Basic information

2001/2276(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) Human rights and democratisation: role of the Union in third countries **Subject** 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general	Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	DÍEZ GONZÁLEZ Rosa (PSE)	28/05/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	DI LELLO FINUOLI Giuseppe (GUE/NGL)	20/02/2002
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	MARTIN Hans-Peter (PSE)	11/07/2001
DEVE Development and Cooperation	FERRER Concepció (PPE-DE)	25/06/2001
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	DYBKJÆR Lone (ELDR)	01/10/2001

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2362	2001-06-25

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Development	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
08/05/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0252	Summary
25/06/2001	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
13/12/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/03/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
19/03/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0084/2002	
24/04/2002	Debate in Parliament		
25/04/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0204/2002	Summary
25/04/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
05/06/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2276(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/5/15573

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0084/2002	19/03/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0204/2002 OJ C 131 05.06.2003, p. 0017-0147 E	25/04/2002	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0252	08/05/2001	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2001)0801	22/05/2001	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2001)0891	06/06/2001	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2003)0294	21/05/2003	Summary

Human rights and democratisation: role of the Union in third countries

2001/2276(COS) - 06/06/2001 - Document attached to the procedure

This document explains the process of selection of thematic and geographical priorities for the implementation of the 2001 European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). The EIDHR has, in 2001, a total appropriation of 97.03 M EUR, covers five budget lines and has three principal procedures for identifying projects: - the Calls for Proposals that will be implemented by civil society operators; - targeted projects; - micro-projects facilities, which are small grants made available to and administered directly by selected Delegations. In selecting priorities, two kinds of inputs were considered: - a political input, provided by the analysis of recent EU official statements. -a procedural input based on the Commission services know-how, direct knowledge of countries and regions and ongoing cooperation programmes and projects. For 2001, 12 thematic priorities were selected. These include, the support for education, training and awareness-raising in the area of HR, and support for measures to combat racism and xenophobia and to protect minorities and indigenous peoples. There are a restricted number of themes for each country/region, so as to enhance focus and impact of the EU action in the field. The Call for Proposals involved ten priority themes. A total of 44 M EUR allocated corresponds to 50% of Budget Lines B7-701, 702, and 703. Projects to be financed via the remaining two budget lines -B7-704N and B7-709N- will be selected as targeted projects. The total available for targeted and micro projects in 2001 amounts approximately to 53.3 M EUR. The document gives a breakdown of the funds available. Targeted projects are necessary in order to pursue objectives that cannot effectively be achieved via the instrument of the CfP. The document gives a number of reasons concerning both the nature of the action and the type of implementing partners which justify the necessary of this instrument. One example is projects to be financed out of funds within B7-704N (International Criminal Court) and B7-709N (Electoral Assistance and Observation). These two budget lines were not included in the CfP because of the specificity of these sectors and the limited number of implementing partners. There are two tables in this document which indicate which thematic areas must be considered as priorities in each country for each budget line.

