

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

FINAL
A5-0170/2001

15 May 2001

REPORT

on the proposals for Council decisions on the conclusion of agreements between the European Community and
Cyprus (COM(2000) 879 – C5–0060/2001 – 2000/0342(CNS/ACC)),
the Republic of Malta (COM(2000) 875 – C5–0059/2001 – 2000/0345(CNS/ACC)),
the Republic of Bulgaria (7440/2001 – COM(2000) 866 – C5–0174/2001 – 2000/0346(CNS/ACC)),
the Republic of Estonia (7442/2001 – COM(2000) 877 – C5–0175/2001 – 2000/0347(CNS/ACC)),
Turkey (COM(2000) 873 – C5–0056/2001 – 2000/0350(CNS/ACC)),
the Slovak Republic (7441/2001 – COM(2000) 870 – C5–0176/2001 – 2000/0351(CNS/ACC)),
the Republic of Slovenia (7436/2001 – COM(2000) 872 – C5–0177/2001 – 2000/0352(CNS/ACC)),
the Republic of Latvia (7438/2001 – COM(2000) 876 – C5–0178/2001 – 2000/0354(CNS/ACC)),
the Republic of Hungary (7437/2001 – COM(2000) 874 – C5–0179/2001 – 2000/0355(CNS/ACC)),
the Czech Republic (7433/2001 – COM(2000) 867 – C5–0180/2001 – 2000/0356(CNS/ACC)),
Romania (7435/2001 – COM(2000) 871 – C5–0181/2001 –

2000/0357(CNS/ACC)),
the Republic of Lithuania (7439/2001 – COM(2000) 878 – C5–0182/2001 –
2000/0359(CNS/ACC)),
Poland (7434/2001 – COM(2000) 869 – C5–0183/2001 –
2000/0360(CNS/ACC))

concerning their participation in the European Environment Agency and the
European Environment Information and Observation Network

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy

Rapporteur: Caroline F. Jackson

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
majority of the votes cast
- **I Cooperation procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- **II Cooperation procedure (second reading)
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend
the common position*
- *** Assent procedure
*majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases
covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and
Article 7 of the EU Treaty*
- ***I Codecision procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- ***II Codecision procedure (second reading)
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend
the common position*
- ***III Codecision procedure (third reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission)

Amendments to a legislative text

In amendments by Parliament, amended text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the legislative text for which a correction is proposed, to assist preparation of the final text (for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a given language version). These suggested corrections are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

CONTENTS

	Page
PROCEDURAL PAGE	5
DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION (the Republic of Malta).....	8
DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION (the Republic of Bulgaria).....	9
DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION (the Republic of Estonia).....	10
DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION (Turkey).....	11
DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION (the Slovak Republic).....	12
DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION (the Republic of Slovenia).....	13
DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION (the Republic of Latvia).....	14
DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION (the Republic of Hungary).....	15
DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION (the Czech Republic).....	16
DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION (Romania).....	17
DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION (the Republic of Lithuania).....	18
DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION (Poland).....	19
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	20
OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS	23

PROCEDURAL PAGE

By letter of 12 February 2001 the Council consulted Parliament, pursuant to Article 300(3), first subparagraph of the EC Treaty, on the proposals for Council decisions on the conclusion of agreements between the European Community and Cyprus (COM(2000) 879 – 2000/0342(CNS/ACC)), the Republic of Malta (COM(2000) 875 – 2000/0345(CNS/ACC)) and Turkey (COM(2000) 873 – 2000/0350(CNS/ACC)) concerning their participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network.

At the sitting of 15 February 2001 the President of Parliament announced that she had referred these proposals to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy, the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy for their opinions (C5-0060/2001, C5-0059/2001 and C5-0056/2001).

By letter of 27 April 2001 the Council consulted Parliament, pursuant to Article 300(3), first subparagraph of the EC Treaty, on the proposals for Council decisions on the conclusion of agreements between the European Community and the Republic of Bulgaria (COM(2000) 866 – 2000/0346(CNS/ACC)), the Republic of Estonia (COM(2000) 877 – 2000/0347(CNS/ACC)), the Slovak Republic (COM(2000) 870 – 2000/0351(CNS/ACC)), the Republic of Slovenia (COM(2000) 872 – 2000/0352(CNS/ACC)), the Republic of Latvia (COM(2000) 876 – 2000/0354(CNS/ACC)), the Republic of Hungary (COM(2000) 874 – 2000/0355(CNS/ACC)), the Czech Republic (COM(2000) 867 – 2000/0356(CNS/ACC)), Romania (COM(2000) 871 – 2000/0357(CNS/ACC)), the Republic of Lithuania (COM(2000) 878 – 2000/0359(CNS/ACC)), Poland (COM(2000) 869 – 2000/0360(CNS/ACC)) concerning their participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network.

