



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2013/0128(COD)

30.7.2013

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on International Trade

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council
providing macro-financial assistance to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
(COM(2013)0242 – C7-0119/2013 – 2013/0128(COD))

Rapporteur: Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck

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AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on International Trade, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments into its report:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a decision

Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) Relations between the European Union ('the Union') and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan ('Jordan') are developing within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). An Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Jordan, of the other part, entered into force in May 2002. Bilateral political dialogue and economic cooperation have been further developed within the framework of ENP Action Plans, of which the most recent covers the period 2010-2015. In 2010, the Union granted Jordan "Advanced Status" partnership, implying expanded areas of cooperation between both parties.

Amendment

(1) Relations between the European Union ('the Union') and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan ('Jordan') are developing within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). An Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Jordan, of the other part, entered into force in May 2002. Bilateral political dialogue and economic cooperation have been further developed within the framework of ENP Action Plans, of which the most recent covers the period 2010-2015. In 2010, the Union granted Jordan "Advanced Status" partnership, implying expanded areas of cooperation between both parties. ***In 2013 the Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Jordan, of the other part, was complemented by a Framework Agreement between the Union and Jordan on the general principles for the participation of Jordan in Union programmes, furthering cooperation between the Union and Jordan.***

Or. en

Amendment 2

Proposal for a decision Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) Jordan's economy has been significantly affected by domestic events related to the events in the Southern Mediterranean since the end of 2010, known as the "Arab Spring", and by the ongoing regional unrest, notably in neighbouring Egypt and Syria. ***Combined with*** a weaker global environment, the repeated disruptions to the flow of natural gas from Egypt, which have forced Jordan to replace gas imports from Egypt with more expensive fuels for electricity generation, and the ***important inflow of*** refugees from Syria have resulted in important external and budgetary financial gaps.

Amendment

(2) Jordan's economy has been significantly affected by domestic events related to the events in the Southern Mediterranean since the end of 2010, known as the "Arab Spring", and by the ongoing regional unrest, notably in neighbouring Egypt and Syria. ***In particular, the high inflow of refugees from Syria who have sought refuge in Jordan is having a severe impact on Jordan's economy. In the context of a much weaker global economic*** environment, the repeated disruptions to the flow of natural gas from Egypt, which have forced Jordan to replace gas imports from Egypt with more expensive fuels for electricity generation, and the ***significant financial resources required to provide humanitarian assistance to the*** refugees from Syria ***who are present on Jordan's territory***, have resulted in important external and budgetary financial gaps.

Or. en

Amendment 3

Proposal for a decision Recital 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3a) Jordan's geographical position makes it also a strategic country for stability and security in the Middle East, but equally makes the country particularly vulnerable to external shocks, both in political and economic terms. It is therefore important to provide adequate

support to Jordan and to further political and economic dialogue between the Union and Jordan.

Or. en

Amendment 4

Proposal for a decision

Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) Jordan has embarked on a *series* of political reforms, most notably leading to the adoption by the Jordanian Parliament in September 2011 of over 40 constitutional amendments, representing a significant step towards a fully-fledged democratic system. Political and economic support from the Union to Jordan's reform process is consistent with the Union's policy towards the Southern *Mediterranean* region, as set out in the context of the ENP.

Amendment

(4) *Under the guidance of H.M. King Abdullah II*, Jordan has embarked on a *very wide-ranging process* of political reforms, most notably leading to the adoption by the Jordanian Parliament in September 2011 of over 40 constitutional amendments, representing a significant step towards a fully-fledged democratic system. *It is important to support the process of reforms. Therefore*, political and economic support from the Union to Jordan's reform process is *not only* consistent with the Union's policy towards the Southern *Mediterranean* region, as set out in the context of the ENP, *but is also in the Union's interest.*

Or. en

Amendment 5

Proposal for a decision

Recital 7 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(7a) Jordan should be considered eligible to receive the Union's macro-financial assistance, in consideration of the fact that it is a country covered by the ENP and in further consideration of the

importance of continuing to promote close cooperation and dialogue with Jordan within the framework of the ENP with a view to strengthening Jordan's democratic, political and economic stability.

Or. en