Basic information

2003/2094(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
South East Europe: stabilisation and association process. 2nd annual report 2003 **Subject** 6.40.03 Relations with South-East Europe and the Balkans **Geographical area** Albania Bosnia and Herzegovina Croatia Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Serbia and Montenegro, until 02/2003 Yugoslavia, Federal Republic - 01/2003	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	LAGENDIJK Joost (V/ALE)	25/03/2003

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	ZORBA Myrsini (PSE)	19/06/2003
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU Rodi (PPE-DE)	20/05/2003

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2518	2003-06-16
General Affairs	2501	2003-04-14
General Affairs	2509	2003-05-19

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
External Relations	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
26/03/2003	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2003)0139	Summary
14/04/2003	Debate in Council		
15/05/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/05/2003	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
16/06/2003	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
04/11/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
04/11/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0397/2003	
19/11/2003	Debate in Parliament		
20/11/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0523/2003	Summary
20/11/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/2094(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/5/19520

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0397/2003	04/11/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0523/2003 OJ C 087 07.04.2004, p. 0412-0521 E	20/11/2003	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2003)0139	26/03/2003	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2003)0339	26/03/2003	

Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2003)0340	26/03/2003	
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2003)0341	26/03/2003	
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2003)0342	26/03/2003	
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2003)0343	26/03/2003	

South East Europe: stabilisation and association process. 2nd annual report 2003

2003/2094(INI) - 26/03/2003 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to present the second annual report on the Stabilisation and Association process for South East Europe. CONTENT: this second annual report on the stabilisation and association process for southeast Europe confirms the European Union's continuing commitment to supporting the transition phase of the five Western Balkan countries as they emerge from war and conflict. A commitment underpinned by the Member States at the Copenhagen summit in December 2002. The report assesses progress in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro. Each country is given an individual assessment, which is annexed to this, the Composite Report. The second annual report suggests that increased stability and progress is being achieved - in spite of a number of notable shortcomings. Overall progress has been positive and can be seen in such areas as the restoration of stability, an improvement in security, the fact that all five countries can lay claim to democratically elected governments, a massive reconstruction process across the region, a substantial number of refugees and internally displaced persons returning home and lastly, the ongoing reforms evident in various sectors of society. The "normalisation" of everyday life in the Western Balkans is now a reality. At the same time however, the report reveals shortcomings and slow progress in the reform process in several of the countries here listed. Indeed a theme running through the report and those of the individual countries is the generally poor record on implementation. Shortcomings have been identified in: - the establishment of democratic institutions, - public services, - an application in the rule of law and human rights, - the fight against organised crime, - continuing endemic corruption, - the lack of reform of the judicial system, - the return of displaced persons and refugees, - the uneven collection of revenues, - a high rate of unemployment, and - a high dependence on foreign credit. In light of this trend the Commission report has identified five important messages it wishes to convey: 1) The EU's continuing commitment to the region. The Commission will continue to strive for closer integration between the two regions. The report gives warning though that rapprochement will depend on the introduction of urgent reforms. It also urges these countries to show greater adherence to European standards and values. As the report unambiguously announces, "There are no short cuts to European integration." 2) The process of stabilisation and association needs to be consolidated. Efforts should thus be multiplied to foster security, democracy and prosperity in the region. 3) The Commission notes that many of the recommendations put forward in the first report have not been taken up in the Western Balkans. A continuing lack of political will to enthusiastically implement reforms is identified as the culprit. In response, the Commission urges governments in the Western Balkans to make a greater effort of implementation. 4) The Commission urges those countries participating in the SAPto focus on the concrete steps to be taken to move towards reforms, through, for example, the definition of modalities and the creation of deadlines. 5) A recognition that an improvement in the overall perception of the EU with the populations of the Western Balkan countries needs to be addressed. The second annual report stresses that the EU is not just an economic entity but that its existence is very much based on shared common values and reminds countries in the Western Balkans that enlargement in 2004 will put greater pressure on them to reform in line with these values. The forthcoming Council meeting in Thessalonica will give added impetus to the EU's future commitments to the western Balkans. This commitment is reflected in the fact that the Community has committed EUR 4,65 million to the region for 2002-2006.

South East Europe: stabilisation and association process. 2nd annual report 2003

2003/2094(INI) - 20/11/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Jan Joost LAGENDIJK (Greens/EFA, NL) on the Stabilisation and association process. (Please see the summary dated 04/11/03.) Parliament also asked the SAP countries to address the problem of discrimination against the Roma population, including through the adoption of effective anti-discrimination laws and the systematic monitoring of the access offered to Roma people to education, housing, employment, health care and social services. Parliament went on to stress that present visa regime between the EU and SAP countries undermines the European perspective for these countries, and has become a source of humiliation for its citizens. There must be clear benchmarks on the ways in which the visa-regimes with the SAP countries can gradually be developed and eased as the countries undertake necessary reforms. This will offer a tangible sign that the EU is coming closer to the citizens of SAP countries. The SAP countries should promptly implement the free-trade agreements already Signed. The non-implementation of these agreements constitutes an obstacle to the development of the SAP and of viable regional markets, further weakening the economic situation. In the forthcoming Action Plan priority be given to structural and economic reforms leading to functioning market economies and achieving sustainable development. Finally, Parliament asked the countries in the region, in the light of the persistent trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation (in particular in Albania and Bosnia-

Herzegovina), to take action, in cooperation with the 'countries of destination', at both internal and regional level, giving top priority to assistance to the victims, to training programmes for the services responsible and to prevention by increasing public awareness and informing public opinion.