Basic information

2002/2179(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Developing countries, water management: policy and priorities for development cooperation **Subject** 3.70.04 Water control and management, pollution of waterways, water pollution 6.30 Development cooperation	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
DEVE Development and Cooperation	LANNOYE Paul A.A.J.G. (V /ALE)	20/06/2002

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Development	2429	2002-05-30

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Development	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
12/03/2002	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2002)0132	Summary
30/05/2002	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
02/09/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/07/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
09/07/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0273/2003	

03/09/2003	Debate in Parliament		
04/09/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0377/2003	Summary
04/09/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2179(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	DEVE/5/16497

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0273/2003	09/07/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0377/2003 OJ C 076 25.03.2004, p. 0246-0430 E	04/09/2003	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0132	12/03/2002	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2002)0288	12/03/2002	
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2003)0211	23/04/2003	Summary

Developing countries, water management: policy and priorities for development cooperation

2002/2179(COS) - 12/03/2002 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to outline policy and priorities for water management in developing countries. CONTENT : this Communication guides the European Community's support to water resources management in developing countries for achieving the main development goals laid down in the Treaty establishing the European Community - poverty reduction, sustainable economic and social development, integration of developing countries into the global economy. Providing water and sanitation for all in developing countries, now and in the future, is a demanding challenge. It has to be addressed in the broader context of a sustainable integrated water resource management (including e.g. natural aspects of water resources systems, water uses in all sectors of the economy and for all purposes, institutional framework for management of a finite resource, spatial variation of resources and demands, water pollution). One objective of this Communication is to highlight where and how policies surrounding water and development are

integrated into EC's development priorities. It emphasises the need to see water resource management as a cross-sectoral issue to be mainstreamed within most development policies of the Community, in the fight against poverty. This paper is set in the context of the higher profile gained by water on the international agenda, resulting in growing international recognition of the pressing need to achieve global water security and of the need to address water in a holistic manner, as a key issue for sustainable development. Water management is a critical issue for many countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Pacific and Mediterranean regions. Ensuring sustainable and equitable access to safe water for all its uses, with special attention to the basic needs of the poor, is essential. Responding to this challenge, one of the Communication's objectives is to highlight where and how policies on water and development are integrated into development priorities. The Communication emphasises the need to see water resource management as a cross-cutting part of strategies associated with poverty reduction, such as equitable access to social services, food security and sustainable rural development, regional integration and co-operation. Building on internationally agreed principles and on lessons learned, the Communication outlines a comprehensive and integrated approach that is valid for all aspects of water resources management and for all users of water. It articulates key messages on policy orientation under the overarching policy framework of Integrated Water Resources Management. Lines of actions are recommended, focusing on water supply and sanitation, cross border water management and cross-sectoral co-ordination and integration, providing sustainable water services, expanding sanitation coverage and hygiene education, meeting the urban challenge, achieving water-food security, protecting water ecosystems and managing floods. Furthermore, this Communication addresses the relationship between water and the global challenges of climate change and trade globalisation. This Communication is set in the context of the growing international recognition of the pressing need to achieve global water security, in quantity and quality, and of the need toaddress water in a holistic manner, as a key issue for sustainable development. Thus, this Communication builds on the recommendations for action of the Bonn International Freshwater Conference of December 2001, and supports the development of an EU initiative as a key agenda point for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Developing countries, water management: policy and priorities for development cooperation

2002/2179(COS) - 23/04/2003 - Document attached to the procedure

PURPOSE : to set up an EU Water Fund for ACP countries, using the conditional EUR 1 billion foreseen in the Cotonou Agreement, and serving to co-finance as a priority with other sources of EU funding. CONTENT : the Commission is proposing the establishment of a European Union Water Fund, with a budget of EUR 1 billion, to help give people in the 77 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) signatory countries to the Cotonou Agreement access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. This communication builds on the EU Water Initiative, launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in September 2002. The WSSD confirmed the target, set by the Millennium Development Goals, of halving, by 2015, the number of people across the world without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. In order to achieve these objectives, the mobilisation of a significant level of resources is a key factor for the realisation of the MDG and WSSD targets, and flexibility in the response is required to meet the challenge in an effective manner. This flexibility must be achieved in order to ensure that the proposed Fund constitutes an effective mechanism to use the conditional billion for a priority objective in an innovative manner. The fund is intended to be a catalyst - promoting initiatives, providing information, being a clearing-house, building research and management capacity in ACP countries - as well as an instrument which can provide the missing link in financing sustainable projects and activities. The Commission therefore proposes to endorse the recommendations presented in this Communication and consider the release of the conditional EUR 1 billion , so as to enable a decision in early 2004. The Commission should also prepare in collaboration between EU and ACP partners, the decision by the Joint ACP Council on the use of the conditional EUR 1 billion from the EDF for the financing of an EU Water Fund ,on the basis of the approach outlined in this Communication. More specifically, the money would come from the uncommitted reserve in the 9th European Development Fund. The Commission proposes to examine the most appropriate implementation method for a possible Water Fund financed by the EDF, for example that of a possible Executive Agency, based on a cost benefit analysis of the different options. The Fund should concentrate its activities in countries which have a sound national water policy or which are strongly committed to developing one, based on good governance principles, and where the priority is given to spending on social sectors, and the relevant indicators have been defined as part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Process (PRSP). Countries which do not satisfy these criteria should be assisted in developing a national policy and associated indicators as part of capacity building projects.

Developing countries, water management: policy and priorities for development cooperation

2002/2179(COS) - 04/09/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Paul LANNOYE (Greens/EFA, Belgium) on the Commission's communication on water management. (Please see the summary dated 09/07/03.) The resolution was adopted with 356 votes in favour, 10 against and 25 abstentions. Parliament stated that access to drinking water in a sufficient quantity and of adequate quality is a basic human right. National governments have a duty to fulfil this obligation. Reasonable access to water means at least 20 litres per person per day from a lean source within a radius of 1 km. With regard to the provision of water, Parliament felt that several management models exist, ranging from the local cooperative to the national or municipal agency and not discounting a combination of public-private management. It is the responsibility of the authorities in the countries concerned to adopt a policy able to satisfy the population's needs. In this connection, Parliament took the view that a revision of Articles VI and XXI of the GATS agreement is needed. This will protect the right of each developing country to decide freely on its method of water supply, in accordance with the collective national or regional interests of the population concerned. On the question of the European Water Fund, Parliament felt that the success of the fund depends on participation by its beneficiaries, who must be involved in the processes of design, implementation, monitoring and assessment, as well as in the management and control of the European fund.