Basic information

2001/2045(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
EC/China relations: implementing the 1998 communication, measures to strenghten the Community policy **Subject** 6.40.08 Relations with Asian countries **Geographical area** China	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	GRAÇA MOURA Vasco (PPE-DE)	20/03/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	WESTENDORP Y CABEZA Carlos (PSE)	15/10/2001

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
External Relations	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
08/09/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2000)0552	Summary
15/03/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
15/05/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0265	Summary
26/02/2002	Vote in committee		Summary

26/02/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0076/2002	
10/04/2002	Debate in Parliament		
11/04/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0179/2002	Summary
11/04/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
29/05/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2045(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/5/14540

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0076/2002	26/02/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0179/2002 OJ C 127 29.05.2003, p. 0593-0652 E	11/04/2002	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0552	08/09/2000	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0265	15/05/2001	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2003)0533	10/09/2003	Summary

EC/China relations: implementing the 1998 communication, measures to strenghten the Community policy

2001/2045(COS) - 10/09/2003 - Follow-up document

PURPOSE : to present a new strategy for a maturing partnership with China. CONTENT : this policy paper adopted by the Commission sets out a framework that is intended to guide EU policy and action towards China over the next two to three years. The paper identifies six priorities for relations in the coming years, including sharing responsibilities in promoting global governance, supporting China's transition to an open society based upon the rule of law and the respect for human rights and promoting China's economic opening domestically and externally. The paper also contains a number

of concrete proposals with a view to enhancing EU-China relations in key areas, including economic and trade relations and China's internal reform process. Finally, the paper intends to promote, the ongoing reflection in China about future policy towards the EU, which is to find expression in a policy paper later this year, the first ever of its kind in China's foreign relations. The appearance of this paper is evidence of the new importance China gives to the relationship. The Policy Paper contains a number of concrete proposals: - in the field of global governance, the paper suggests ways to raise the efficiency of the political dialogue. It also recommends to better address global and regional governance and security issues, such as non-proliferation and arms control, international crime or illegal migration, where the EU has a clear interest in a readmission agreement, and to enhance co-operation to promote the multilateral system and rules for global governance - human rights : at the same time, the paper stresses the need to increase the efficiency of the human rights dialogue, which is an essential component of the political dialogue, and to enhance its visibility and transparency. A special emphasis is put on the larger role that should be given to China's developing civil society in protecting and supporting individuals and communities disadvantaged by the ongoing economic and social changes; - promoting the economic opening of China : the paper underlines the need to strengthen the dialogue with the Chinese administration on the implementation of China's WTO Commitments and to work together to ensure success of the Doha Development Agenda, particularly on rules-related issues such as investment, competition, trade facilitation and transparency in government procurement. It also calls for a reinforcement of the dialogue on bilateral trade and investment issues and of the trade-related co-operation programmes; - strenthening cooperation : in order to assist China in its internal reform process, it is suggested that the existing dialogues (on environment, energy, science and technology, information society, etc.) be reinforced and that new dialogues be launched, e.g. in the fields of industrial policy, competition policy, education or human resources development; - raising the EU's profile in China : the paper envisages multiplying contacts, disseminating information and publications through internet and audio-visual media, organising public events like road shows or round tables, promoting people to people contacts (with special emphasis on the conclusion of an agreement on Authorised Destination Status (ADS) in the field of tourism),while ensuring full co-ordination with Member States. The Policy Paper will be transmitted to the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament for follow up. The EU's co-operation programme, which supports activities in many of the above areas will follow the aims set out in the Country Strategy Paper approved in 2002, although the National Indicative Programme (NIP) is to be adjusted this year to take account of some operational changes. Outside of the NIP itself, China will continue to be a major beneficiary of the EU's regional co-operation and research programmes, where new initiatives, for example in the fight against SARS, will begin shortly.

EC/China relations: implementing the 1998 communication, measures to strenghten the Community policy

2001/2045(COS) - 15/05/2001 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present a communication on the Implementation of the 1998 Communication and Future Steps for a more Effective EU Policy. CONTENT : The Communication suggests ways of developing EU-China relations by defining concrete and practical short and medium term action points for EU policy to progress more effectively towards the long term aims defined in 1998. Action points are intended to be as operational as possible. They should help set the agenda for focussed EU-China relations. Key suggestions include: 1) Engaging China further in the international community through a continued strengthening of the political dialogue by: - ensuring greater coherence and continuity in scheduling agreed talks at all levels, - targeted reinforcement of the expert level dialogue on specific issues of particular interest, - a commitment to ensure a better preparation of, and a link between, the dialogue at all levels, - better integration of interrelated global issues, and the consideration of producing occasional joint EU-China texts on issues of common concern in the margins of Summit meetings, - codifying the framework for the EU-China political dialogue. 2) Supporting China's transition to an open society through: - a more focussed and results-oriented human rights dialogue, taking full account of the conclusions of the January 2001 General Affairs Council; - working with China to support relevant reforms under way; - implementing and preparing human rights-related assistance programmes in support of the rule of law and legal reform, economic, social, cultural as well as civil and political rights, and democracy; - programming and identifying new areas for EU assistance, such as the prevention of torture. 3) Integrating China further in the world economy through: - the finalisation of China's WTO accession, - close monitoring of the correct implementation of China's WTO commitments, - implementing EU assistance programmes to make WTO accession a success, - strengthening existing sectoral dialogues and agreements in key areas (information society, environment, energy, science and technology) and develop new ones (enterprise policy, industrial standards and certification, customs, maritime transport, securities and competition policy), - strengthening EU-China business-to-business dialogue, - reinforcing efforts to deal with bilateral trade disputes. 4) Making better use of EU co-operation programmes with China by: - reinforced long-term programming, - agreeing on a Country Strategy Paper, - focussing EC assistance activities in three main areas: promotion of sustainable development, encouragement of good governance initiatives and promotion of the rule of law, and support for economic and social reform with a view to supporting the efforts by China to ensure regional and social cohesion, the fight against poverty and the promotion of equal rights between men and women. 5) Raising the EU's profile in China by strengthening all aspectsof EU information policy vis-à-vis China. The action points proposed are not exhaustive. They are intended as pointers for what could be undertaken over the coming years, building on what has been achieved so far.

