Basic information

2000/2158(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Albania and the neighbouring region: action plan. High Level Group on asylum and migration **Subject** 7.10.06 Asylum, refugees, displaced persons; Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 7.10.08 Migration policy **Geographical area** Albania	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	KARAMANOU Anna (PSE)	23/05/2000

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	PACK Doris (PPE-DE)	12/07/2000

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/04/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	07886/2000	Summary
03/07/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
11/10/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
11/10/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0287/2000	
26/10/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0489/2000	Summary
26/10/2000	Debate in Parliament		
26/10/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
12/07/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2158(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	LIBE/5/12777

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0287/2000 OJ C 197 12.07.2001, p. 0008	11/10/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0489/2000 OJ C 197 12.07.2001, p. 0227-0428	26/10/2000	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	07886/2000	17/04/2000	Summary

Albania and the neighbouring region: action plan. High Level Group on asylum and migration

2000/2158(COS) - 17/04/2000 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present an action plan on Albania, and the neighbouring region with particular reference to Kosovo. CONTENT : This action plan is drafted by a High Level Working group on Asylum and Immigration in the Council. It offers a comprehensive picture of the political and economic situation in Albania and the neighbouring regions, including measures and actions taken by other international organisations such as the UNHCR, and outlines ongoing and possible future actions. Albania is a country of both origin and transit for migration flows directed towards European countries. During the first half of 1999, Albania was shaken by the most serious refugee crisis in Europe since World War II, but the effect of the Kosovo crisis on the general situation in Albania has been positive, both in political and economic terms. Since 1990, Albania has experienced massive migration. Since 1992, Albanians have left the country mainly for economic reasons. It remains the poorest country in Europe. Emigration is perceived as the only immediate response to the country's economic needs and social instability. Albanians leave their homes due to lack of security and violation of human rights. The country remains marked by a serious lack of public order and security, and there is widespread crime, arms trafficking and corruption. In 1999, the government started to elaborate, in cooperation with WEU/MAPE, a strategic plan for the development of the police. There is EU/Council of Europe support for the strengthening of the judiciary. Insecurity is one of the factors responsible for a very low level of foreign direct investment. Macro-economic stabilization remains vulnerable in the light of the refugee problem and the lack of public order. Immigration flows from and through Albania are likely to contine. With regard to Kosovo, there must be not only protection for returnees, but also the creation of a secure environment for all the people, bridging the humanitarian aid to reconstruction phase with the aim of achieving self-reliance, reconstruction of infrastructure, job creation and reactivation of economic activity. The plan outlines several measures required by the Community/Union ranging from the field of foreign policy to development and economic cooperation and justice and home affairs. Some are already being taken, such as the Joint Actions specifically devoted to Albania, and should be continued. Others are new and have financial implications, such as charging ECMM with monitoring migration flows in cooperation with international organisations active in this field.

Albania and the neighbouring region: action plan. High Level Group on asylum and migration

2000/2158(COS) - 26/10/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament endorsed the report by Mrs Anna KARAMANOU (PES, Gr) on the draft action plan for Albania and neighbouring regions. It welcomes the fact that this draft report considers both the economic and the social causes of the migration in its analysis. It especially endorses the specific measures in the areas of asylum and migration to which the Action Plan refers and other topics in the sphere of justice and home affairs. On the other hand, the Parliament is concerned at the precarious situation in Albania, namely the political instability and the failure to respect laws. The Parliament stresses that, while the Action Plan focuses on measures to curb immigration from Albania to the EU, these measures are not combined with measures on legal protection and basic economic and social security for immigrants and refugees in Albania. As immigration is influenced by many political, historical, social and economic factors, unlawful entry into the EU should not in itself be considered a criminal act. It is stressed that many refugees and asylum seekers often have no choice other than unlawful entry. The Parliament has also stressed the need for the Albanian government to strengthen democracy and is calling for the rights of minorities to be respected. It calls for the adoption of legislative measures particularly regarding immigration from Albania and the neighbouring region. Moreover, the Parliament calls for the establishment of the dialogue between European officials and the central and local authorities of Albania, in cooperation with the Council of Europe and with Italy and Greece, the main EU countries who suffer the consequences of Albania's instability. Lastly, the Member States are called upon to apply legislative measures designed for the readmission to Albania of persons whom asylum applications have been rejected and to ensure that the administrative structures responsible for examining their application and substantially strengthened.