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## REPORT

on the 2000 Regular Report from the Commission on Turkey's progress  
towards accession  
(COM(2000) 713 – C5-0613/2000 – 2000/2014(COS))

Part 3: Committee opinions - General opinions  
(See also Part 2: Country-by-country opinions)

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence  
Policy

Rapporteur: Alain Lamassoure



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4 July 2001

## **OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON CITIZENS' FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS**

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy

on the applications from Cyprus, Romania, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Turkey and Malta to join the European Union (COM(2000) 701-713 – C5-0601-613/2000 – 1997/2171-2181(COC), 1999/2029(COS) and 2000/2014(COS))

Draftsmen: Maria Berger and Arie M. Oostlander

### **PROCEDURE**

The Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs appointed Maria Berger and Arie M. Oostlander draftsmen at its meeting of 29 May 2001.

It considered the draft opinion at its meetings of 19-20 June and 3 July 2001.

At the latter meeting it adopted the following conclusions unanimously.

The following took part in the vote: Graham R. Watson, chairman; Maria Berger and Arie M. Oostlander, draftsmen; Niall Andrews, Mary Elizabeth Banotti, Mario Borghesio (for Carlos Coelho pursuant to Rule 153(2)), Alima Boumediene-Thiery, Marco Cappato, Michael Cashman, Carmen Cerdeira Morterero (for Elena Ornella Paciotti), Ozan Ceyhan, Thierry Cornillet, Margot Keßler, Timothy Kirkhope, Juan Andrés Naranjo Escobar (for Jorge Salvador Hernández Mollar), Paolo Pastorelli (for Charlotte Cederschiöld pursuant to Rule 153(2)), Hubert Pirker, Giacomo Santini (for Marcello Dell'Utri), Ingo Schmitt (for Hartmut Nassauer), Patsy Sørensen, Joke Swiebel, Anna Terrón i Cusí and Olga Zrihen Zaari (for Gianni Vattimo pursuant to Rule 153(2)).

## CONCLUSIONS

The Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following points into its motion for a resolution:

The following points have to be considered as an interim opinion as a more detailed analysis will be issued by this committee once updated facts are available and negotiations will then enter their final phase.

1. Expresses its concern about the applicant countries' ability to implement the *acquis* in the field of Justice and Home Affairs within a short time period and considering that this area of Justice and Home Affairs reaches the heart of society, the rule of law and the confidence of the citizens; stresses therefore the importance of giving special priority to this area;
2. Underlines in particular that the structure of state and institutions in Turkey *as such* constitutes a barrier to implementation of the JHA *acquis*; therefore notes that the necessary reform of the Turkish state and society will be a painful and long-lasting process;
3. Underlines the importance of cooperation with the Council of Europe, for instance as in the joint Council of Europe – EU programme OCTOPUS II;
4. Urges the applicant countries to bring up freely the difficulties they face in implementing the *acquis* in order to enable the Commission to provide for complementary assistance and support where needed;

### Respect for fundamental rights

- justice

5. Welcomes the abolition of the death penalty in the applicant countries in Central and Eastern Europe and urges Turkey to proceed in the same manner;
6. Notes that despite progress, significant improvements are still needed in terms of the independence of the judiciary, qualifications and number of judges so that the public may benefit from a fair and efficient justice system; and emphasises, in that connection, that further legislative reforms are required in order to guarantee the independence of the judiciary and a fair trial for those facing prosecution;
7. Acknowledges the valuable support which has been provided thus far under various pre-accession aid programmes for the process of raising standards in the areas of justice and home affairs;

8. Draws attention to the need for judges and lawyers, and also politicians and civil servants, to improve their knowledge of European law and its application and calls on the countries concerned and the European institutions to implement or step up in-service training measures;
9. Calls for the process of acceding to international human rights agreements to be moved forward in all the applicant countries and for the legal status quo in Bulgaria to be brought into line with international human rights standards with a view to preventing, by means of legal provisions, torture, inhumane and degrading treatment and punishments and all other forms of violence;

- police

10. Notes that many cases of undue violence are still committed and therefore calls on applicant countries to pursue measures to improve their police qualifications and behaviour by way of training programmes on issues of democracy, human rights, respect for minorities and the right of asylum; also invites these countries to favour diversified recruitment in the police;

- prisons

11. Notes that, despite some progress, prison conditions often remain very unsatisfactory in most of the applicant countries and therefore invites those countries to improve the situation, develop training programmes and (in the case of those which have not done so) to ensure that prison administrations are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice;

- minorities

12. Welcomes the action plans launched by several applicant countries in favour of Romany minorities and expects those plans to be effectively implemented, in particular concerning access to education, employment and housing, and to take into account the political, economic, social and cultural discrimination which the Romany minorities still suffer;
13. Notes the progress concerning the situation of Russian-speaking minorities in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania owing to the enforcement of the language-training programmes and underlines again the critical situation of the Kurdish minority in Turkey;
14. Urges the governments concerned to step up their efforts to improve the situation of;
  - children (especially in Bulgaria and Romania), by ratifying and implementing the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and, as a matter of the utmost necessity, improving living conditions and the provision of care and education in homes for children, particularly those who are mentally and physically disabled;
  - women, denouncing fundamentalist practices which downgrade the position of women in society,

- homosexuals (in particular by repealing discriminatory criminal law provisions - Bulgaria (Article 157 of the Penal Code), Cyprus (Article 171 of the Penal Code), Hungary (Article 199 of the Penal Code), Lithuania (Article 122 of the Penal Code) and Romania (Article 200 of the Penal Code) - provisions of the kind which the European Commission on Human Rights has deemed incompatible with the ECHR);  
- conscientious objectors;

15. Calls on the governments concerned to adopt strategies for integrating minorities, to recognise their legitimate rights and, in particular, to introduce legislation against discrimination pursuant to Article 13 of the EU Treaty and the Charter of Fundamental Rights; also calls on the Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia to draw up reports indicating the measures to be taken in the fight against racism in the applicant countries;

- asylum

16. Points to the still inadequate nature of the asylum procedure in several applicant countries, notably with regard to statutory provisions and procedures, access to asylum procedures (refugees refused entry at the border or arbitrarily detained; unsatisfactory functioning of administrative tribunals); therefore calls on the applicant countries to honour their commitments under international agreements and to improve their policies in this field and to be guided by best practices in those areas where EU standards are lacking;
17. Stresses that the enforcement of border controls must not interfere with the right of refugees to access asylum procedures and the principle of non-refoulement; calls in this context for the establishment of mandatory rules so as to guarantee the compatibility of readmission practices and the right of asylum, as well as for the constitution of permanent bodies with NGO representatives, which should be in charge of monitoring the implementation of readmission agreements;

- religious freedom

18. Emphasises that in Bulgaria the entire set of rules governing freedom of religion, freedom of conscience and the freedom to exercise religious belief must be revised;

Justice and police cooperation

19. Calls on the applicant countries to further improve societal orientation and the quality of the police and judiciary, in particular by training and improving the scientific know-how of their staff in order to be able to participate in European judicial and police cooperation (Eurojust and Europol);
20. Calls on Europol and EU Member States to assist in the training of police and legal experts from the applicant countries in the prevention of international crime and to increase the exchange of knowledge with applicant countries in order to enable the applicant states to reach European standards in the fight against international crime; points out that international crime may take advantage of the fact that the applicant countries lack suitable legislation and stable structures;

21. Underlines the common EU responsibility (technical and financial assistance) for strict external border controls in order to combat illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings, particularly women and children, so that the Member States stop operating as markets for such services; therefore urges the applicant countries to strengthen the quality of border police forces; calls specifically on Lithuania, Poland and Russia to improve coordination with regard to Kaliningrad;
22. Expresses its concern that the emergence of private security services may constitute a threat, especially in countries in which there are as yet no firmly established legal system, no constitutional practices and no understanding of the law;

#### The fight against corruption

23. Emphasises that corruption endangers the satisfactory functioning of the police and judiciary and undermines public confidence and therefore urges applicant countries which have not yet ratified the Council of Europe and OECD Conventions relating to the fight against corruption to do so and to take all the necessary steps to implement those Conventions as soon as possible;
24. Stresses that that the transparency of society (including the freedom of the media), the independence of the judiciary and better pay for police officers and judges are essential elements of the fight against corruption;
25. Underlines the importance of initiatives such as the *Southeast European Legal Development Initiative (SELDI)*, by the *Centre for the Study of Democracy (CSD)* in Bulgaria and the *International Development Law Institute (IDLI)* in Rome in its contribution to legal developments in the region in terms of fostering good governance and strengthening of the judiciary and fighting corruption; asks the Commission to support such initiatives;

#### Data protection

26. Stresses that full confidence in each other's data protection standards is a precondition for the establishment of truly effective bilateral cooperation with EUROPOL and the police and judicial authorities of the Member States, and therefore urges applicant countries that have not done so to sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention for Data protection of individuals against unauthorised use of their personal data (1981) and to implement Directive 95/46/CE of 24 October 1995 on data protection;
27. Welcomes the progress being made in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and Slovakia in the area of data protection; notes the difficulties which some of the applicant countries face in implementing the necessary measures in this field; therefore asks the Commission, the Council and the Member States to provide additional support to the applicant countries in implementing rules on data protection.



20 June 2001

## **OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, EXTERNAL TRADE, RESEARCH AND ENERGY**

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy

on the applications from Cyprus, Romania, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Turkey and Malta to join the European Union (COM(2000) 701-713 – C5-0601-613/2000 – 1997/2171-2181(COC), 1999/2029(COS) and 2000/2014(COS))

Draftsman: Norbert Glante

### **PROCEDURE**

The Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy appointed Norbert Glante draftsman at its meeting of 21 March 2001.

It considered the draft opinion at its meetings of 28 May and 20 June 2001.

At the latter meeting it adopted the following conclusions by 42 votes to 5, with 1 abstention.