At the sitting of 14 May 2001 the President of Parliament announced that she had referred these proposals to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy, the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy for their opinions (C5-0174/2001, C5-0175/2001, C5-0176/2001, C5-0177/2001, C5-0178/2001, C5-0179/2001, C5-0180/2001, C5-0181/2001, C5-0182/2001 and C5-0183/2001).

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy appointed Caroline F. Jackson rapporteur at its meeting of 12 March 2001.

The committee considered the proposals for a Council decision and draft report at its meetings of 26 April and 14 May 2001.

At the last meeting it adopted the draft legislative resolutions by 42 votes with one abstention.

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy decided to apply the procedure without debate pursuant to Rule 114(1) of the Rules of Procedure.

The following were present for the vote: Caroline F. Jackson, chairman and rapporteur; Alexander de Roo, Guido Sacconi, vice-chairmen; Maria del Pilar Ayuso González, Hans Blokland, David Robert Bowe, Niels Busk (for Karl Erik Olsson), Dorette Corbey, Chris Davies, Alexander de Roo, Avril Doyle, Anne Ferreira, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Cristina García-Orcóyen Tormo, Laura González Álvarez, Robert Goodwill, Françoise Grossetête, Anneli Hulthén, Marie Anne Isler Béguin, Eija-Riitta Anneli Korhola, Bernd Lange, Peter Liese, Torben Lund, Jules Maaten, Minerva Melpomeni Malliori, Jorge Moreira da Silva, Rosemarie Müller, Riitta Myller, Giuseppe Nisticò, Béatrice Patrie, Marit Paulsen, Guido Sacconi, Jean Saint-Josse, Jacques Santkin (for Carlos Lage), Karin Scheele, Horst Schnellhardt, Inger Schörling, Jonas Sjöstedt, Renate Sommer (for Per-Arne Arvidsson), Catherine Stihler, Robert William Sturdy (for John Bowis), Nicole Thomas-Mauro, Antonios Trakatellis, Roseline Vachetta, Phillip Whitehead.

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets is attached; the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy decided on 23 January 2001 and the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy decided on 27 February 2001 not to deliver opinions.

The report was tabled on 15 May 2001.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and Cyprus concerning Cyprus' participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (COM(2000) 879 – C5-0060/2001 – 2000/0342(CNS/ACC))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a Council decision (COM(2000) 879¹),
 - having regard to the draft agreement for Cyprus' participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (.....),
 - having regard to Articles 174(2) and 300(2), first subparagraph, first sentence of the EC Treaty,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 300(3), first subparagraph of the EC Treaty (C5-0060/2001),
 - having regard to Rule 67 and 97(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A5-0170/2001),
1. Approves the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of Cyprus.

¹ OJ C 120, 24.4.2001, p. 275.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Malta concerning Malta's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (COM(2000) 875 – C5-0059/2001 – 2000/0345(CNS/ACC))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a Council decision (COM(2000) 875¹),
 - having regard to the draft agreement for Malta's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (.....),
 - having regard to Articles 174(2) and 300(2), first subparagraph, first sentence of the EC Treaty,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 300(3), first subparagraph of the EC Treaty (C5-0059/2001),
 - having regard to Rule 67 and 97(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A5-0170/2001),
1. Approves the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of Malta.

¹ OJ C 120, 24.4.2001, p. 251.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Bulgaria concerning Bulgaria's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7440/2001 – COM(2000) 866 – C5-0174/2001 – 2000/0346(CNS/ACC))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a Council decision (COM(2000) 866¹),
 - having regard to the draft agreement for Bulgaria's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7440/2001),
 - having regard to Articles 175(1) and 300(2), first subparagraph, first sentence of the EC Treaty,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 300(3), first subparagraph of the EC Treaty (C5-0174/2001),
 - having regard to Rule 67 and 97(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A5-0170/2001),
1. Approves the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Republic of Bulgaria.

