Basic information

1999/2114(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Central America: Community action plan for the reconstruction **Subject** 6.40.10 Relations with Latin America, Central America, Caribbean islands	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	MARSET CAMPOS Pedro (GUE/NGL)	23/09/1999

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	LASCHET Armin (PPE-DE)	22/09/1999
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	KREISSL-DÖRFLER Wolfgang (V/ALE)	04/10/1999
DEVE Development and Cooperation	FERNÁNDEZ MARTÍN Fernando (PPE-DE)	24/11/1999

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2177	1999-05-17
Development	2180	1999-05-21

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
28/04/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0201	Summary
17/05/1999	Debate in Council		
21/05/1999	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
13/09/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/05/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
09/05/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0133/2000	

14/06/2000	Debate in Parliament		
15/06/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0277/2000	Summary
15/06/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/03/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1999/2114(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	AFET/4/10991

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0133/2000 OJ C 067 01.03.2001, p. 0008	09/05/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0277/2000 OJ C 067 01.03.2001, p. 0183-0297	15/06/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0201	28/04/1999	Summary

Central America: Community action plan for the reconstruction

1999/2114(COS) - 15/06/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution drafted by Pedro MARSET CAMPOS (GUE/NGL, Spain) on the reconstruction of Central America. Hurricane Mitch has exacerbated the structural problems which already exist in the region. The Commission's proposal concerning the reconstruction plan is welcomed, but Parliament emphasised that reconstruction should operate in favour of the regional integration process, with a view to creating an interrelation between the natural resources and productive systems of the countries of the region. The Commission must create the necessary mechanism for reducing the vulnerability of the most exposed sectors and groups, strengthening their ability to deal with future catastrophes. Special attention must be given to promoting consultation between governments and civil society. Parliament emphasises the link between environmental pollution and natural disasters. Reconstruction and development strategies must take account of the principle of environmental sustainability. The EU and Member States must immediately ratify the Kyoto Protocol on the reduction of greenhouse gases. The Stockholm monitoring group must improve the cooperation of aid among cooperation bodies and the Commission should officially become a member of the group. Parliament urges the total and immediate cancellation of non-commercial debt, together with as large a cancellation as possible of commercial debts, in line with the Paris Club criteria. The Commission is requested to submit proposals for a significant increase in the budget for reconstruction aid, as well as measures to

increase European Investment Bank funds for the region. Delays in the implementation of the Community Action Plan for the Reconstruction of Central America are deplored, and the Commission needs to allocate to it the necessary human resources. Parliament proposed further facilitating access to EU markets for products from the region, perhaps in the framework of the GSP or the reform of the EU's banana regime so as to encourage products produced in ecologically sustainable conditions. Honduras and Nicaragua are urged to give formal pledges to settle their conflict by peaceful means pending the ruling of the International Court of Justice. Special funds ought to be allocated to the mine-clearance programmes.

Central America: Community action plan for the reconstruction

1999/2114(COS) - 28/04/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to propose a Plan of Action for the Reconstruction of Central America following Hurricane Mitch. CONTENT : the overall objective of the programme is to help rehabilitate and improve the infrastructure, facilities and the administration of education and public health services in the areas hit hardest by the hurricane in October 1998. It should be recalled that the hurricane was the cause of nearly 10 000 people losing their lives; also, a similar number of people remain unaccounted for. As well as the heavy loss of human life, the hurricane directly or indirectly affected almost 6.7 million people (nearly 20% of the total population). The damage has been put at 5.36 billion EURO. Community intervention was seen to be necessary with a view to supporting the rehabilitation of social infrastructures of the people hardest hit by the hurricane, to solving the problem of housing and to bringing emergency aid to the basic culture, all contributing to reducing or preventing the impact of such disasters via a model of sustainable development which is decentralised and includes all parties concerned. The programme concerns 4 countries of Central America : El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala and is spread over a period of 4 years, 1999-2002 (the financial package annexed to the Communication allocates EUR 250 million from the budget heading B7-313 "Rehabilitation", with any shortfall being covered by a transfer within the budget chapter. The programme will pursue the following specific objectives : - the rehabilitation, improvement and expansion of education and public health infrastructure and facilities; - the strengthening of education and public health services to improve their efficiency, quality and accessibility , especially for the poorest sections of the population; - the improvement of the management capacities of government institutions responsible for education and public health provisions; - the promotion of the drafting and implementation of local rehabilitation and development plans based on public consultation and participation; - support for the preparation and introduction of a legal framework aimed at preventing or reducing the impact of natural disasters of this kind. A strong anti-fraud system is foreseen following the principle of decentralisation, working directly with the Commission services in Brussels and the Commission Delegations in the region (implementation of the programme will be inspected on the spot at every stage of the project cycle by the Commission to ensure the required coordination and complementarity with the Member States and local partners). However, in order to ensure this is carried out effectively, the Commission will need to send a number of officials to the delegations and will ask for the creation of 20 posts for additional officials. Other options are envisaged if the Commission does not obtain the necessary human resources (either a technical assistance office (TAO) working on the spot under the authority of the Head of Delegation responsible and the provision of additional funding from the budget for the creation of this TAO, or local staff or Member State or other experts would have to berecruited and would have to be funded from part B of the Community budget. This latter option has the disadvantage of being less transparent and more limiting from the administrative point of view (limited duration of contracts, difficulty to apply the principle of deconcentration). This is why the Commission is asking via the current communication that, the Council and the Parliament take a decision to approve the action plan for the reconstruction of Central America and its mode of operation.