The following took part in the vote: Carlos Westendorp y Cabeza, chairman; Renato Brunetta and Peter Michael Mombaur, vice-chairmen; Norbert Glante, draftsman; Konstantinos Alyssandrakis, Ward Beysen (for Astrid Thors), Guido Bodrato, Massimo Carraro, Gérard Caudron, Giles Bryan Chichester, Nicholas Clegg, Dorette Corbey (for Harlem Désir), Willy C.E.H. De Clercq, Carlo Fatuzzo (for Umberto Scapagnini), Francesco Fiori (for Alejo Vidal-Quadras Roca), Christos Folias, Neena Gill (for Glyn Ford), Lisbeth Grönfeldt Bergman (for Marjo Matikainen-Kallström), Michel Hansenne, Hans Karlsson, Bashir Khanbhai (for Konrad K. Schwaiger), Helmut Kuhne (for Rolf Linkohr), Werner Langen, Caroline Lucas, Eryl Margaret McNally, Nelly Maes, Erika Mann, Elizabeth Montfort, Angelika Niebler, Giuseppe Nisticò (for Roger Helmer), Reino Paasilinna, Yves Piétrasanta, Elly Plooij-van Gorsel, John Purvis, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Bernhard Rapkay (for François Zimeray), Imelda Mary Read, Mechtild Rothe, Christian Foldberg Røvsing, Paul Rübig, Gilles Savary (for Elena Valenciano Martínez-Orozco), Ilka Schröder, Esko Olavi Seppänen, Helle Thorning-Schmidt (for Myrsini Zorba), Claude Turmes (for Nuala Ahern), W.G. van Velzen, Anders Wijkman, Olga Zrihen Zaari.

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This opinion does not wish to repeat the points made in the Commission's progress reports or last year's ITRE Committee report. We have therefore established a number of focal points which seem pertinent in view of the present state of the accession negotiations and the remit of our committee.

### General

The enlarged European single market will be the **largest single market in the world**. With 13 new Member States the population of the European Union will rise by 31 %. Enlargement offers Europe's entire economy the opportunity to consolidate its international competitive position and to develop it in the long-term.

In the industrial sector (conventional industries, telecommunications and SMEs) the applicant countries have made remarkable progress as far as legislation is concerned and developed very sound strategies. But no matter how good they are, legislation and strategies are not enough by themselves: they need to be implemented. For a variety of reasons (state budgets, inefficient administration and courts, poor coordination etc.) implementation remains a major problem for many applicant countries in many areas. Of course, transitional periods are possible prior to full membership, but only if they do not constitute an obstacle for the operation of the single market and if they are really necessary. The number and duration of these transitional periods should be limited. These rules about transitional periods apply not only to the demands of the applicant countries, but also to those of Member States. If the EU is to achieve economic union, cross-border cooperation between industries and enterprises must be a focal point of EU aid policy.

### Industry

The two principal economic criteria for EU accession were established at the European Council meeting in Copenhagen in 1993: namely, a functioning market economy and the ability to withstand the pressure of **competition**. Many of the applicant countries already have a functioning market economy. However, the next step is to make this market economy competitive! Moreover, competition facilitates the transition to higher value and more technology-intensive production. Before the applicant countries can withstand the full pressure of competition, they need to face a number of major challenges: the adoption and implementation of the EU rules of competition, environmental standards and the social policy *acquis*. The adoption of the latter plays a very important role as far as economic competition is concerned: this could prevent at least some of the distortions of competition between Member States and applicant countries in the labour and services market caused by differences in social policies.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is an important factor in the economic development of the applicant countries. In some specific cases it is still being hampered (the absence of full liberalisation or of a stable legislative framework), but in general this area is a priority for the applicant countries. Investments offer them the opportunity to rehabilitate their economies both financially and structurally - new technologies and know-how are also imported. In order to attract more investors and boost the competitiveness of industry, the applicant countries must develop their infrastructures, notably motorways and roads, and modernise of railways

and communications. Legislation to facilitate the acquisition of technologically-advanced industries is also necessary in order to attract foreign investors.

For the further development of the economy in the applicant countries there are two very important instruments: **BEST** and **PECA**.

- BEST stands for Business Environment Simplification Task Force. This concept was originally developed in 1997 for the Member States. It offers two principal advantages: a very practical assessment of the economic situation and an improvement of coordination between the economic players. The results were so good for the Member States that the Commission decided to assess the economic position of the applicant countries in the same way. The use of BEST could promote benchmarking between the applicant countries. They could learn from each other and thus meet the EU's requirements more rapidly.
- PECA stands for 'Protocols to the Europe Agreement on Conformity Assessment'. PECA's are a very important instrument for rewarding progress made by the applicant countries in the free transport of goods. They allow these applicant countries to enjoy the advantages of the single market before accession for certain products, without requiring any further assessment of certification procedures.

The **steel industry** is a critical sector of industry. The steel industry of the applicant countries must be radically and swiftly restructured. The deadlines set in the respective association agreements for the development of a practical restructuring strategy have long expired. Acceptable restructuring plans which are in line with Protocol 2 of the Europe Agreement and the rules on aid and transitional periods set out therein must be adopted as rapidly as possible:

1. Condition for state aid: it must ensure the survival of the industries and be no higher than necessary for survival. Only on this condition can fair competition within the future European Union be secured.
2. Condition for the long-term survival of the steel industry in the applicant countries: restructuring, rationalisation and a general reduction of capacity must accompany the aid. Only on this condition will the steel industry of Central and Eastern Europe become competitive.

### **Telecommunications**

This is a particularly important sector, since enlargement coincides with the advent of the Information Society. The Information Society opens up a new market in which SMEs from the applicant countries could become immediately competitive. Almost all applicant countries are on course for full liberalisation. It often happens that a regulatory authority has already been set up or decided on in principle, but its independence has yet to be secured. Substantial amounts of work still need to be done on infrastructure, services and adjustments to European standards.

### **Energy**

In the energy sector there are substantial differences in the state of development of the applicant countries. The problems facing the energy sector cannot be solved quickly. It is

therefore very important that the applicant countries should develop a national strategy with a practical timetable as rapidly as possible and set aside appropriations for this purpose. We believe that trading of emission certificates is an effective means of meeting the enormous investment requirements. Certain key areas of the accession negotiations are very topical issues in the EU at present. We are fully aware how many problems some Member States still have with the liberalisation of the gas and electricity markets. The promotion of renewable sources of energy has triggered a broad debate, since it must be compatible with European competition law. The discussion about security of supply following the dramatic increase in oil prices and the question of restricting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are very topical in our countries as well. It is important that the applicant countries should not only adopt the *acquis*, but also prepare for further developments in this sphere. Their participation in the Community programmes SAVE, SYNERGY, ALTENER, etc., must therefore be further promoted. Nuclear energy presents safety problems in three countries: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. A further problem concerning nuclear energy is the reprocessing and storage of nuclear waste. This problem also affects the Member States. It would therefore be opportune to initiate a joint discussion on the problem of nuclear waste with the applicant countries concerned.

## **Research**

In their present economic situation, the applicant countries have limited budgetary resources available for research. The legislative framework presents no essential problems, but the funds are lacking. Links between industry and research on the one hand and science (universities, higher education institutes) and research on the other must be strengthened. Measures must also be taken to ensure that companies are set up to exploit research findings.

Participation in the sixth FRP should be further promoted. The applicant countries should be involved in preparations for the sixth FRP, so that they can raise points of interest to them. One focal point of the new FRP is the promotion of a research network in Europe. One priority should be to ensure that research centres and projects in the applicant countries do not remain sidelined in this process, but are fully integrated.

## CONCLUSIONS

The Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following points in its motion for a resolution:

1. Reiterates its request to receive four reports/studies on areas concerning industry, external trade, research and energy as stated in its resolution of 4 October 2000 under paragraphs 47 to 56, inter alia, the first would concern a 'progress report' on the industrial sectors under negotiation; the second, an 'analysis' on the Free Trade Agreements already concluded with the applicant countries coupled with a 'study' on the potential impact of enlargement on trade creation and trade diversion; the third report should be on the potential of the new technology-related sectors to increase competitiveness, and the fourth study should be on energy-related problems and prospects for the applicant countries;
2. Encourages the Commission to use the results of the Business Environment Simplification Task Force (BEST process) in order to evaluate the industries and enterprises of the candidate countries; requests the Commission to make these evaluations available to the candidate countries and, following up on these evaluations, encourages the candidate countries to make use of benchmarking as a basis for improving their industrial performance as well as their adjustment to the *acquis communautaire*; promotes the conclusion of Protocols to the Europe Agreement on Conformity Assessment (PECA) with further candidate countries;
3. Is persuaded that Foreign Direct Investment will be promoted if only the "right conditions" in candidate countries are ensured by simplifying the legal framework, equal competitive conditions for all businesses and serious measures to combat corruption and create an effective public administration and effective, independent courts, public infrastructure investment in human resources, telecom networks and viable social protection systems;
4. Notes that obstacles to trade still exist in the candidate countries, particularly at their borders, and that in this connection the training and retraining of customs staff is a first necessary step towards the removal of these obstacles;
5. Noting the proven capacity of SMEs to create jobs, innovate, contribute substantially to the GDP and improve competition as well as the crucial role they play in strengthening social cohesion and regional development, the Commission is urged to maintain its support for measures in the applicant countries which will favour SMEs including micro-enterprises in the commerce and the craft sectors;
6. Points out that restructuring programmes for the steel industry in the candidate countries are urgently needed and that the steel industry needs careful treatment, consisting of a short-term policy of State subsidies necessary for its survival and containment of labour lay-offs and a long-term policy geared towards structural adjustment, rationalisation and specialisation in high value added steel products;