¹ OJ C 120, 24.4.2001, p. 195.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Estonia concerning Estonia's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7442/2001 – COM(2000) 877 – C5-0175/2001 – 2000/0347(CNS/ACC))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a Council decision (COM(2000) 877¹),
 - having regard to the draft agreement for Estonia's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7442/2001),
 - having regard to Articles 175(1) and 300(2), first subparagraph, first sentence of the EC Treaty,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 300(3), first subparagraph of the EC Treaty (C5-0175/2001),
 - having regard to Rule 67 and 97(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A5-0170/2001),
1. Approves the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Republic of Estonia.

¹ OJ C 120, 24.4.2001, p. 259.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and Turkey concerning Turkey's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (COM(2000) 873 – C5-0056/2001 – 2000/0350(CNS/ACC))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a Council decision (COM(2000) 873¹),
 - having regard to the draft agreement for Turkey's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (...),
 - having regard to Articles 174(2) and 300(2), first subparagraph, first sentence of the EC Treaty,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 300(3), first subparagraph of the EC Treaty (C5-0056/2001),
 - having regard to Rule 67 and 97(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A5-0170/2001),
1. Approves the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of Turkey.

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Slovak Republic concerning the Slovak Republic's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7441/2001 – COM(2000) 870 – C5-0176/2001 – 2000/0351(CNS/ACC))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a Council decision (COM(2000) 870¹),
 - having regard to the draft agreement for the Slovak Republic's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7441/2001),
 - having regard to Articles 175(1) and 300(2), first subparagraph, first sentence of the EC Treaty,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 300(3), first subparagraph of the EC Treaty (C5-0176/2001),
 - having regard to Rule 67 and 97(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A5-0170/2001),
1. Approves the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Slovak Republic.

¹ OJ C 120, 24.4.2001, p. 219.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Slovenia concerning Slovenia's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7436/2001 – COM(2000) 872 – C5-0177/2001 – 2000/0352(CNS/ACC))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a Council decision (COM(2000) 872¹),
 - having regard to the draft agreement for Slovenia's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7436/2001),
 - having regard to Articles 175(1) and 300(2), first subparagraph, first sentence of the EC Treaty,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 300(3), first subparagraph of the EC Treaty (C5-0177/2001),
 - having regard to Rule 67 and 97(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A5-0170/2001),
1. Approves the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Republic of Slovenia.

¹ OJ C 120, 24.4.2001, p. 235.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Latvia concerning Latvia's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7438/2001 –COM(2000) 876 – C5-0178/2001 – 2000/0354(CNS/ACC))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a Council decision (COM(2000) 876¹),
 - having regard to the draft agreement for Latvia's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7438/2001),
 - having regard to Articles 175(1) and 300(2), first subparagraph, first sentence of the EC Treaty,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 300(3), first subparagraph of the EC Treaty (C5-0178/2001),
 - having regard to Rule 67 and 97(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A5-0170/2001),
1. Approves the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Republic of Latvia.

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Hungary concerning Hungary's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7437/2001 – COM(2000) 874 – C5-0179/2001 – 2000/0355(CNS/ACC))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a Council decision (COM(2000) 874¹),
 - having regard to the draft agreement for Hungary's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7437/2001),
 - having regard to Articles 175(1) and 300(2), first subparagraph, first sentence of the EC Treaty,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 300(3), first subparagraph of the EC Treaty (C5-0179/2001),
 - having regard to Rule 67 and 97(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A5-0170/2001),
1. Approves the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Republic of Hungary.

¹ OJ C 120, 24.4.2001, p. 243.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Czech Republic concerning the Czech Republic's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7433/2001 – COM(2000) 867 – C5-0180/2001 – 2000/0356(CNS/ACC))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a Council decision (COM(2000) 867¹),
 - having regard to the draft agreement for the Czech Republic's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7433/2001),
 - having regard to Articles 175(1) and 300(2), first subparagraph, first sentence of the EC Treaty,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 300(3), first subparagraph of the EC Treaty (C5-0180/2001),
 - having regard to Rule 67 and 97(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A5-0170/2001),
1. Approves the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Czech Republic.

