Medium-term objectives to be reached after a few years. The short-term objectives concern economic reform, reinforcement of institutional administrative capacity, measures to speed up the implementation of internal market rules, implementation of the justice and home affairs programme (in particular national programmes to combat corrupting and organized crime) and the adoption and implementation of environmental strategies and reform of the energy sector (in particular nuclear energy). Where appropriate, measures of a political nature are also envisaged (facilities for refugees, naturalization etc). In the longer term, measures to consolidate economic, political and regulatory action already commenced, together with the full restructuring of the agricultural sector to bring it into line with the common agricultural policy are envisaged. This will be accompanied by medium-term measures with regard to the Euro and the application of convergence criteria to the countries concerned (these countries are not expected to adopt the Euro immediately on accession), implementation of an economic and social cohesion policy (regional policy), and the development of appropriate strategies in the field of employment and social affairs. With regard to programming, pre-accession aid will be set for each country for the period 1998-1999 (as part of the Phare programme), together with follow-up measures. Assistance will be conditional upon full respect for the provisions of the association agreements and the accession criteria established in Copenhagen (Agenda 2000 - COS/1997/2183). The Council must decide on the partnership agreements by 15 March 1998, following adoption of the framework regulation (CNS/1997/0351).