7. Notes that the correct application of European competition law requires that officials of public institutions, as well as lawyers and judges, receive training in this area;
8. Is of the view that in the field of telecommunications, which is associated with the information society and creation of 'a common information area', this sector will act as a pole of growth and as an instrument in enhancing industrial adjustment, hence the independence of the telecommunications authority assumes importance; also requests the Commission to reassess the telecom industry in the context of the recently adopted telecom package, in its first reading, by the European Parliament;
9. Stresses that the Commission report on transitional rules in the field of freedom of movement for workers also leaves scope for the application of national legislation which is more flexible than the Commission report, and urges the Member States to apply such national legislation in the light of local needs and circumstances.
10. Repeats its position of 4 October 2000 (points 55 and 56), that the energy sector needs urgent attention as to the security of supply, structural changes in the coal industry, energy efficiency, safety of nuclear energy, believes that the trading of emission certificates might be in some countries an effective solution for the immense investment needs and supports an enhanced participation of candidate countries in EU programmes such as SAVE; SYNERGY, ALTENER, etc.
11. Given the low level of energy efficiency priority – above all over energy assistance – should be given to this area.
12. Welcomes the provision of the 6th Research Framework Programme to include the candidate countries as full participants in the new structure of the European Research Area, mainly participating in the network of excellence, integrated projects and increased mobility of researchers.
13. Calls on the Commission to submit to the committee and to Parliament an assessment of the extent to which the decentralisation of the Phare programme has been a success;

25 June 2001

## **OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy

on the applications by Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey to accede to the European Union and the current position with regard to the negotiations COM(2000) 701-713 – C5-0601-613/2000 – 1997/2171-2181(COC), 1999/2029(COS) and 2000/2014(COS))

Draftsman: Willi Görlach

### **PROCEDURE**

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development appointed Willi Görlach draftsman at its meeting of 27 March 2001.

It considered the draft opinion at its meetings of 24 April, 29 May and 19 June 2001.

At the last meeting it adopted the following conclusions by 23 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

The following were present for the vote: Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, chairman; Joseph Daul, vice-chairman; Willi Görlach, draftsman; Gordon J. Adam, Danielle Auroi, António Campos, Arlindo Cunha, Christel Fiebiger, Francesco Fiori, Carmen Fraga Estévez (for Xaver Mayer), Georges Garot, Lutz Goepel, María Izquierdo Rojo, Salvador Jové Peres, Hedwig Keppelhoff-Wiechert, Heinz Kindermann, Christa Klauf (for Agnes Schierhuber), Wolfgang Kreissl-Dörfler (for Bernard Poignant), Albert Jan Maat, Jan Mulder (for Giovanni Procacci), James Nicholson (for Robert William Sturdy), Neil Parish, Ioannis Patakis (for Dimitrios Koulourianos), Mikko Pesälä and María Rodríguez Ramos.

## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

### Introduction

At the start of the 21st century the EU faces the task of putting into effect its planned eastwards and south-eastwards enlargement. This calls for considerable efforts by both the EU-15 and the CEEC, Malta, Turkey and Cyprus. All candidate countries are making serious efforts **to bring their agricultural sector into line with the Union acquis**. What is striking is that some countries have greater successes to show than others, for the simple reason that at the beginning of the accession process, in the agricultural sector, the starting points were different.

### How the accession negotiations are currently proceeding

The time frame for negotiations with the Luxembourg and Helsinki Groups overall was examined in the last report on enlargement and agriculture<sup>1</sup>. Negotiations on agriculture with the Helsinki States and with Turkey have yet to be entered into. The **Nice** European Council reaffirmed its intention to conclude accession negotiations by the end of 2002 with the states which have made the most progress, thus expressly confirming the Commission's timetable. Accordingly, most countries are to become members as soon as possible so that they can take part in the 2004 European elections.

In the agricultural sector, too, **'technical meetings'** are currently taking place between the six states in the Luxembourg Group and the Commission, as are the actual negotiations with the EU, in which, in addition to the quota and direct payments issues discussed below, the **transitional periods** sought by the respective applicants for various areas loom large. In your draftsman's view, however, they should apply only in individual cases and only briefly. Parliament will continue to keep a close eye on the negotiations under way and give solid support to future efforts by the candidate states, in the agricultural sector, to make themselves capable of acceding.

Because of continuing shortcomings, your draftsman believes that it is still not desirable to be specific about the date of accession of certain individual applicants. His view is, rather, that new Member States should not accede until they are **actually capable of doing so**.

### Liberalisation of agricultural trade

Independently of the accession negotiations, the EU-15 have managed to ensure, following bilateral negotiations with the CEEC on **liberalisation of agricultural trade**, that existing barriers to trade with the applicant countries are being removed during the preparatory stage. The agreements came into force proper on 1 July 2000. Depending on the degree of sensitivity of products and the requirements of the common agricultural policy (CAP), three lists of bilateral concessions are addressed in different ways:

- **List 1:** For sectors such as citrus fruits, olive oil and horsemeat, there will be complete mutual liberalisation of trade with no quantitative restrictions.

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<sup>1</sup> PE 232.571.



- **List 2:** Under the so-called **double-zero approach**, provision has been made for the mutual abolition of export refunds and reduction of customs duties as part of import tariff quotas in sectors such as pigmeat, poultry and cheese. Initial tariff quotas are to be in line as far as possible with the present volume of trade, based on the average figures for the last three years.
- **List 3:** The last group concerns individual sectors in respect of which concessions are made upon request on a case-by-case basis.

On the basis of the current trade statistics (reference period 1996-1998), the Commission expects this to bring about a considerable medium-term increase in the share of **duty-free agricultural exports** into the EU from the CEEC from 37% to 77%. It is estimated that the average proportion of duty-free agricultural exports from the EU to the CEEC will increase from 20% to 37%. This is welcome.

### **Administration in the agricultural sector**

Implementation of aligned legal provisions, which the applicant countries are tackling with differing degrees of success, above all calls for functioning administrative structures, i.e. the **creation of the necessary administrative capacity and control bodies**. The way in which the states transpose the *acquis communautaire* into their national law, and put it into practice, will ultimately be of crucial importance for determining whether or not the candidates are capable of acceding. What needs to be created in this area, *inter alia*, are appropriate facilities for improving quality policy and product safety. Furthermore, the altered administrative structures in the agricultural sector must also be in a position to produce up-to-date and precise agricultural statistics.

The preparatory aid arrangement **SAPARD** (Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development), adopted as part of Agenda 2000, is a further important point. In this area, since the last report on enlargement and agriculture, all CEEC have signed the multiannual and annual **financing agreements** and, as such, have made vital progress. These agreements govern the administration and control of agricultural measures and rural development programmes by the acceding countries. The main factor determining the speed with which SAPARD can actually be put into effect and funding can start to flow will be the speed with which the relevant candidate countries can establish the necessary SAPARD paying agencies in their countries. In this area, even greater efforts must be made.

### **Budgetary policy implications**

In budgetary policy terms, in particular, the fact that new states will join the EU will have considerable implications. The EU already enters large sums in its budget in order to support candidate states at the pre-accession stage. For SAPARD, for instance, over EUR 1 bn has been made available in the 2000 and 2001 budgets; as yet there has been no outflow of funds.

However, it is decidedly difficult to hold a precise discussion about post-accession costs, since, as the process stands at present, it cannot be foreseen which **scenarios** are most likely to take place. A working document from Parliament's Committee on Budgets on the financial consequences of enlargement<sup>1</sup> makes it clear, for example, that, depending on which accession scenario is applied, the estimated transfers in the agricultural sector from the EU budget to the acceding countries would differ considerably, with possible payments for 2006, as indicated in that document, ranging from EUR 1.9 bn to EUR 7 bn (Luxembourg Group + Lithuania, Latvia, Slovakia and Malta).

Your draftsman therefore thinks it more important, at present, to focus discussion on what is actually intended with the planned enlargement. Our objective must be to clearly reassert Parliament's willingness to admit new members. In this connection, the encouraging experience gained with accessions to date is a good pointer.

### **Veterinary and phytosanitary sectors**

In the veterinary and phytosanitary sectors there are still shortcomings, to a greater or less extent, in virtually all candidate countries. In Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey, for example, ground still needs to be made up in the area of **veterinary inspections**, one example being the fitting-out of the laboratories given this task. Positive developments can be reported in this area from the Czech Republic, where **contagious animal diseases** such as tuberculosis (TBC) and enzootic bovine leukosis (EBL) have been successfully combated.

### **Consequences of restructuring – possible implications of enlargement**

In the countries of central and eastern Europe, the transition to the market economy has had a major impact, and this is above all the result of extensive restructuring in agriculture (e.g. partial land privatisation and the breaking-up of large units). Land prices in the candidate countries remain considerably lower than in the EU-15. That is making the candidate countries afraid that foreign investors will have an adverse impact on their land market and buy up land on a grand scale. To prevent this, some candidate countries such as Bulgaria, Romania and Poland are calling for long transitional periods for **land acquisition**. This must be looked at on a case-by-case basis and solutions which can reasonably be accepted by both parties must be found.

Furthermore, many holdings in the candidate countries, after accession, will no longer be competitive and will have to abandon farming. That would lead to the dismissal of a large number of agricultural workers and an increase in unemployment. Even if accession takes place at a reasonable pace, then, the resulting social impact will inevitably have to be cushioned by means of appropriate **structural measures** such as, for instance, early-retirement schemes. The package on structural assistance for rural areas, adopted by the Council in 1999, would also be suitable for mitigating the potentially adverse social impact in the agricultural sector.

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<sup>1</sup> PE 300.045.

## Direct payments and quotas

A heated debate is taking place on the issues of direct payments and quotas in connection with EU enlargement.

As part of the 1992 agricultural reform, **direct payments** were introduced by way of compensation for the reduction of institutional prices. As is well known, the candidate countries regard direct income transfers as a central component of the CAP. They are therefore claiming the full amount of such payments for their farmers, too, as is made clear by the candidate countries' position papers which have been submitted. The question is, however, whether immediate full-scale introduction of direct payments might not slow down necessary structural change and jeopardise the stability of future EU budgets.

