



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

2011/2191(INI)

26.10.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the application of Croatia to become a Member of the European Union
(2011/2191(INI))

Rapporteur: Rafał Trzaskowski

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Recognises that the processes of enlargement and of deepening EU integration have always gone hand in hand and that, far from adversely affecting the Union's ability to act, enlargement has constituted a catalyst for indispensable institutional changes;
2. Notes with satisfaction that with the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon the relevant institutional questions have been resolved, further enlargement of the Union has been made possible and the proper functioning of an enlarged Union has been safeguarded;
3. Points out that by ratifying the Accession Treaty the Republic of Croatia is also deemed to have ratified any amendments to the Treaties open for ratification or approval by the Member States, pursuant to Article 48 TEU, at the time of its ratification of the Accession Treaty, namely the amendment to Article 136 TFEU and possibly also protocols that are envisaged concerning guarantees requested by Ireland and a derogation for the Czech Republic;
4. Recalls that the financial consequences of the enlargement have to be fully addressed in the upcoming negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 and on decisions concerning the Union's own resources system;
5. Stresses that implementation of the internal reforms to which Croatia is committed as part of the accession process must continue following accession; stresses the importance of increasing public awareness of the goals and mutual advantages of the enlargement, in particular with a view to the constitutionally required referendum, which is to be held in Croatia within 30 days of the date on which the decision on the Accession Treaty is adopted by the Croatian Parliament; notes that, precisely because of its importance and the desire for long-term positive results, the explanatory campaign must not be one-sided or misleading in any way but must clearly point out the benefits and the obligations of future EU membership;
6. Points out that the temporary provisions of the Accession Treaty introduce a derogation from the maximum number of seats in the European Parliament, as set in the Treaties, until the end of the 2009-2014 parliamentary term; is resolved to present its proposal for the decision determining the new composition of the European Parliament in good time before the 2014 elections, in accordance with Article 14(2) TEU; points out that all relevant institutional aspects of the accession must be taken into consideration in their entirety;
7. Points out that the procedures for the adoption of, on the one hand, the Accession Treaty with the Republic of Croatia and, on the other, the protocols requested by Ireland and the Czech Republic have different treaty bases – Articles 49 TEU and 48 TEU respectively – and therefore that they could not be legally incorporated into a single act; stresses that the two procedures may coincide in time, reflecting the spirit of the political agreement incorporated into the Council's conclusions of June and October 2009; insists, however,

that any possible linkage between the two processes must not in any way unduly delay the date of accession;

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	24.10.2011
Result of final vote	+ : 19 - : 1 0 : 0
Members present for the final vote	Andrew Henry William Brons, Carlo Casini, Andrew Duff, Roberto Gualtieri, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Zita Gurmai, Stanimir Ilchev, Constance Le Grip, David Martin, Paulo Rangel, Algirdas Saudargas, György Schöpflin, József Szájer, Rafał Trzaskowski
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Sandrine Bélier, Zuzana Brzobohatá, Marietta Giannakou, Íñigo Méndez de Vigo, Helmut Scholz, Alexandra Thein