Basic information

1999/2120(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) MEDA programme, Mediterranean countries. 1998 report See also 1995/0127(CNS) **Subject** 6.40.05 Relations with the Mediterranean and southern European countries **Geographical area** Mediterranean Sea area	Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	PIÉTRASANTA Yves (V/ALE)	07/12/1999

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	FABRA VALLÉS Juan Manuel (PPE-DE)	23/09/1999
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	RIPOLL Y MARTÍNEZ DE BEDOYA Carlos (PPE-DE)	13/10/1999
DEVE Development and Cooperation	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
		COM(1999)0291	Summary

22/06/1999	Non-legislative basic document published		
13/09/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
12/07/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
12/07/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0205/2000	
04/09/2000	Debate in Parliament		
05/09/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0352/2000	Summary
05/09/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/05/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1999/2120(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Amendments and repeals	See also 1995/0127(CNS)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148 Rules of Procedure EP 050
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/4/11054

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0205/2000 OJ C 135 07.05.2001, p. 0011	12/07/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0352/2000 OJ C 135 07.05.2001, p. 0034-0062	05/09/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0291	22/06/1999	Summary

MEDA programme, Mediterranean countries. 1998 report

1999/2120(COS) - 05/09/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Yves PIETRASANTA (Greens/EFA, F) putting forward a draft resolution on the Commission's report on the implementation of the MEDA programme - 1998 annual report. In adopting this report however, the Parliament stressed the decisive role which decentralised cooperation can play in the Mediterranean in promoting democracy and in supporting the emergence of a civil society. The Parliament

calls for the programme's implementing rules to be simplified and for a more equitable breakdown of funds between the three dimensions of the partnership and for more political dialogue in each or these areas. In addition to these requests, the Parliament also called for the following, amongst others, in its resolution: - that the Member States which have not yet ratified outstanding association agreements (notably that with Jordan) do so as a matter of urgency; - that MEDA have a more strategic and integrated approach aimed at sustainable development; -that interregional cooperation be stepped up, so that wide-ranging horizontal programmes can be put in place; - that the Commission speed up the process of negotiating the association agreements which are still outstanding; - that MEDA funds be substantially increased for regional programmes and projects with a south-south dimension; - that the reform provided for in the new MEDA II regulation and the simplification of the procedures become operational as soon as possible; - that the Commission make available to the Parliament and the public, an annual report on the use of the funds; - that the Commission draw up an annual report specifically on human rights in the Mediterranean; - that information on the process of programming, adoption, implementation and evaluaiton of the projects be made available in due course to permit genuine public consultation; - that democracy and sustainable development be integral features of the programming process; - that the MEDA be subject to the same social and environmental standards as those already in force under other Community policies and instruments; - that the Commission start, before the end of 2000, a participatory process of strategic evaluation of the social and environmental impact of the Euro-Mediterranean free trade area; - that specific measures be financed by MEDA aimed at strengthening cooperation in agriculture and rural development in order to improve the quality of life of the countryside and to reduce food dependency; - that the Commission, as a matter of urgency, relaunch the MEDA programmes under a more appropriate formula; - that the gender dimension be taken into account in all initiatives undertaken under the MEDA projects; - that MEDA funds for training actions in all areas of the partnership be increased substantially to be able to benefit all societies in the beneficiary countries; - that the eligibility criteria of projects be revised so that they are simplified and procedures for the allocation andpayment of funds are more flexible with the possibility of reducing the scope of projects, in particular by reintroducing MEDA micro-actions; - that the short and medium-term environment action programme (SMAP) be reinforced so that it can become a consolidated and operational structure before the end of 2000; - that a regional cooperation programme for the management of water, with annual appropriations of at least EUR 10 million, be established before the end of 2000; - that regional cooperation projects aimed at combatting marine pollution, be stepped up; - that action in the area of renewable energy be given priority in 2010, with annual energy savings of 2.5% for all sectors of energy consumption.

MEDA programme, Mediterranean countries. 1998 report

1999/2120(COS) - 22/06/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to review the implementation of the MEDA Programme in 1998. CONTENT : this document provides a review of the implementation of the MEDA Programme for 1998 and of the state of the expenditure for all of the actions falling under this programme since 1995. The MEDA Programme is the main component of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership's financial cooperation for the period 1995-1999, i.e EUR 3.475 million out of the EUR 4.685 million budget allocated to the 12 Mediterranean partners at the Cannes European Summit. In 1995 and 1996, the MEDA Programme progressively replaced the existing financial instruments, mainly the Financial Protocols, and in 1998 represented about 90% of the total financial commitments from the EU Budget in the Mediterranean. The MEDA Programme is mainly made up of grants, but also includes risk capital and interest subsidies. Some 90% of the resources allocated to MEDA are channelled bilaterally to the partners (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and the Palestinian Authority). The other 10% of the resources are devoted to regional activities: all the partners are eligible to benefit from these activities. MEDA resources are subject to programming: three-year national indicative programmes are drawn up jointly for the bilateral channel, and a regional indicative programme covers the multilateral activities. As far as the implementation of the MEDA Programme is concerned, the report indicates that the programme has advanced significantly in the course of 1998 given that the last remaining framework financing conventions have finally been signed with the authorities of the Mediterranean partners. These conventions establish the legal and administrative framework for implementation of EU cooperation activities. The MEDA Programme, endowed with EUR 3.475 million in commitment credits for the period 1995-1999, has produced actual commitments of EUR 2.498 million for the first four years (1995-1998) and the actual payments of EUR 648 million. These appropriation are allocated as follows : 1) Commitments : the annual commitment appropriations available are managed by the European Commission on the basis of the MEDA Regulation and within a programming process conducted jointly with the administration of the beneficiary Partners. These appropriations were practically fully utilised in 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998. Thus, in budgetary terms, the Mediterranean partners have clearly demonstrated their absorption capacity since practically 100% of commitment credits available on the MEDA budget line have been consumed. Over the period 1995-1998, commitments went to four main types of operations: - support to structural adjustment (9% of total commitments); - support to economic transition and private sector development (38% of total); - classical development projects (42% of total); - regional projects (11% of total). 2) Payments : the rate of payments of the MEDA Programme is a direct function of the type of operation for which commitmentsare made. In fact, some operations, such as support to structural adjustment, result in payments over a short time span, generally of two years, provided that conditions agreed between the Commission and the beneficiary Government are met. Economic transition and private sector development operations generally consist in technical assistance operations over a 3-4 year period, which determines the payment period. Classical development operations (rural development, basic health care, education, drinking water, sewage, etc) require works and services, as well as procurement of equipment following tendering procedures. The implementation period is longer, generally 4 to 6 years. Lastly, regional projects financed under the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership often consist in completely novel forms of cooperation, necessitating innovative financial and legal frameworks of a complex nature. It is estimated that payments are spread over a 3 to 5 year period. Taking into account the current mix of operations within the MEDA Programme, it is estimated that the average implementation (i.e. payment) period for each of the annual tranches of the MEDA Programme is theoretically 4 years. For the period 1995-1997, cumulative payments have reached EUR 648 million, or 26% of commitments made over the same period.