A complete waiver of all direct payments is not practical, however, as that would bring about a risk that supply checks would be abandoned, resulting in new unsaleable investment stock. A gradual introduction at EU-15 level would therefore be an alternative that might accommodate the interests of all concerned. The benefits of what is termed the **phasing-in model** were examined in the last report on enlargement and agriculture<sup>1</sup>.

During accession negotiations, the main issue with regard to quotas and quantity regulations was what the starting point should be. Use must be made of a reference period that largely reflects production reality in recent years.

Account must be taken of two factors in this connection: firstly, the Member States must be offered a fair production framework; secondly, the aim must be to prevent the basis for a quantitative assessment at the pre-accession stage from being distorted by artificial production increases. Lastly, production data from former planned economies were not comparable with market economy data. In the negotiations, the EU is pressing for a **reference period in the recent past** (between 1995 and 1999) in order to have an appropriate basis for the assessment of quotas and quantity regulations. This approach is welcomed by your draftsman.

## Future of rural areas

It can be deduced from the figures in the Commission's last progress report (11/2000) that the regional policy role of the agricultural sector in the candidate countries is at least as important as in the EU-15 states, in particular as agriculture's share of gross domestic product and the percentage of the population employed in agriculture far exceed the EU average in most cases.

For rural areas in the candidate countries in particular, agriculture remains an economic factor of paramount importance. Post-accession, then, agriculture and people in rural areas in those countries must under no circumstances be deprived of economic opportunities. To prevent this, your draftsman's recommendation is, as it was in the last report on enlargement and agriculture<sup>2</sup>, that there should be greater **concentration of integrated structural assistance measures** in the regions concerned and provisions of the EU's rural development assistance regulation should be fully applied in the candidate states.

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<sup>1</sup> PE 232.571.

<sup>2</sup> PE 232.571.

The fact is that, in the long term, it will be necessary in an enlarged Union to reduce support prices to world market levels in order to minimise incentives for surplus production. Any revenue shortfall in agriculture as a result of this ought to be offset by product-independent payments to farmers. Agenda 2000 made a start on establishing a CAP geared less to price support and more to direct income aids unrelated to production and to a **multifunctional rural development and environment and quality policy**. Such an expanded policy would also benefit the process of structural adjustment in the acceding countries, since it would help to narrow the price gap. Your draftsman therefore recommends that, at EU-15 level, there should be an overall increase in projected second-pillar funding before new members are admitted.

Your draftsman also suggests that **regional production** be encouraged and that special support be given to **joint ventures** between firms from the EU and candidate countries in the rural regions concerned.

### **Organic farming**

The importance of organic farming varies from one candidate country to another. While some 2.6% of agricultural land in the Czech Republic is farmed in accordance with organic standards, the figure is less than 0.5% in the other states. The reason for the high percentage of organic farming in the Czech Republic is that for about 10 years, with a number of interruptions, there has been government assistance for organic holdings. Organic farming is also supported in Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, for example. **Progress in the area of organic farming** in the CEEC needs not only to be expressly acknowledged by the EU-15 but also to be given sustained support.

Even if organic farming in the above-mentioned countries tends to be the result of low productivity and a lack of technical infrastructure facilities downstream from agriculture, in overall terms it should play a greater role both in the current EU-15 and in the prospective EU-28. In terms of sustainable rural development, an agricultural sector in particular that maximises environmental-friendliness as the basis for future generations' existence takes on greater importance.

### **The ability to accede and institutional reforms**

In conclusion, your draftsman would point out that the question as to whether or not countries are capable of accession cannot under any circumstances be viewed in isolation from the issue of necessary institutional reforms within the EU-15. We still find it incomprehensible that, to date, only the consultation procedure applies to decision-taking in the agricultural sector and that, in a policy area which, after all, accounts for about half the EU budget, Parliament is only asked for its opinion. In what is a central policy area, Parliament must be given the **right to full codecision** pursuant to Article 251 of the EC Treaty before new states join the EU.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy as the committee responsible to incorporate the following points in its respective motions for resolutions on the Commission reports on progress by Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey towards accession:

**Estonia:**

COM (2000) 704 – C5-0604/2000 – 1997/2177

1. Notes that direct payments to agricultural producers are playing an important and controversial role in the accession negotiations; stresses the need to bring direct payments within the sphere of the 'second pillar' of the CAP by compulsorily tying premiums to social and ecological criteria (cross-compliance and modulation) in order to make them less controversial and guarantee that direct payments in an enlarged Union will be uniformly determined;
2. Encourages the negotiating partners to conclude technical agreements for each area, with transitional periods to be avoided as far as possible;
3. Notes that agricultural production in line with European food safety, veterinary, phytosanitary and quality standards is not possible, in every instance, when accession takes place; notes that pre-accession aid must also be targeted on improving that situation; realises that, for a period following accession, internal trade may be restricted by these European demands;
4. Views with concern the fact that **land reform** in Estonia is only making slow progress and points out in this connection that, between 1992 and September 2000, only 57%<sup>1</sup> of Estonian land was entered in the land registry;
5. Welcomes the progress made to date in the **veterinary** area, but stresses that Estonia must make even more progress in adopting and implementing legislation in this area; calls on the Commission, in this connection, to encourage Estonia, and to support it in the process, to bring its **animal welfare** legislation into line;
6. Points out that progress still has to be made in establishing the **common market organisations for crops, milk and meat** and that implementing provisions for the law on **rural development** and agricultural market regulation must be adopted;
7. Welcomes the signing of the financing agreements by way of preparation for **SAPARD** and hopes that Estonia will be in a position as soon as possible to establish the SAPARD payment agencies; stresses the importance of integrated rural development for the enlargement process; notes with concern, however, with regard to possible assistance measures, the rural population's lack of information and growing dissatisfaction; calls on the Commission to ensure under the SAPARD programme, and other pre-accession aid arrangements, that there is a profound improvement in the information provided to the rural population on rural development plans and in its involvement in them;

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<sup>1</sup> The main source for the statistics given is the Commission's last progress report (11/2000).

8. Welcomes the conclusion of the agreements on the further liberalisation of agricultural trade and the **double-zero approach** contained therein which provides for the mutual abolition of export refunds and the reduction of customs duties in connection with import tariff quotas; points out that, as a result, Estonia has made perceptible progress on preparing for a common internal market.

**Poland:**

COM (2000) 709 – C5-0609/2000 – 1997/2174(COS)

1. Notes that direct payments to agricultural producers are playing an important and controversial role in the accession negotiations; stresses the need to bring direct payments within the sphere of the 'second pillar' of the CAP by compulsorily tying premiums to social and ecological criteria (cross-compliance and modulation) in order to make them less controversial and guarantee that direct payments in an enlarged Union will be uniformly determined;
2. Encourages the negotiating partners to conclude technical agreements for each area, with transitional periods to be avoided as far as possible;
3. Notes that agricultural production in line with European food safety, veterinary, phytosanitary and quality standards is not possible, in every instance, when accession takes place; notes that pre-accession aid must also be targeted on improving that situation; realises that, for a period following accession, internal trade may be restricted by these European demands;
4. Realises that, since the Commission's last progress report, Poland has made progress in the agricultural sector, but that this is nowhere near enough; points out in this connection that virtually no progress has been made on **veterinary** legislation, with the exception of a number of regulations on inspections to determine animal infections and residues of prohibited biological and chemical substances in meat or tissue from slaughtered animals;
5. Welcomes the progress made to date in the **phytosanitary** sector through the laws, put in hand in 2000, on seeds and fertilisers; points out, however, that it is precisely the implementation of Community plant variety law and phytosanitary policy that should be embarked upon as swiftly as possible; welcomes Poland's efforts to support domestic **organic farming**;
6. Welcomes the signing of the financing agreements by way of preparation for **SAPARD** and hopes that Poland will be in a position as soon as possible to establish the SAPARD payment agencies; stresses the importance of integrated rural development for the enlargement process; notes with concern, however, with regard to possible assistance measures, the rural population's lack of information and growing dissatisfaction; calls on the Commission to ensure under the SAPARD programme, and other pre-accession aid arrangements, that there is a profound improvement in the information provided to the rural population on rural development plans and in its involvement in them;

7. Points out that Poland has not yet made sufficient progress to enable it to adopt the Community's **quality policy** to promote products of specific origin and geographical indication; points out in this connection that, in addition to the legal basis, transposition of such a policy also requires registration of the necessary registration and control bodies;
8. Notes Poland's fears concerning **land acquisition**, or land purchases; points out that the 18-year transitional period sought by Poland is very long, since excessively long transitional periods in this area may result in distortions on the common market in land; points in this connection to the need to provide more support for cooperative structures there, so as to enable Poland to participate in the internal market successfully;
9. Welcomes the conclusion of the agreements on the further liberalisation of agricultural trade and the **double-zero approach** contained therein which provides for the mutual abolition of export refunds and the reduction of customs duties in connection with import tariff quotas; points out that, as a result, Poland has made perceptible progress on preparing for a common internal market;
10. Calls, wherever possible, for Community legislation to be introduced before accession takes place, so that transitional periods can be shortened, trading contacts promoted further, implementation problems prevented and possible obstacles to rapid accession identified and remedied at an early stage.