¹ OJ C 120, 24.4.2001, p. 203.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and Romania concerning Romania's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7435/2001 – COM(2000) 871 – C5-0181/2001 – 2000/0357(CNS/ACC))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a Council decision (COM(2000) 871¹),
 - having regard to the draft agreement for Romania's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7435/2001),
 - having regard to Articles 175(1) and 300(2), first subparagraph, first sentence of the EC Treaty,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 300(3), first subparagraph of the EC Treaty (C5-0181/2001),
 - having regard to Rule 67 and 97(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A5-0170/2001),
1. Approves the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of Romania.

¹ OJ C 120, 24.4.2001, p. 227.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Lithuania concerning Lithuania's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7439/2001 – COM(2000) 878 – C5-0182/2001 – 2000/0359(CNS/ACC))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a Council decision (COM(2000) 878¹),
 - having regard to the draft agreement for Lithuania's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7439/2001),
 - having regard to Articles 175(1) and 300(2), first subparagraph, first sentence, of the EC Treaty,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 300(3), first subparagraph of the EC Treaty (C5-0182/2001),
 - having regard to Rule 67 and 97(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A5-0170/2001),
1. Approves the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Republic of Lithuania.

¹ OJ C 120, 24.4.2001, p. 267.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and Poland concerning Poland's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7434/2001 – COM(2000) 869 – C5-0183/2001 – 2000/0360(CNS/ACC))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a Council decision (COM(2000) 869¹),
 - having regard to the draft agreement for Poland's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (7434/2001),
 - having regard to Articles 175(1) and 300(2), first subparagraph, first sentence of the EC Treaty,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 300(3), first subparagraph of the EC Treaty (C5-0183/2001),
 - having regard to Rule 67 and 97(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A5-0170/2001),
1. Approves the conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of Poland.

¹ OJ C 120, 24.4.2001, p. 211.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Commission proposes that the 13 candidate countries participate in the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET). The EEA would, in fact, be the first of the Community agencies to be opened for candidate country participation before accession. This possibility for the candidate countries to participate in Community programmes and agencies was opened up by the decision of the Luxembourg European Council in 1997 as part of the enhanced pre-accession strategy.

On 14 February 2000 the Council authorised the Commission to begin negotiations with the candidate countries on their participation in the EEA under similar conditions as apply for the EEA member countries. The agreements concluded with the candidate countries state that they would take part in the work programme of the EEA and meet the obligations of the Agency Regulation. Their main rights and obligations, until they become members of the EU, would be:

- The provision of uniform environmental data.
- Financial contributions to cover the cost of participation.
- Participation, without voting rights, in the Management Board of the EEA.
- Treatment equal to Member States in terms of provision of environmental information and analysis, staffing provisions, contracts to third parties and appointments of Topic Centres.

There would be a three-year phase-in period during which the financial contributions would gradually increase.

Benefits

It is clear that the participation of the candidate countries in the EEA would produce a number of benefits for both the candidate countries and the EU. In particular can be mentioned

- the establishment of effective monitoring systems for environmental data in the candidate countries;
- assistance by the EEA to the candidate countries in their preparations for EU membership (transposition and implementation of the environmental *acquis*);
- the possibility to report on the state of the environment in almost all of Europe and to compare the situation in different countries.

Concerns

Transposition and implementation of legislation

A major concern of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy as regards the EU environmental *acquis* is that of implementation. This is true not only for the candidate countries, but also for the current Member States.

Half of the candidate countries were judged, by the Commission in its November 2000 Regular reports¹, as having made progress in the field of transposition of the Community

¹ Regular Reports from the Commission on Progress towards Accession by each of the candidate countries, November 8, 2000

environmental legislation, while little or no progress had been achieved in the other applicant states. Some progress had also been achieved in the preparation for implementation, while the implementation phase is still to be reached.

Administrative capacity

The lack of trained staff and the undersized administrations at all levels are problems facing all the candidate countries, not only in the environmental field. The creation of adequate administrative structures not only at national, but also, where appropriate, at regional and local levels, will require restructuring, training and, not least, increased financing for staff and equipment.

Monitoring

Doubts can be raised as to the ability of the candidate countries to undertake the monitoring and data collection in a sufficiently good way. The provision of environmental data is one of the main obligations of the EEA member states. In its latest regular report on the candidate countries, the European Commission points out that a number of countries need to improve their monitoring mechanisms (Romania, Poland, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Turkey and to some extent Slovakia). The same picture, with the exception of Poland, emerges in the third EIONET progress report.¹

Financing

The candidate countries will be able to use Phare funds for the establishment of data collection networks necessary for the participation in the EEA. However, this mechanism will have to be put into place rapidly in order for the candidate countries to be able to participate in the EEA and to build up the necessary structures during the three-year phase-in period. The Phare assistance is foreseen on a co-funding basis.

