Basic information

1998/2045(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Migrants from Iraq and the neighbouring region: EU action plan adopted by the Council on 26.01.1996 **Subject** 7.10.08 Migration policy **Geographical area** Iraq	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	TERRÓN I CUSÍ Anna (PSE)	23/04/1998

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	SAKELLARIOU Jannis (PSE)	22/04/1998

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2099	1998-05-28
Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2116	1998-09-24

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
28/02/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	05573/1998	Summary
09/03/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/05/1998	Debate in Council		
24/09/1998	Debate in Council		
17/02/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
17/02/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0079/1999	
22/03/1999	Debate in Parliament		
23/03/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		

22/06/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/2045(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148 Rules of Procedure EP 050
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/4/09811

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0079/1999 OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0004	17/02/1999	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0221/1999 OJ C 177 22.06.1999, p. 0013-0053	23/03/1999	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	05573/1998	28/02/1998	Summary

Migrants from Iraq and the neighbouring region: EU action plan adopted by the Council on 26.01.1996

1998/2045(COS) - 28/02/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to propose a plan of action at European level to respond to and reduce the influx of immigrants into the Community from Iraq.
SUBSTANCE: Given the constant influx of refugees from Iraq into the Community, the Council decided to propose a programme of action centred on the following: 1) consideration of the causes and origin of the problem: this must be discussed with the Turkish authorities who are also concerned. 2) more effective distribution of humanitarian aid: the Commission should assess the humanitarian aid situation and improve the organization of projects in this area together with the UNHCR. 3) asylum procedures: it is necessary to improve the supply of information concerning asylum seekers and consider how facilities for them can be improved using Community funds. On the basis of the information received, Member States could establish whether their own laws or national practices regarding asylum procedures need to be reviewed. 4) prevention of abuse of asylum procedures: under the provisions of the Dublin Convention Determining the State Responsible for Examining Asylum Applications, Member States could consider adopting the common response to asylum seekers from Iraq who have no identity papers. Pending the establishment of EURODAC (European system for the Comparison of the Dactyloscopic Records of Asylum Seekers), Member States could adopt bilateral arrangements for the comparison of their fingerprints. 5) measures to combat organized crime: the Europol Drug Unit (EDU) will be called upon to consider the possible impact of these migrants on recruitment by criminal organizations. According to the information gathered, a number of joint crime prevention projects could be envisaged with the support of the multidisciplinary group on organized crime. 6) measures to combat clandestine immigration: initially, information will be gathered on procedures for issuing visas in the various Member States and, if necessary, steps taken to modify these procedures. Measures could be taken to ensure that those concerned receive adequate training in the detection of false documents and in border control procedures (particularly at airports), e. g. as part of the Odysseus Programme (CNS 97909). In the long term, the Council is considering a proposal regarding airline liaison officers. Experts could be sent to the third countries concerned with the agreement of that country to assist with controls on land and at sea. In addition, a common strategy will be adopted to penalize those responsible for transporting passengers travelling without documents or with falsified documents. Procedures

are also being envisaged for return of clandestine immigrants in cooperation with Member States and the third countries concerned with which readmission agreements could be concluded involving transit countries also. 7) review procedures are also envisaged with regard to the programme of action.

Migrants from Iraq and the neighbouring region: EU action plan adopted by the Council on 26.01.1996

1998/2045(COS) - 23/03/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Ms. Anna TERRIN I CUSI (PES, Spain) strongly objecting to a Council action plan to deal with refugees from Iraq and the neighbouring region, since it was adopted without consulting Parliament. The resolution expresses disapproval of the fact that the action plan gives the impression that only Iraqi and Kurdish refugees are concerned, whereas people from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Egypt are also affected. There is support for the EU granting aid to those regions facing a sudden influx of immigrants from neighbouring war-torn regions. There is a specific call on the Turkish authorities to find a solution to the Kurdish question. In addition, while there is support for the tough action to combat illegal immigrants, the Parliament takes the view that immigrants without proper documentation should not be automatically expelled. The Commission is requested to come up with a proposal for the directive for the procedures as soon as the Amsterdam Treaty comes into force. The EP is also concerned about the violation of human rights and the oppression faced by minorities and would like to see a detailed study carried out on the situation.