#### **Hungary:**

COM (2000) 705 – C5-0605/2000 – 1997/2175

1. Notes that direct payments to agricultural producers are playing an important and controversial role in the accession negotiations; stresses the need to bring direct payments within the sphere of the 'second pillar' of the CAP by compulsorily tying premiums to social and ecological criteria (cross-compliance and modulation) in order to make them less controversial and guarantee that direct payments in an enlarged Union will be uniformly determined;
2. Encourages the negotiating partners to conclude technical agreements for each area, with transitional periods to be avoided as far as possible;
3. Notes that agricultural production in line with European food safety, veterinary, phytosanitary and quality standards is not possible, in every instance, when accession takes place; notes that pre-accession aid must also be targeted on improving that situation; realises that, for a period following accession, internal trade may be restricted by these European demands;
4. Notes with satisfaction that the progress made by Hungary to date is an appropriate basis for transposition of the *acquis communautaire* within agriculture; points out in this connection, however, that, with regard to **land reform**, the Hungarian Parliament has still not yet deliberated on the laws on land consolidation and the national land fund;

5. Is keeping a close watching brief as to whether, following adoption of the State Programme on Agriculture and the Environment, the Hungarian Government will establish a suitable administrative structure in the area of **rural development and forests**; welcomes the national agri-environmental protection programme planned by Hungary for 2001, under which **organic farming** is to be given preferential assistance;
6. Draws attention to the fact that yet more changes are needed in the **veterinary** sector; calls in this connection for further changes concerning veterinary inspections; draws attention to the fact that, in this area, Hungary has yet to develop provisions on compensatory measures for farmers affected by outbreaks of diseases;
7. Welcomes the signing of the financing agreements by way of preparation for **SAPARD** and hopes that Hungary will be in a position as soon as possible to establish the SAPARD payment agencies; stresses the importance of integrated rural development for the enlargement process; notes with concern, however, with regard to possible assistance measures, the rural population's lack of information and growing dissatisfaction; calls on the Commission to ensure under the SAPARD programme, and other pre-accession aid arrangements, that there is a profound improvement in the information provided to the rural population on rural development plans and in its involvement in them;
8. Welcomes the conclusion of the agreements on the further liberalisation of agricultural trade and the **double-zero approach** contained therein which provides for the mutual abolition of export refunds and the reduction of customs duties in connection with import tariff quotas; points out that, as a result, Poland has made perceptible progress on preparing for a common internal market.

#### **Czech Republic:**

COM (2000) 703 – C5-0603/2000 – 1997/2180(COS)

1. Notes that direct payments to agricultural producers are playing an important and controversial role in the accession negotiations; stresses the need to bring direct payments within the sphere of the 'second pillar' of the CAP by compulsorily tying premiums to social and ecological criteria (cross-compliance and modulation) in order to make them less controversial and guarantee that direct payments in an enlarged Union will be uniformly determined;
2. Encourages the negotiating partners to conclude technical agreements for each area, with transitional periods to be avoided as far as possible;
3. Notes that agricultural production in line with European food safety, veterinary, phytosanitary and quality standards is not possible, in every instance, when accession takes place; notes that pre-accession aid must also be targeted on improving that situation; realises that, for a period following accession, internal trade may be restricted by these European demands;
4. Welcomes the fact that, in the agricultural sector, the process of bringing legislation into line with the *acquis communautaire* in the Czech Republic is making good progress; notes in this connection that, for instance, the *acquis* in the veterinary and



phytosanitary areas and in the milk, starch and sugar beet sectors has already been incorporated into Czech legislation;

5. Points out that, in the area of animal welfare, changes concerning provisions on the **keeping of laying hens** are still needed;
6. Regards the signing of the financing agreement as a vital step towards preparing for **SAPARD** and hopes that the Czech Republic will be in a position as soon as possible to establish the SAPARD payment agencies; stresses the importance of integrated rural development for the enlargement process; notes with concern, however, with regard to possible assistance measures, the rural population's lack of information and growing dissatisfaction; calls on the Commission to ensure under the SAPARD programme, and other pre-accession aid arrangements, that there is a profound improvement in the information provided to the rural population on rural development plans and in its involvement in them;
7. Welcomes the conclusion of the agreements on the further liberalisation of agricultural trade and the **double-zero approach** contained therein which provides for the mutual abolition of export refunds and the reduction of customs duties in connection with import tariff quotas; points out that, as a result, the Czech Republic has made perceptible progress on preparing for a common internal market.

#### **Cyprus:**

COM (2000) 702 – C5-0602/2000 – 1997/2171(COS)

1. Notes that direct payments to agricultural producers are playing an important and controversial role in the accession negotiations; stresses the need to bring direct payments within the sphere of the 'second pillar' of the CAP by compulsorily tying premiums to social and ecological criteria (cross-compliance and modulation) in order to make them less controversial and guarantee that direct payments in an enlarged Union will be uniformly determined;
2. Encourages the negotiating partners to conclude technical agreements for each area, with transitional periods to be avoided as far as possible;
3. Notes that agricultural production in line with European food safety, veterinary, phytosanitary and quality standards is not possible, in every instance, when accession takes place; notes that pre-accession aid must also be targeted on improving that situation; realises that, for a period following accession, internal trade may be restricted by these European demands;
4. Notes that progress has been made in preparing Cypriot agriculture for the common agricultural policy, but draws attention to the fact that major components of the agriculture acquis have still not been taken over, in particular as regards the abolition of government monopolies; also recommends that Cyprus establish the requisite administrative and procedural structures;
5. Points out that, in the area of **quality policy**, legislation on quality labels still has to be adopted; points out that the international agreements on geographical indications and

designations of origin have still not been signed by the Cypriot Government; also draws attention to the fact that the **acquis for organic farming** has not yet been incorporated;

6. Notes that Cyprus already has a measure of experience in the area of **rural development and forestry**, including environmental protection measures within agriculture, though the necessary control organisations for the environmental protection programme have still to be set up;
7. Points out that the **veterinary and phytosanitary** acquis has to date only been transposed in part; urgently recommends that, in this connection, Cyprus bring its veterinary and phytosanitary provisions further into line with the acquis; recommends that **emergency plans for foot-and-mouth disease and classical swine fever** be implemented in the veterinary sector; calls, with regard to animal and plant health, on the Cypriot Government to equip border control stations better.

### **Slovenia:**

COM (2000) 712 – C5-0612/2000 – 1997/2181

1. Notes that direct payments to agricultural producers are playing an important and controversial role in the accession negotiations; stresses the need to bring direct payments within the sphere of the 'second pillar' of the CAP by compulsorily tying premiums to social and ecological criteria (cross-compliance and modulation) in order to make them less controversial and guarantee that direct payments in an enlarged Union will be uniformly determined;
2. Encourages the negotiating partners to conclude technical agreements for each area, with transitional periods to be avoided as far as possible;
3. Notes that agricultural production in line with European food safety, veterinary, phytosanitary and quality standards is not possible, in every instance, when accession takes place; notes that pre-accession aid must also be targeted on improving that situation; realises that, for a period following accession, internal trade may be restricted by these European demands;
4. Notes with satisfaction that Slovenia has made perceptible progress towards complete transposition of the **acquis communautaire**, in particular by adopting the **law on agriculture** in June 2000; points out, however, that efforts to modernise border control stations are still necessary;
5. Draws attention to the fact that the **structures of holdings in the agricultural sector** are still unfavourable, since 90% of agricultural land continues to be farmed by small private holdings, which accounts for the average farm size of only 4.8 ha; points in this connection to the need to provide more support for cooperative structures there, so as to enable Slovenia to participate in the internal market successfully;
6. Views with concern the fact that, in the **veterinary and phytosanitary** sector, progress has still not been made in setting up and modernising **control stations** on the

border with Croatia and draws attention to the fact that it is the EU's external borders which are of crucial importance for the internal market's control system;

7. Welcomes the signing of the financing agreements by way of preparation for **SAPARD** and hopes that Slovenia will be in a position as soon as possible to set up the relevant payment agencies; stresses the importance of integrated rural development for the enlargement process; notes with concern, however, with regard to possible assistance measures, the rural population's lack of information and growing dissatisfaction; calls on the Commission to ensure under the SAPARD programme, and other pre-accession aid arrangements, that there is a profound improvement in the information provided to the rural population on rural development plans and in its involvement in them;
8. Welcomes the conclusion of the agreements on the further liberalisation of agricultural trade and the **double-zero approach** contained therein, which provides for the mutual abolition of export refunds and the reduction of customs duties in connection with import tariff quotas; points out that, as a result, Slovenia has made perceptible progress on preparing for a common internal market.

#### **Romania:**

COM (2000) 0710 – C5-0610/2000 – 1997/2172(COS)

1. Notes that direct payments to agricultural producers are playing an important and controversial role in the accession negotiations; stresses the need to bring direct payments within the sphere of the 'second pillar' of the CAP by compulsorily tying premiums to social and ecological criteria (cross-compliance and modulation) in order to make them less controversial and guarantee that direct payments in an enlarged Union will be uniformly determined;
2. Encourages the negotiating partners to conclude technical agreements for each area, with transitional periods to be avoided as far as possible;
3. Notes that agricultural production in line with European food safety, veterinary, phytosanitary and quality standards is not possible, in every instance, when accession takes place; notes that pre-accession aid must also be targeted on improving that situation; realises that, for a period following accession, internal trade may be restricted by these European demands;
4. Draws attention to the fact that Romania continues to have fundamental problems in laying down and implementing measures needed for the modernisation and sound development of the agricultural sector; notes in this connection, with concern, that, since the European Commission's penultimate progress report, Romania has made little progress in assisting **rural areas**;
5. Very much welcomes, however, the signing of the **financing agreements** in connection with **SAPARD** and hopes that Romania can establish the payment agencies on a decentralised basis as soon as possible; stresses the importance of integrated rural development for the enlargement process; notes with concern, however, with regard to possible assistance measures, the rural population's lack of

information and growing dissatisfaction; calls on the Commission to ensure under the SAPARD programme, and other pre-accession aid arrangements, that there is a profound improvement in the information provided to the rural population on rural development plans and in its involvement in them;

6. Welcomes the fact that some progress has been made in the **veterinary sector**, e.g. provisions have been adopted for the notification of certain communicable animal diseases and veterinary standards for the licensing of holdings;
7. Welcomes the **organic farming** legislation adopted since 2000, which extends to production, imports and exports, environmental protection, and the certification, control and labelling of organic farming products; notes that, to a large extent, Romanian law in this area is now in line with Community law;
8. Draws attention to the fact that, with regard to **guarding and controlling** the EU's external borders, Romania still needs to make major efforts concerning border control posts in particular;
9. Welcomes the conclusion of the agreements on the further liberalisation of agricultural trade and the **double-zero approach** contained therein, which provides for the mutual abolition of export refunds and the reduction of customs duties in connection with import tariff quotas; points out that, as a result, Romania has made perceptible progress on preparing for a common internal market.

