Basic information

1999/2121(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) Agreement EU/Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia FYROM: negotiations for a stabilisation and association agreement **Subject** 6.40.03 Relations with South-East Europe and the Balkans **Geographical area** Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	SWOBODA Hannes (PSE)	23/09/1999

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	ZACHARAKIS Christos (PPE-DE)	13/10/1999
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	VALDIVIELSO DE CUÉ Jaime (PPE-DE)	09/11/1999

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
External Relations	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
08/09/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	SEC(1999)1279	Summary
25/10/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
01/02/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
01/02/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0031/2000	

16/02/2000	Debate in Parliament		
17/02/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0066/2000	Summary
17/02/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
29/11/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1999/2121(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/4/11051

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0031/2000 OJ C 339 29.11.2000, p. 0005	01/02/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0066/2000 OJ C 339 29.11.2000, p. 0166-0266	17/02/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(1999)0300	16/06/1999	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	SEC(1999)1279	08/09/1999	Summary

Agreement EU/Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia FYROM: negotiations for a stabilisation and association agreement

1999/2121(COS) - 08/09/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

The recommendation aims to authorise the Commission to negotiate a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). In line with its proposals concerning a Stabilisation and Association process for the countries of South-Eastern Europe (see procedure COS/1999/2126), the Commission adopted a report on 16.06.1999 on the feasibility of negotiating a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In the conclusions of this report, the Commission indicates, in particular, that this country, when account is taken of the political and economic reforms undertaken could be in line with the requirements of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, after reasonable transition periods depending on the sectors concerned. The objective of this recommendation is to propose negotiating directives with a view to concluding an Agreement with FYROM. The main elements of the negotiating directives are as follows: 1) the insertion into the Agreement of provisions establishing a political dialogue with FYROM; 2) prospect of the establishment of a Free Trade Area covering goods and

services, compatible with the provisions laid down by the WTO within a period of 10 years from the entry into force of the Agreement; 3) measures relating to the free movement of workers, freedom of establishment, provision of services, current payments and capital movements; 4) commitment from FYROM to gradually bring its legislation into line with that of the Community, in particular in the main fields of the internal market; 5) measures relating to the cooperation of FYROM in a great number of fields, notably Justice and Home Affairs. The Agreement will simultaneously affect all sectors of joint competence (Community and Member States).

Agreement EU/Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia FYROM: negotiations for a stabilisation and association agreement

1999/2121(COS) - 16/06/1999 - Document attached to the procedure

PURPOSE : to propose a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). CONTENT : In accordance with its communication on the regional strategy of stabilisation for the Western Balkans (as mentioned in document 1999/2126/COS) the Commission proposes, with the current document, the feasibility to start negotiations in order to conclude the first agreement of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the FYROM. It deals with, in the first instance, describing the possible outlines of the future agreement between the EC and the FYROM and to evaluate the latter's capacity to fulfil the obligations under this new type of contractual agreements as already described by the Commission in its communication 1999/2126/COS. The document also takes into account the economic and political parameters in order to evaluate whether or not the country responds to the requirements of a Stabilisation and Association Agreement. It emerges from this analysis that : 1) on the political level, the FYROM has undertaken serious political reforms in order to transform itself into a democratic country and it has shown its growing respect for human rights and minorities (its involvement in seeking a peaceful solution to the Kosovo crisis raised its democratic credibility on an international level even if the global attitude regarding the Kosovar refugies was influenced by the internal policy considerations on the ethnic balance; 2) on the economic level, the situation is under control, with an estimated overall fiscal deficit of 0.7% of GDP in 1998 and a rise of 3.5%. However, the unemployment rate remains high and the banking sector shows a heavy deficit.; 3) on the trade level, the liberalisation of trade has been almost fully achieved and the trade deficit has been reduced from 285 million EURO (1997) to 245 million EURO (1998). It would be possible, therefore, to envisage a Free Trade Area within a period of 10 to 12 years. In addition, the report shows the substantial efforts that remain to be made in the area of current payments and the movement of capital, as well as, the approximation of its legislation with the acquis in the areas of services and the approximation of laws. Other efforts of harmonisation are also awaited in the field of state aids, public procurement, intellectual property and consumer protection. It is envisaged that the Stabilisation and Association Agreement takes into consideration these various deficiencies and puts in place a cooperation in all the areas (including Justice and Home Affairs). Financial and technical assistance would also be foreseen, as well as access to certain Community programmes. In conclusion, the Commission believes that, in consideration of the political and economic reforms undertaken by the FYROM, it would be feasible to envisage the opening of negotiations for a Stabilisation ans Association Agreement. However, it would be necessary that the country continues its reforms and progress in order to harmonise its legislation with the acquis communautaire.

Agreement EU/Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia FYROM: negotiations for a stabilisation and association agreement

1999/2121(COS) - 17/02/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Mr. Johannes Swoboda (PES, A) approving the agreement with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. There are a number of amendments one of which takes the view that aid should not be tied. The European Parliament recommends that the Stabilisation and Association Agreement should take the form of a joint agreement based on Article 310 of the EC Treaty. It recommends that, in view of the fact that the question of the legal personality of the EU has not yet been clarified, the use of Articles 24 and 38 of the EU Treaty be ruled out as a legal basis for the Stabilisation and Association Agreement in conjunction with any other provision of the Treaty establishing the European Communities. In addition, the EP stresses: - the exemplary character which the agreement with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has for the other countries of the region and supports the agreement's approach towards regional co-operation; - that in view of the unequal development and specific features of the countries in question (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, FYROM and Albania), each country needs to be considered on its own merits and no country must become the hostage of its neighbours where the process of approximation to EU structures is concerned. Furthermore, the European Parliament advocates active EU regional aid under the Stability Pact to support, for example, regional infrastructure projects such as the expansion of European corridors eight and ten, cross-border energy, environment and water projects, joint improvement of the management of borders and customs or joint multilateral police training. It also advocates the continuation of the multi-beneficiary, cross-border programmes under PHARE beyond the year 2000 so that the process of regional co-operation can actually be implemented. The EP takes the view that the stabilisation and association process should also receive appropriate financial from the EU in the form of appropriate aid programmes. Moreover, it takes the view that implementation of the stabilisation and association agreement should be accompanied by a White Paper to serve as a precise guide for the country in its efforts to appropriate to the acquis communautaire. More importantly, the European Parliament takes the view that implementation of the programmes should be decentralised and shifted from Brussels to Skopje. Due attention must be paid to enhanced co-ordination between programming, management, implementation and follow-up, with as short-term priorities improving the civil service, customs and frontier management and promoting SMEs.