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2001/2045(COS) - 11/04/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on China drafted by Vasco GRACA MOURA (EPP-ED, Portugal). (Please refer to the document dated 26/02/02.) Parliament pointed out that, whilst WTO accession marks a major development with China's relations with the rest of the world, the next few years will test the regime's capacity to adapt to a changing world on its own doorstep. Economic porgress can only succeed in tandem with social and political progress. China must show that it is able to deal with the social and labour problems that will arise as a result of WTO accession. In the longer term, the US, the EU, Japan and other industrialised countries, working together with China, will have to develop programmes in the rural and disadvantaged areas, outside the booming cities, to combat increasing inequalities and create educational opportunities for the majority of the Chinese population who live there. China's potential rests with a vast territory and a population where only the inhabitants of the richest areas located along the coast form a market, both characteristics of a continental economy driven by internal demand. There is, accordingly, a need for China to build up

efficient internal cohesion policies. On Taiwan, Parliament felt that the participation of the latter in ASEM could be a step forward as to the resumption of a genuine dialogue between Beijing and Taipei with a view to developing cross-Straits relations. On Tibet, members share the concern of the Dalai Lama on the systematic destruction of the Tibetan environment, traditions, culture and religion, at the worsening political situation of the Tibetan people and the deteriorating human rights situation. China should halt the controversial plan of large-scale immigration to Tibet with regard particularly to the 20000 people who are due to move to the Dulan region of Quinghai province. Negotiations without preconditions should be resumed with the Dalai Lama with a view to defining a statute of full autonomy for Tibet, with the only exceptions being foreign and defence policy.

EC/China relations: implementing the 1998 communication, measures to strenghten the Community policy

2001/2045(COS) - 08/09/2000 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present a report on the implementation of the communication "Building a Comprehensive Partnership with China" CONTENT : on 25 March 1998, the Commission adopted this communication aiming in particular to engage China further in the international community and to support China's transition to an open society and to integrate China further into the global economy. To achieve these aims, the Commission hoped, inter alia, to upgrade the political dialogue, encourage China's interest in ASEM and Asian regional issues, and strike the right terms for China's accession to the WTO. The Commission would also use the EU's experience and expertise to add value in assisting China's reform process, and to add human rights, the environment and sustainable development to the agenda. Since the Communication was adopted, the EU-China relationship has greatly intensified. The first annual EU-China summits in 1998 and 1999 laid the groundwork for a more broadly based political dialogue. At the same time, an increasing succession of meetings and dialogues at all levels, and in numerous areas of concern both to the EU and to China, improved communication and promoted mutual understanding. The agenda dialogue has been expanded to include regional security, economic and trade issues, and human rights. This could be broadened further, as noted in the 1998 Communication, to include other global issues such as illegal immigration and eventually drug-trafficking, money laundering and organised crime. On 19 May 2000, the EU and China signed a Bilateral Agreement, paving the way for China's accession to the World Trading Organisation (WT0). Once China joins the WTO, a key challenge for the EU will be to develop mutually acceptable methods to monitor and assist with China's compliance with its WTO commitments. The EU will also continue to address remaining market access barriers. The EU's Co-operation Programme with China has expanded steadily and now largely focuses on supporting sustainable development to assist China's overall reform process. The Programme's priorities and contents will be reviewed in order to keep up with the pace of constant change, as well as to improve the impact and visibility of EU assistance to China. Because of the magnitude of the challenges China faces, the Commission will also need to define further those areas that can benefit most from EU co-operation. It is clear, however, that the priorities will include socio-economic reform, human resources development, education, the environment, the promotion of human rights and the rule of law. The Commission's efforts will concentrate on sustainable development projects in the agreed priority areas, but the EU will continue to be flexible and ready to adapt to new challenges and changing situations, as and when they occur. In line with agreed EU policy on global poverty reduction, the Commission will also continue to bear in mind, when formulating new co-operation projects, that 11.5% of China's population still live in absolute poverty - with an income of less than USD 1.00 per day. In accordance with the recently adopted European Community Development Policy, the EU will also improve delivery and better implementation of agreed projects. The time is now ripe to explore whether the dialogue into thoseareas where, as foreseen in the 1998 Communication, both the EU and China have an interest in exchanging views and working together can be broadened. These areas should include, for example, the fight against illegal drug trafficking, organised crime, money-laundering and illegal immigration. These issues of global importance have long been of concern to the EU. They will be of increasing concern to China, particularly as Chinese leaders fully realise the challenges these issues pose to social stability. Some of these issues could, after exploratory talks with Member States, be included on the agenda of forthcoming sessions of the EU-China political dialogue, including the next EU-China Summit, scheduled to take place on 23 October 2000.