#### **Bulgaria:**

COM (2000) 701 – C5-0601/2000 – 1997/2179(COS)

1. Notes that direct payments to agricultural producers are playing an important and controversial role in the accession negotiations; stresses the need to bring direct payments within the sphere of the 'second pillar' of the CAP by compulsorily tying premiums to social and ecological criteria (cross-compliance and modulation) in order to make them less controversial and guarantee that direct payments in an enlarged Union will be uniformly determined;
2. Encourages the negotiating partners to conclude technical agreements for each area, with transitional periods to be avoided as far as possible;
3. Notes that agricultural production in line with European food safety, veterinary, phytosanitary and quality standards is not possible, in every instance, when accession takes place; notes that pre-accession aid must also be targeted on improving that situation; realises that, for a period following accession, internal trade may be restricted by these European demands;
4. Notes that progress has been made overall in Bulgaria with regard to bringing legislation into line with the *acquis communautaire*, in particular as regards the process of **returning land**, which is virtually complete, and adoption of the land registry law; draws attention to the fact that there is still no functioning land market and banks still do not accept land as collateral;

5. Welcomes the progress concerning **animal and plant health**, but recommends in this connection that Bulgaria better equip veterinary and phytosanitary laboratories and better train the staff employed there;
6. Draws attention to the fact that the ten-year transitional period envisaged by Bulgaria in the area of **land acquisition**, or land purchase, is very long and that excessively long transitional periods in this area may lead to imbalances on the Community land market;
7. Notes with satisfaction the signing of the financing agreements by way of preparation for **SAPARD** and is pleased that the payment agency has been accredited, thus enabling the funding to be actually used; stresses the importance of integrated rural development for the enlargement process; notes with concern, however, with regard to possible assistance measures, the rural population's lack of information and growing dissatisfaction; calls on the Commission to ensure under the SAPARD programme, and other pre-accession aid arrangements, that there is a profound improvement in the information provided to the rural population on rural development plans and in its involvement in them;
8. Welcomes the conclusion of the agreements on the further liberalisation of agricultural trade and the **double-zero approach** contained therein, which provides for the mutual abolition of export refunds and the reduction of customs duties in connection with import tariff quotas; points out that, as a result, Bulgaria has made perceptible progress on preparing for a common internal market.

#### **Slovakia:**

COM (2000) 711 – C5-0611/2000 – 1997/2173

1. Notes that direct payments to agricultural producers are playing an important and controversial role in the accession negotiations; stresses the need to bring direct payments within the sphere of the 'second pillar' of the CAP by compulsorily tying premiums to social and ecological criteria (cross-compliance and modulation) in order to make them less controversial and guarantee that direct payments in an enlarged Union will be uniformly determined;
2. Encourages the negotiating partners to conclude technical agreements for each area, with transitional periods to be avoided as far as possible;
3. Notes that agricultural production in line with European food safety, veterinary, phytosanitary and quality standards is not possible, in every instance, when accession takes place; notes that pre-accession aid must also be targeted on improving that situation; realises that, for a period following accession, internal trade may be restricted by these European demands;
4. Stresses that, since Parliament's last strategy paper on enlargement, no particular progress can be reported on **quality policy** and Slovakia's preparations for setting up an integrated information network for farm accounts have not progressed;

5. Welcomes the incorporation of **veterinary and phytosanitary** legislation, which has reached a very advanced stage, though also notes that there are still shortcomings with regard to transposition of that legislation; highlights as a positive feature, however, the fact that Slovakian legislation on **organic farming** is modelled on EU rules;
6. Recommends that Slovakia continue to endeavour to implement environmental protection measures in the area of **rural development** and **forestry**;
7. Acknowledges Slovakian efforts in the agricultural sector to implement **SAPARD** and sign the **financing agreements**, and hopes that the payment agencies can be established as soon as possible; recommends, in addition, that Slovakia improve overall **administrative efficiency**; stresses the importance of integrated rural development for the enlargement process; notes with concern, however, with regard to possible assistance measures, the rural population's lack of information and growing dissatisfaction; calls on the Commission to ensure under the SAPARD programme, and other pre-accession aid arrangements, that there is a profound improvement in the information provided to the rural population on rural development plans and in its involvement in them;
8. Welcomes the conclusion of the agreements on the further liberalisation of agricultural trade and the **double-zero approach** contained therein, which provides for the mutual abolition of export refunds and the reduction of customs duties in connection with import tariff quotas; points out that, as a result, Slovakia has made perceptible progress on preparing for a common internal market.

**Malta:**

COM (2000) 708 – C5-0608/2000 – 1999/2029(COS)

1. Notes that direct payments to agricultural producers are playing an important and controversial role in the accession negotiations; stresses the need to bring direct payments within the sphere of the 'second pillar' of the CAP by compulsorily tying premiums to social and ecological criteria (cross-compliance and modulation) in order to make them less controversial and guarantee that direct payments in an enlarged Union will be uniformly determined;
2. Encourages the negotiating partners to conclude technical agreements for each area, with transitional periods to be avoided as far as possible;
3. Notes that agricultural production in line with European food safety, veterinary, phytosanitary and quality standards is not possible, in every instance, when accession takes place; notes that pre-accession aid must also be targeted on improving that situation; realises that, for a period following accession, internal trade may be restricted by these European demands;
4. Notes with concern that Malta has made little progress in establishing **administrative structures** that would be necessary for implementation of the common agricultural policy;

5. Draws attention to the fact that, in the **phytosanitary** area, the relevant provisions of the acquis still have to be incorporated and points out that the ability to deal with new phytosanitary aspects still has to be developed; welcomes the fact, however, that a **plant health** monitoring programme has been submitted and a number of testing standards brought into line with EU requirements; points out that arrangements for the disposal of waste material from slaughtered animals are not yet in line with the acquis communautaire;
6. Points out that, within **quality policy**, quality designations for the various agricultural products still have to be developed which are compatible with the Community's.

**Turkey:**

COM (2000) 713 – C5-0613/2000 – 2000/2014(COS)

1. Notes that direct payments to agricultural producers are playing an important and controversial role in the accession negotiations; stresses the need to bring direct payments within the sphere of the 'second pillar' of the CAP by compulsorily tying premiums to social and ecological criteria (cross-compliance and modulation) in order to make them less controversial and guarantee that direct payments in an enlarged Union will be uniformly determined;
2. Encourages the negotiating partners to conclude technical agreements for each area, with transitional periods to be avoided as far as possible;
3. Notes that agricultural production in line with European food safety, veterinary, phytosanitary and quality standards is not possible, in every instance, when accession takes place; notes that pre-accession aid must also be targeted on improving that situation; realises that, for a period following accession, internal trade may be restricted by these European demands;
4. Notes that Turkey's **agricultural policy** is substantially **different** from the CAP and that the comparatively low productivity of holdings, which are on average very small (approx. 6 ha), as a result of inadequate marketing opportunities and inefficient price formation on the Turkish market, raises problems; notes therefore that a production increase is currently the main concern of Turkish agricultural policy;
5. Draws attention to the fact that basic mechanisms are needed to create appropriate **administrative structures** and that, for instance, the merging, a process now started, of a host of institutions dealing with agricultural policy could point in the right direction;
6. Recommends that Turkey formulate a clear strategy for incorporating the **veterinary** acquis, in respect of which, for instance, laboratories need to be equipped to be able to detect diseases more effectively.

**Latvia:**

COM (2000) 706 – C5-0606/2000 – 1997/2176

1. Notes that direct payments to agricultural producers are playing an important and controversial role in the accession negotiations; stresses the need to bring direct payments within the sphere of the 'second pillar' of the CAP by compulsorily tying premiums to social and ecological criteria (cross-compliance and modulation) in order to make them less controversial and guarantee that direct payments in an enlarged Union will be uniformly determined;
2. Encourages the negotiating partners to conclude technical agreements for each area, with transitional periods to be avoided as far as possible;
3. Notes that agricultural production in line with European food safety, veterinary, phytosanitary and quality standards is not possible, in every instance, when accession takes place; notes that pre-accession aid must also be targeted on improving that situation; realises that, for a period following accession, internal trade may be restricted by these European demands;
4. Welcomes the fact that there has been an **animal welfare** law since December 1999; stresses, however, that much still needs to be done in the **phytosanitary sector** since, for instance, the Latvian lists of pollutants and quarantine requirements depart from the EU's;
5. Points out that, as regards the introduction of the **integrated administration and control system (IACS)**, there are still a number of shortcomings with regard to the condition of existing databases and data networks;
6. Notes that a start has already been made on preparations for appropriate monitoring of **organic farming**, though the legislation still has to be amended and the requisite certification and control bodies still have to be brought into line with Community requirements;
7. Welcomes the signing of the financing agreements by way of preparation for **SAPARD** and hopes that the SAPARD payment agencies will soon be established; stresses the importance of integrated rural development for the enlargement process; notes with concern, however, with regard to possible assistance measures, the rural population's lack of information and growing dissatisfaction; calls on the Commission to ensure under the SAPARD programme, and other pre-accession aid arrangements, that there is a profound improvement in the information provided to the rural population on rural development plans and in its involvement in them;
8. Welcomes the conclusion of the agreements on the further liberalisation of agricultural trade and the **double-zero approach** contained therein which provides for the mutual abolition of export refunds and the reduction of customs duties in connection with import tariff quotas; points out that, as a result, Latvia has made perceptible progress on preparing for a common internal market.