Human rights and democratisation: role of the Union in third countries

2001/2276(COS) - 08/05/2001 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: To set out a strategy on the EU's role in promoting human rights and democratisation in third countries. CONTENT: All fifteen Member States of the European Union are democratic states respecting fundamental human rights and adhering to the rule of law. This offers the EU, as an international organisation, a unique opportunity to promote, encourage and advance human rights and democratisation globally. The purpose of this Communication, prepared by the Commission and forwarded to the European Parliament and Council for consideration, is to assess the EU's future position on human rights and democratisation in its dealings with third countries. The European Union seeks to uphold the universality and indivisibility of human rights - civil, political, economic, social and cultural. This has been strengthened in recent years through the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights which was officially proclaimed following the Nice summit in December 2000. On a global perspective the EU has a number of sound reasons to promote human rights and democratisation. A large portion of the EU budget is devoted to development aid and financial assistance programmes. One of the main aims of these development programmes is poverty reduction. Poverty reduction and the equal distribution of EU funds, the Communication argues, is more likely to occur in cases where governance is democratic and fundamental human rights respected. The EU can claim to be the world's largest aid donor. As such is feels obliged to promote human rights and democracy. Since 1992 the EU has included in all its agreements with third countries a clause defining respect for human rights and democracy as "essential elements" in the EU's relationship with third countries. This clause is unique in bilateral agreements. The Communication calls on multinational corporation to play a more active role in the promotion of human rights and democracy. Multinationals frequently play an influential role in third countries and accordingly should become more involved in increasing respect for human rights world-wide. As the Communication points out, it is after all, in their interests to operate under regimes in which the rule of law is respected and human rights acknowledged. The Communication identifies three areas in which the Commission can play a more effective role: - promoting consistent human rights policies across the EU; - ensuring human rights remains a high priority in the EU's relations with foreign countries; - adopting a more focused and strategic approach to the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). In parallel with this the Commission will promote coherence and consistency between EU actions under different Treaty pillars as well as between the Member States. Finally, the Commission will continue regularly to monitoring the points made in its Communication and assess progress.

Human rights and democratisation: role of the Union in third countries

2001/2276(COS) - 25/04/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on a draft by its rapporteur Rosa DIEZ GONZALEZ (PES, Spain) on human rights and democratisation in third countries. (Please refer to the document dated 19/03/02). Parliament pointed out that the reduction of poverty, the main objective of the EU's new development policy, requires the existence of genuine participatory democracy and responsible, corruption-free government. In many former colonies of European countries, the influence of colonial powers has not encouraged, and has even hindered, human rights and good governance. The EU can make a crucial contribution to eliminating the exclusive aspects of globalisation and giving it a focus based on inclusion of the least favoured social groups and the poorest countries. Whilst Parliament welcomed the Commission's Communication, it regretted the absence of specific proposals to encourage consistency in the work of the various Community institutions and end the almost total dependence on the political will of the Council, reflected in the frequent requirement for unanimity in decision-making. It called on the Convention on the Future of Europe to put forward firm proposals to this end. Demands regarding democratisation and respect for human rights placed on partner countries should in all circumstances take precedence over any legitimate economic, commercial and any other interests of the EU and its Member States. Parliament expands on the principles to be applied to the interinstituitonal code of conduct. It also supports the establishment of an EU Agency for Human Rights and Democracy, as proposed in the conclusions of the Cologne European Council. This agency would draw up a global overview of the human rights

situation by country. Before the signing of any accession, association or cooperation agreement with a third country, the Commission should draw up a report on the human rights situation in that country, with a recommendation on whether or not negotiations should be completed. The Council and the Parliament should be required to give an opinion on this recommendation, with the approval of both institutions being required for the agreement to be signed.

