Basic information

1999/2119(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Agreements EC/South Caucasus: partnership and cooperation agreements **Subject** 6.40.04.04 Relations with Caucasus countries **Geographical area** Armenia Azerbaijan Georgia	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	GAHRTON Per (V/ALE)	23/09/1999
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
07/06/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0272	Summary
13/09/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/01/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
23/01/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0028/2002	
27/02/2002	Debate in Parliament		
28/02/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0085/2002	Summary
28/02/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/11/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1999/2119(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/4/11046

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0028/2002	23/01/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0085/2002 OJ C 293 28.11.2002, p. 0022-0096 E	28/02/2002	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0272	07/06/1999	Summary

Agreements EC/South Caucasus: partnership and cooperation agreements

1999/2119(COS) - 07/06/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: proposal for a new approach to the European Union's relations with the South Caucasus under the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements. CONTENT: With the ratification of the EU's Partnership and Cooperation Agreements with Georgia, Armenia and Azerbajan and their entry into force on 01.07.1999, it is considered an appropriate time to reassess the EU's strategy towards the South Caucasus region, and of the most effective use of its instruments under the PCAs. As the economies of the three republics develop, humanitarian aid is playing a less significant role in the Community's overall support. However, new instruments have been introduced in the form of exceptional financial assistance and rehabilitation; at the same time, technical assistance through Tacis has become more focused on agreed policy objectives, with projects aiming at preparation for the entry into force of the PCAs and for WTO accession negotiations being systematically programmed. Interstate programmes, in particular TRACECA and INOGATE, have become important tools for promoting regional cooperation. An analysis is made of what the EU can expect from its actions in the region under the PCAs. Despite the efforts of the three governments, progress on the introduction of the rule of law and the market economy has been slow and the management of central government finances requires further improvement. The business climate is not yet sufficiently attractive. At the same time, the threat to European security posed by instability in the Caucasus has if anything tended to increase. The root of many of the problems facing the three republics is the failure to resolve the ethnic conflicts; the present stalemate has aggravated humanitarian problems and has tended to impede the development of democratic institutions and of the market economy. This has reinforces the three republics' reliance on international assistance, while at the same time rendering that assistance less effective. The Communication therefore suggests that the EU needs to fashion its policy under the PCAs in such a way as to ensure its actions and its assistance become an incentive to positive change. In the medium to long term, relationships in whioch aid and assistance play a primary role need to develop into 'two way' ones with reciprocal benefits for the European partners. The Commission comes to the conclusion that actions aimed at enhancing regional cooperation and post-conflict reconstruction offer the best option for progress on both confidence-building and economic recovery. These need political support through CFSP, and in particular through the institutions set up under the PCAs. Over time, for the EC's assistance to be effective, progress must be made on the resolution of conflicts and the normalisation of political and economic life in the region. Bilateral technical assistance programming under the new Tacis Regulation should become increasingly targeted on strengthening the rule of law, reinforcing the use of EC and international norms, improving fiscal management and the administration of finances and improving the business climate. The EU needs to reinforce the importance it attaches toconflict resolution by sending a clear political signal on the form the Community's assistance can be expected to take in the medium term. It could concentrate on support programmes for the return of refugees to their places of origin through rehabilitation projects, and on the preparation of investment plans, as appropriate, together with other international donors, to attract investors to former conflict zones.

Agreements EC/South Caucasus: partnership and cooperation agreements

1999/2119(COS) - 28/02/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament approved the resolution by Mr Per GAHRTON (Greens/EFA, S). (Please refer to the summary dated 23/01/02). It should be added that the Commission is urged to set up within the TACIS framework ad-hoc twinning programmes between EU regions with special autonomy

status and regions in South Caucasus with minority problems. The resolution calls on the neighbouring countries Russia, Iran an Turkey to contribute constructively to the peaceful development of the South Caucasus Region. Lastly, the Parliament urges the Armenian government to stop defying EU demands to close down the Medzamor nuclear power station by 2004.