**Lithuania:**

COM (2000) 701 – C5-0607/2000 – 1997/2178



1. Notes that direct payments to agricultural producers are playing an important and controversial role in the accession negotiations; stresses the need to bring direct payments within the sphere of the 'second pillar' of the CAP by compulsorily tying premiums to social and ecological criteria (cross-compliance and modulation) in order to make them less controversial and guarantee that direct payments in an enlarged Union will be uniformly determined;
2. Encourages the negotiating partners to conclude technical agreements for each area, with transitional periods to be avoided as far as possible;
3. Notes that agricultural production in line with European food safety, veterinary, phytosanitary and quality standards is not possible, in every instance, when accession takes place; notes that pre-accession aid must also be targeted on improving that situation; realises that, for a period following accession, internal trade may be restricted by these European demands;
4. Welcomes the fact that, in the **phytosanitary area**, the most important legislation has already been incorporated, but points out that Lithuania must make even greater efforts to bring its import control legislation into line in particular;
5. Stresses that in the **veterinary sector**, too, the most important legislative provisions of the *acquis communautaire* have been incorporated into Lithuanian law; points out, however, that restructuring in this area (establishment of food supervisory agencies) must be completed; recommends, in addition, that the further training programmes already started for staff working in this area be continued;
6. Notes, with regard to **land reform**, that the process of returning land has virtually been completed;
7. Welcomes the signing of the financing agreements by way of preparation for **SAPARD** and hopes that the SAPARD payment agencies will soon be established; stresses the importance of integrated rural development for the enlargement process; notes with concern, however, with regard to possible assistance measures, the rural population's lack of information and growing dissatisfaction; calls on the Commission to ensure under the SAPARD programme, and other pre-accession aid arrangements, that there is a profound improvement in the information provided to the rural population on rural development plans and in its involvement in them;
8. Welcomes the conclusion of the agreements on the further liberalisation of agricultural trade and the **double-zero approach** contained therein which provides for the mutual abolition of export refunds and the reduction of customs duties in connection with import tariff quotas; points out that, as a result, Lithuania has made perceptible progress on preparing for a common internal market.

27 June 2001

## **OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, YOUTH, EDUCATION, THE MEDIA AND SPORT**

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy

on the applications by Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey to accede to the European Union and the current position with regard to the negotiations (COM(2000) 701-713 – C5-0601-613/2000 – 1997/2171-2181(COC), 1999/2029(COS) and 2000/2014(COS))

Draftsman: Ole Andreasen

### **PROCEDURE**

The Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport appointed Ole Andreasen draftsman at its meeting of 10 April 2001.

It considered the draft opinion at its meetings of 29 May and 26 June 2001.

At the latter meeting it adopted the following conclusions unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: Giuseppe Gargani, chairman; Vasco Graça Moura, Ulpu Iivari and Giorgio Ruffolo, vice-chairman; Ole Andreasen, draftsman; Pedro Aparicio Sánchez, Christine de Veyrac, Raina A. Mercedes Echerer (for Eurig Wyn), Robert J.E. Evans (for Phillip Whitehead), Ruth Hieronymi, Pietro-Paolo Mennea, Barbara O'Toole, Doris Pack, Christa Prets, Martine Roure, Guido Sacconi (for Valter Veltroni, pursuant to Rule 53(2)), Marieke Sanders-ten Holte, The Earl of Stockton (for Roy Perry), Kathleen Van Brempt, Luckas Vander Taelen, Sabine Zissener and Myrsini Zorba (for Lissy Gröner).

## **SHORT JUSTIFICATION**

### **A. Information and communication**

All the candidate countries are making an effort to inform their people of the European Union's activities and of the consequences which future membership of the European Union will have.

The efforts being made in the information and communication field in the various candidate countries vary considerably and there is clearly no cooperation between the candidate countries on what is after all their common task to inform their citizens about the European Union.

Owing to the candidate countries' differing levels of economic and political development there are great differences in the countries' information and communication policies and thus also in the level of information about the European Union among the population at large. Accordingly there is also a wide variety in the level of public support in the candidate countries for membership of the European Union.

Opinion polls show a general trend, with support for European Union membership greatest in the southern applicant states, led by Cyprus at the top with 95% support, and lowest in the northern countries, with Estonia at the bottom with only 28% in favour of membership.

In a number of candidate countries there is to be a referendum on accession to the European Union, and this is an extra incentive to improve information and communication policy both on the part of the candidate countries and by the European Union itself.

The level of information in the present Member States about the applicant countries and their accession to the European Union is relatively low. Similarly there is in many Member States relatively little support for the European Union's enlargement to include the countries of Eastern and Central Europe.

### **B. Training and youth**

All the candidate countries currently involved in accession negotiations with the EU have signed up to Chapter 18 on education, training and youth.

Estonia, Slovakia, Cyprus, Poland, Malta and Slovenia are participating in the Socrates, Leonardo and Youth programmes.

Hungary, Bulgaria, Latvia and Romania participate in the Socrates and Leonardo programmes and are preparing to participate in the Youth programme.

Lithuania is participating in the Socrates and Leonardo programmes.

### **C. Culture and the audiovisual media**

All candidate countries currently involved in accession negotiations with the EU, except for Romania and Hungary, have signed up to Chapter 20 on Culture and audiovisual policy.

The Commission has prepared proposals for decisions on participation by Central and Eastern European candidate countries in the Culture 2000 programme. The European Parliament has approved these, but the Council has not.

The Commission has not yet prepared proposals for decisions on the participation by Central and Eastern European countries in the Media Plus programme, so that the European Parliament and the Council have not yet had a chance to give their approval.

#### **D. Minorities**

In most candidate countries there are still unresolved issues with a view to providing guarantees for cultural and linguistic ethnic minorities, but work is going on in these countries to improve the situation. The problems are very varied and so are the initiatives being taken to deal with these problems. Consequently the results of the various efforts are also very varied. The minority issues are likely to be greatest in Romania and least significant in Poland and the Czech Republic.

The treatment of the Roma question remains an unsolved issue in most of the candidate countries.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

The Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following points in its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses at the outset that the necessary comparable and reliable information is not yet available to permit a really serious assessment of the situation in the candidate countries in the areas of responsibility of the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport, and that the information which is available can be contradictory;

#### **Poland**

2. Welcomes the fact that Poland has carried out a wide-ranging and fruitful campaign to inform its people about the European Union; notes that the effort made by the European Union to provide information to Poland has been inadequate, and calls for significant improvements in this respect; calls on the institutions of the European Union to launch information campaigns on the implications of enlargement;
3. Wants more cooperation, exchange of information and best practices between the applicant countries in the field of information and communication policy towards the citizens;

4. Notes that in March 2000 an amendment Act on Radio and Television broadcasting was adopted, which is a significant step forward towards aligning Poland's legislation in the audiovisual sector with the Community acquis, but still does not completely comply with the acquis so that further efforts will have to be made;
5. Earnestly hopes that the Council will soon approve the proposals for decisions with a view to Poland's participation in the Culture 2000 and Media + programmes; recalls that the establishment of a 'European Cultural Area' centred on respect for and encouragement of cultural and linguistic diversity and a common shared heritage will contribute to the process of integration;
6. Notes that popular support for membership of the European Union has been declining in recent years, which is partly the result of dilatoriness in the European Union's own ranks; calls for accession negotiations to be speeded up in order to avoid damage to the continued development of the European project;

### **Czech Republic**

7. Welcomes the fact that the Czech Republic adopted a new TV and radio law in 2001 which means that the country now meets the conditions of the "TV without frontiers" directive;
8. Notes that the European Union's information campaign for the Czech Republic has been inadequate, and calls for significant improvements in this respect; calls on the institutions of the European Union to launch information campaigns on the implications of enlargement;
9. Wants more cooperation, exchange of information and best practices between the applicant countries in the field of information and communication policy towards the citizens;
10. Earnestly hopes that the Council will soon approve the proposals for decisions with a view to the Czech Republic's participation in the Culture 2000 and Media + programmes; recalls that the establishment of a 'European Cultural Area' centred on respect for and encouragement of cultural and linguistic diversity and a common shared heritage will contribute to the process of integration;
11. Notes that in the area of general and vocational training good progress has been made, but that further alignment of legal provisions is necessary;
12. Notes that significant efforts have been made regarding the situation of the Roma Community, notably with regard to the education system, but that further progress is required;
13. Notes that popular support for membership of the European Union has been declining in recent years, which is partly the result of dilatoriness in the European Union's own ranks; calls for accession negotiations to be speeded up in order to avoid damage to the continued development of the European project;

## **Hungary**

14. Welcomes Hungary's exceptionally sensible and successful policy of information and communication on the European Union; notes that the European Union's information campaign for Hungary has been inadequate, and calls for significant improvements in this respect; calls on the institutions of the European Union to launch information campaigns on the implications of enlargement;
15. Wants more cooperation, exchange of information and best practices between the applicant countries in the field of information and communication policy towards the citizens;
16. Notes that there has been a failure to meet the short-term priority of the Accession Partnership to take over the Community acquis in the audiovisual sector; therefore Hungary should urgently increase its efforts in this area, a first step being the adoption of the law on media by the Hungarian Parliament;
17. Earnestly hopes that the Council will soon approve the proposals for decisions with a view to Hungary's participation in the Culture 2000 and Media + programmes; recalls that the establishment of a 'European Cultural Area' centred on respect for and encouragement of cultural and linguistic diversity and a common shared heritage will contribute to the process of integration;
18. Notes that in the field of education and training there has been good progress; a law on adult education has been adopted which creates a framework for life-long learning, vocational training has been aligned to European Union aims and practice, and the Community acquis (Directive on Education and Training of children of migrant workers) has been adopted to a large extent;