Human rights and democratisation: role of the Union in third countries

2001/2276(COS) - 22/05/2001 - Document attached to the procedure

This report sets out an overview of the activities in the protection and promotion of human rights and democracy funded by the European Commission in external relations in 2000 under the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), Chapter B7-70 of the EU budget. It examines the major thematic priorities and the regional strategies of such action, provides an analysis of procedural aspects and includes an assessment of the performance of the Commission in this field. During the period covered by this report, over EUR 97 million from this part of the budget alone was allocated to 142 human rights and democracy projects. It is the fifth report of this nature, published pursuant to the 1991 Council Resolution on human rights, democracy and development.4 It addresses only those activities funded as part of the external action of the Community under Chapter B7-70 of the EU budget, and does not therefore cover the use of other budgetary instruments, which also make a significant contribution to the observance of human rights and democratic principles, such as external development cooperation and assistance to particular countries or regions, including the ALA, MED, TACIS and OBNOVA programmes. It is important however to emphasise the complementarity of human rights and democracy activities funded under these different instruments with the initiatives supported under EIDHR. Similarly, the report does not examine the full scope of EU action on human rights and democracy issues within the Union, or in multi-lateral fora, although reference is made to relevant EU policy and action throughout this document. In their Annual Report for Human Rights for 1999, the Parliament also called for full details of the human rights projects funded through Chapter B7-70 of the EU Budget, because ·the importance of placing full information on the public record should not be overestimated·. Complementary to the EU Annual report, this Commission report on the use of EIDHR funds fulfils exactly that role. Together with an analysis of EU human rights and democracy policy in particular areas, it allows for the ·panorama of funded activities to be checked against overall strategic objectives.· Furthermore, in its explanation of procedural matters and in the detailed region breakdown, the report clarifies the different budget channels of EIDHR through which funding for democracy and human rights is made available. With regard to the implementation of EIDHR actions in 2000, the report states that the year 2000 has been a transitional year for the Commission in its delivery of assistance for the promotion and protection of human rights and democratic values. For the first time, the human rights and democratisation unit of the External Relations Directorate General assumed world-wide responsibility for all 11 human rights and democracy budget lines under EIDHR, all of which are now also under the remit of a single Commissioner for External Relations, Chris Patten. In May, the Commission launched an ambitious reform package for the management of external assistance programmes. It provided for a ·radical overhaul· of programming, the integration of the project cycle with a single body in charge of implementation (EuropeAid), the extensive devolution of project management to Commission delegations, and measures to deal with old and dormant commitments. Programming priorities for the use of funds in 2000 were set out as support for: - The fight against torture, the death penalty and racism and xenophobia - Human rights education and freedom of expression - Economic, social, civil and political rights -The protection of vulnerable groups, especially children -The promotion and protection of the rights of women -The promotion of democracy and the rule of law Reflecting the commitment of the EU to build a stronger partnership with civil society organisations and NGOs, who are important partners in the implementation of EIDHR, over 80% of the funds were channelled through such organisations. The Commission has also increased its cooperation with international organisations, in particular the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which received over EUR 5.9 million for different projects. Lastly, this report examines actions from both a thematic and geographic point of view, and includes chapters on procedural matters in the management of EIDHR, and an overview of assessments and evaluations of this work.

Human rights and democratisation: role of the Union in third countries

2001/2276(COS) - 21/05/2003

OBJECTIVE: to promote respect for Human Rights and democracy in the Mediterranean. CONTENT: This communication, to be presented to the EU Mediterranean partners at the Euro-Med Ministerial Conference on 26-27 May 2003 in Crete, sets out working guidelines to promote Human Rights and fundamental freedoms in cooperation with the Mediterranean partners. The communication fits within the Action Plan agreed by all participants at the Valencia Euro-Med Ministerial meeting on 22-23 April 2002, in which the parties committed to reinforce efforts in this vital area. The communication is also consistent with the recently laid out new EU neighbourhood policy ('Wider Europe' - refer to INI/2003/2018). In particular, the communication outlines ways to maximise the effectiveness of the instruments at the disposal of the European Union and its Mediterranean partners with a view to the implementation of their common goal of promoting and protecting universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. It proposes ten concrete recommendations to improve the dialogue between the Union and its Mediterranean partners, as well as EU financial cooperation on Human Rights issues. The main specific measures proposed by the Commission will allow: - a deeper and more operational focus for political dialogue on Human Rights and democratisation at all levels with MEDA partners; - the development of MEDA National and Regional Action Plans on Human Rights and democracy with the MEDA partners willing to engage in such an exercise; - increased participation by civil society in the MEDA partner countries; - increased attention to Human Rights and democratisation issues in the Commission's National and Regional Strategy Papers and Indicative Programmes, including through a special additional facility; - enhanced complementarity between the MEDA programme and the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights and enhanced efforts at all levels in the area of improvement of electoral frameworks. Their implementation will be enhanced by three levels of complementarity between: 1) political dialogue and financial assistance, 2) the MEDA programme and assistance under the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and 3) the national and regional dimensions.