Basic information

2001/2139(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
EU/USA relations: reinforcing the transatlantic cooperation, strategy and results **Subject** 6.40.11 Relations with industrialised countries **Geographical area** United States	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	ELLES James (PPE-DE)	28/05/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	MANN Erika (PSE)	29/05/2001

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2346	2001-05-14
General Affairs	2342	2001-04-09
Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2411	2002-02-28

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
External Relations	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
20/03/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0154	Summary
09/04/2001	Debate in Council		
14/05/2001	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		

03/09/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/02/2002	Debate in Council		
23/04/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
23/04/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0148/2002	
15/05/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0243/2002	Summary
15/05/2002	Debate in Parliament		
15/05/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
31/07/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2139(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148 Rules of Procedure EP 050
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/5/14961

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0148/2002	23/04/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0243/2002 OJ C 180 31.07.2003, p. 0162-0392 E	15/05/2002	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0154	20/03/2001	Summary

EU/USA relations: reinforcing the transatlantic cooperation, strategy and results

2001/2139(COS) - 20/03/2001 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to assess the New Transatlantic Agenda and offer proposals to reinforce EU-US co-operation. CONTENT : In 1995 the New Transatlantic Agenda (NTA) extended EU-US co-operation beyond questions of EC core competence to the full range of political and economic issues, thus recognising the growing role of the EU as an international actor. At the outset of a new US administration, we need to assess this partnership. Many of the objectives set out in 1995 have been achieved, but there have been difficulties in setting priorities to ensure a focused and sustained co-operation.

The six-monthly cycle of EU-US summits and ministerial meetings has not developed its full potential. No amount of strategic planning can guarantee fewer disputes or deeper co-operation. Although trade relations are generally harmonious, there will always be some disputes, but they must be managed and kept in perspective. EU-US leadership on new global challenges is necessary if international action is to have any impact on issues such as organised crime, spread of infectious diseases or the proliferation of weapons. European Security and Defence Policy and the Euro will also bring new challenges. Summits should concentrate on the most important challenges - strategic themes- facing the EU and US. Possible themes could be emerging security challenges, globalisation and the multilateral trading system, the fight against organised crime, energy issues, consumer protection, macroeconomic issues, the fight against poverty in developing countries and the digital economy. The bi-annual summits should be slimmed down reverting to the original format of a restricted leaders meeting. The US has formally mentioned the need to review the format and frequency of summits. A reduction in the number could have a knock-on effect on other high level meetings with third countries. Fewer meetings, better prepared might be more productive. It is necessary to ensure that the political leadership exercises close control of a process that risks becoming too bureaucratic and cumbersome. Strong political leadership is needed to set a co-operative agenda and to garner the true potential of transatlantic co-operation.

EU/USA relations: reinforcing the transatlantic cooperation, strategy and results

2001/2139(COS) - 15/05/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the Transatlantic relationship, drafted by James ELLES (EPP-ED, United Kingdom). (Please refer to the document dated 23/04/02.) Parliament acknowledged the depth of emotions caused by the events on September 11, but stated that the attacks had nothing to do with either the so-called clash of civilisations nor with a single act of terrorism, but rather with a conflict aimed at undermining open societies, which makes it indispensable to reinforce ties between the EU and US. International terrorism must be combated not only by military means but by addressing the roots of the tremendous political, social, economic and ecological problems of today's world. Parliament notes the importance of the concept of linkage, whereby aspects of economic, political and security policy are tied closely together. Closer institutional relations between NATO and the EU are needed in order to make them both stronger. Parliament expressed its concern about the very different approaches to the issue of collective security that seem to exist on both sides of the Atlantic. Priority must be given to important security topics such as non-proliferation of weapons of mass-destruction, missile defence systems and the role of the UN, and the Security Council in particular. The strongest terms were use to express Parliament's disapproval of the USA's unsigning of the Treaty establishing the International Criminal Court. Members noted the dramatic difference in "value for money" between EU defence spending and that of the US. This can only be overcome by courageous steps in the field of arms procurement. Balanced cooperation between the EU and the USA in the field of external relations is vital to solve the major conflicts in the world. Parliament welcomes the positive results of joint post-war actions in the Balkans. The Israel-Palestine conflict does require an active approach of both translantic partners working closely together. On economic and trade relations, Parliament strongly condemned the unilateral measures taken by the US in the case of steel, as well as the recent decision to approve a huge increase in agricultural subsidies in breach of the commitments made at Doha in 2001. This action will undermine WTO negotiations, with appalling consequences for world trade and for sustainable development and export prospects for developing countries. A number of suggestions are made for an update of the TEP. There are suggestions for a renewed transatlantic partnership, where the pursuit of common global interests act as the central defining political purpose of the transatlantic partnership. Finally, Parliament calls for an end to the embargo against Cuba, and the rescinding of the extra-territorial "Helms-Burton" law.