## **Slovakia**

19. Notes that the European Union's information campaign for Slovakia has been inadequate, and calls for significant improvements in this respect; calls on the institutions of the European Union to launch information campaigns on the implications of enlargement;
20. Wants more cooperation, exchange of information and best practices between the applicant countries in the field of information and communication policy towards the citizens;

21. Notes that, with the adoption of the law on Radio and Television broadcasting, Slovakia has made significant progress in the audiovisual sector, and that legislation is largely in line with the directive on Television without frontiers;
22. Earnestly hopes that the Council will soon approve the proposals for decisions on the participation of Slovakia in the Culture 2000 and Media + programmes; recalls that the establishment of a 'European Cultural Area' centred on respect for and encouragement of cultural and linguistic diversity and a common shared heritage will contribute to the process of integration;
23. Notes that although Slovakia has made progress concerning the situation of minorities, the short-term priority of the 1999 Accession Partnership to achieve an improvement of the situation of the Roma minority has not been met; therefore increased efforts concerning the implementation of legislation, policies and budgetary appropriations are required;

### **Estonia**

24. Welcomes the establishment of the European Training Area, which will result in greater cooperation between the Baltic training institutions. Not least this will mean greater mobility for students between the Baltic states;
25. Notes that the European Union's information campaign for Estonia has been inadequate, and calls for significant improvements in this respect; calls on the institutions of the European Union to launch information campaigns on the implications of enlargement;
26. Wants more cooperation, exchange of information and best practices between the applicant countries in the field of information and communication policy towards the citizens;
27. Notes that there has been substantial progress concerning the audiovisual sector so that its legislation is largely in line with the Community acquis; only the administrative capacities still need to be strengthened in order to guarantee the effective implementation of this legislation;
28. Earnestly hopes that the Council will soon approve the proposals for decisions with a view to Estonia's participation in the Culture 2000 and Media + programmes; recalls that the establishment of a 'European Cultural Area' centred on respect for and encouragement of cultural and linguistic diversity and a common shared heritage will contribute to the process of integration;
29. Notes that, concerning ethnic minorities, Estonia has met most of the short-term priorities of the Accession Partnership, including amendments on the language law and the adoption of the State Integration Programme for non-Estonians; nevertheless further efforts have to be made, especially concerning the administrative capacities for an effective implementation of existing legislation;

30. Notes that popular support for membership of the European Union has been declining in recent years, which is partly the result of dilatoriness in the European Union's own ranks; calls for accession negotiations to be speeded up in order to avoid damage to the continued development of the European project;

### **Latvia**

31. Notes that 43% of the population do not speak Latvian as their mother tongue; therefore welcomes the fact that Latvia has adopted a new training law, leading to a considerable increase in the number of intensive Latvian language courses for non-native speakers;
32. Notes that the European Union's information campaign for Latvia has been inadequate, and calls for significant improvements in this respect; calls on the institutions of the European Union to launch information campaigns on the implications of enlargement;
33. Wants more cooperation, exchange of information and best practices between the applicant countries in the field of information and communication policy towards the citizens;
34. Earnestly hopes that the Council will soon approve the proposals for decisions with a view to Latvia's participation in the Culture 2000 and Media + programmes; recalls that the establishment of a 'European Cultural Area' centred on respect for and encouragement of cultural and linguistic diversity and a common shared heritage will contribute to the process of integration;
35. Notes that popular support for membership of the European Union has been declining in recent years, which is partly the result of dilatoriness in the European Union's own ranks; calls for accession negotiations to be speeded up in order to avoid damage to the continued development of the European project;

### **Lithuania**

36. Welcomes the high level of activity by Lithuania in the European training programmes Socrates and Leonardo. Notes that this level is not as high as it could be since information on the programmes is inadequate, and that the application form for participation in these programmes is very generally worded and hard to understand;
37. Welcomes the fact that special legislation was adopted in 2000 with regard to the integration of the Roma people in Lithuania;
38. Notes that the European Union's information campaign for Lithuania has been inadequate, and calls for significant improvements in this respect; calls on the institutions of the European Union to launch information campaigns on the implications of enlargement;
39. Wants more cooperation, exchange of information and best practices between the applicant countries in the field of information and communication policy towards the citizens;



40. Earnestly hopes that the Council will soon approve the proposals for decisions with a view to Lithuania's participation in the Culture 2000 and Media + programmes; recalls that the establishment of a 'European Cultural Area' centred on respect for and encouragement of cultural and linguistic diversity and a common shared heritage will contribute to the process of integration;
41. Notes that popular support for membership of the European Union has been declining in recent years, which is partly the result of dilatoriness in the European Union's own ranks; calls for accession negotiations to be speeded up in order to avoid damage to the continued development of the European project;

### **Cyprus**

42. Earnestly hopes that the Council will soon approve the proposals for decisions with a view to Cyprus's participation in the Culture 2000 and Media + programmes; recalls that the establishment of a 'European Cultural Area' centred on respect for and encouragement of cultural and linguistic diversity and a common shared heritage will contribute to the process of integration;

### **Slovenia**

43. Acknowledges the considerable progress that has been made in Slovenia towards meeting the training requirements for membership;
44. Welcomes the adoption of a law giving European Union citizens wishing to study in Slovenia the same rights as the country's own citizens;
45. Notes that the European Union's information campaign for Slovenia has been inadequate, and calls for significant improvements in this respect; calls on the institutions of the European Union to undertake information campaigns on the implications of enlargement;
46. Wants more cooperation, exchange of information and best practices between the applicant countries in the field of information and communication policy towards the citizens;
47. Earnestly hopes that the Council will soon approve the proposals for decisions with a view to Slovenia's participation in the Culture 2000 and Media + programmes; recalls that the establishment of a 'European Cultural Area' centred on respect for and encouragement of cultural and linguistic diversity and a common shared heritage will contribute to the process of integration;

## **Romania**

48. Regrets that the level of information from the government to the people, and from the public administration to citizens, about social issues in general is inadequate; notes that the European Union's information campaign for Romania has been inadequate, and calls for significant improvements in this respect; calls on the institutions of the European Union to launch information campaigns on the implications of enlargement;
49. Wants more cooperation, exchange of information and best practices between the applicant countries in the field of information and communication policy towards the citizens;
50. Regrets that Romania still has not solved the 'visa problem' which prevents Romanian students from coming to study in other European countries. The European Parliament recalls the inestimable value of student exchanges for European integration and understanding between peoples;
51. Notes that, while Romania has taken several positive initiatives in order to guarantee the linguistic and cultural identity of several national minorities, there has not been any relevant progress concerning the situation of the Roma, who are still widely discriminated against in all areas of Romanian society;
52. Notes that there has not been much progress concerning the alignment of legislation with the Community acquis in the audiovisual sector, which was a short-term priority of the Accession partnership;
53. Earnestly hopes that the Council will soon approve the proposals for decisions with a view to Romania's participation in the Culture 2000 and Media + programmes; recalls that the establishment of a 'European Cultural Area' centred on respect for and encouragement of cultural and linguistic diversity and a common shared heritage will contribute to the process of integration;

## **Bulgaria**

54. Welcomes the fact that Bulgaria's visa problems have been solved, which means that Bulgarian students now have better opportunities to participate in the EU's training programmes;
55. Is pleased to note that legislative improvements have taken place with regard to the situation of minorities, particularly the Roma, even though significant problems still remain; recalls the Charter of Fundamental Rights, Articles 21 and 22, under which any discrimination based on (inter alia) membership of a national minority is prohibited, and that the European Union must respect cultural, religious and linguistic diversity;
56. Notes that the European Union's information campaign for Bulgaria has been inadequate, and calls for significant improvements in this respect; calls on the institutions of the European Union to launch information campaigns on the implications of enlargement;

57. Wants more cooperation, exchange of information and best practices between the applicant countries in the field of information and communication policy towards the citizens;
58. Earnestly hopes that the Council will soon approve the proposals for decisions with a view to Bulgaria's participation in the Culture 2000 and Media + programmes; recalls that the establishment of a 'European Cultural Area' centred on respect for and encouragement of cultural and linguistic diversity and a common shared heritage will contribute to the process of integration;

### **Malta**

59. Welcomes the fact that Malta has made great progress in the field of training policy. In particular it is positive that Malta has entered into agreements with the European Union with the result that Malta is now participating in the European Union's education, training and youth programmes;
60. Regrets, however, that there has yet been no progress on the matter of the children of migrant workers from the European Union, since discrimination still takes place;
61. Earnestly hopes that the Council will soon approve the proposals for decisions with a view to Malta's participation in the Culture 2000 and Media + programmes; recalls that the establishment of a 'European Cultural Area' centred on respect for and encouragement of cultural and linguistic diversity and a common shared heritage will contribute to the process of integration;

### **Turkey**

62. Notes that there has been no improvement regarding the cultural rights of all Turks, regardless of their ethnic background; in particular the Kurdish population is still refused the right to learn their mother tongue, to be taught their mother tongue at school and to broadcast programmes in their mother tongue;
63. Notes that it is urgent that Turkey should improve this situation and, specifically should allow school teaching to be carried out in other languages than Turkish, and should change law N° 3984, that requires radio and television programmes to be broadcast in Turkish, so that the broadcasting of programmes in Kurdish will become possible;
64. Welcomes the great changes which have taken place in the audiovisual sector. Turkey has adopted legislation which means that there is now a multilateral and competitive market for private TV stations. Regrets, however, that the national Radio and TV Committee still has the power to refuse licenses for digital air transmissions;

65. Earnestly hopes that the Council will soon approve the proposals for decisions with a view to Turkey's participation in the Culture 2000 and Media + programmes; recalls that the establishment of a 'European Cultural Area' centred on respect for and encouragement of cultural and linguistic diversity and a common shared heritage will contribute to the process of integration;