Co-operation with the TAIEX office?

In order to guarantee that the benefits of EEA membership as regards support for transposition and implementation of Community environmental legislation is guaranteed, co-operation between the TAIEX Office and the EEA could be foreseen.

Conclusion

It is clearly in the interest of all concerned that the candidate countries participate in the EEA. Your rapporteur therefore supports the conclusion of agreements with the 13 associated countries concerning their participation in the European Environmental Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET).

However, sufficient attention must be paid to the concerns raised above to make sure that EEA memberships for the candidate countries do provide added value in the enlargement process and that the candidate countries are properly prepared for EU membership. The main responsibility for these preparations naturally fall on the candidate countries, but the EU must ensure that financial and technical support is put to their disposal, so that the Community *acquis* is transposed and, more importantly, implemented.

The Committee requests the EEA to furnish it, via the Commission with 6-monthly reports,

¹ European Environment Agency, Priority Data Flows in EIONET: Third Progress Report – June 2000.

from the date of the participation of the 13 candidate countries to the EEA and EIONET, on the state of monitoring systems, the ability of the applicants to comply with the acquis.

23 March 2001

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy

on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Bulgaria concerning Bulgaria's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network
(7440/2001 – COM(2000) 866 – C5-0174/2001 – 2000/0346(CNS))

on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Cyprus concerning Cyprus's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network
(COM(2000) 879 – C5-0060/2001 – 2000/0342(CNS))

on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Malta concerning Malta's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network
(COM(2000) 875 – C5-0059/2001 – 2000/0345(CNS))

on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Estonia concerning the Estonia's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network
(7442/2001 – COM(2000) 877 – C5-0175/2001 – 2000/0347(CNS))

on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Turkey concerning Turkey's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network
(COM(2000) 873 – C5-0056/2001 – 2000/0350(CNS))

on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Slovak Republic concerning the Slovak Republic's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network
(7441/2001 – COM(2000) 870 – C5-0176/2001 – 2000/0351(CNS))

on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Slovenia concerning Slovenia's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network

(7436/2001 – COM(2000) 872 – C5-0177/2001 – 2000/0352(CNS))

on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Latvia concerning Latvia's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network
(7438/2001 – COM(2000) 876 – C5-0178/2001 – 2000/0355(CNS))

on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Hungary concerning Hungary's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network
(7437/2001 – COM(2000) 874 – C5-0179/2001 – 2000/0346(CNS))

on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Czech Republic concerning the Czech Republic's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network
(7433/2001 – COM(2000) 867 – C5-0180/2001 – 2000/0356(CNS))

on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and Romania concerning Romania's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network
(7435/2001 – COM(2000) 871 – C5-0181/2001 – 2000/0357(CNS))

on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Lithuania concerning Lithuania's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network
(7439/2001 – COM(2000) 878 – C5-0182/2001 – 2000/0359(CNS))

on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Poland concerning Poland's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network
(7434/2001 – COM(2000) 869 – C5-0183/2001 – 2000/0360(CNS))

Draftsman: Wilfried Kuckelkorn

PROCEDURE

The Committee on Budgets appointed Wilfried Kuckelkorn draftsman at its meeting of 27 February 2001.

It considered the draft opinion at its meeting(s) of 21-22 March 2001.

At the meeting it adopted the following amendments unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: Terence Wynn, chairman; Reimer Böge, vice-chairman; Wilfried Kuckelkorn, draftsman; Kathalijne Maria Buitenweg, Joan Colom i Naval, Carlos Costa Neves, Markus Ferber, Neena Gill, Catherine Guy-Quint, Jutta D. Haug, Ulpu Iivari (for Göran Färm), Anne Elisabet Jensen, Juan Andrés Naranjo Escobar, Giovanni Pittella, Bartho Pronk (for Armin Laschet), Per Stenmarck, Francesco Turchi, Kyösti Tapio Virrankoski and Ralf Walter.

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

At the end of the year 2000, 13 candidate countries had signed the Final Act concerning their participation in the programmes implemented by the European Environment Agency as expressed by the Commission in Agenda 2000¹. The decision also makes the applicant countries Members of the EEA.

The rapporteur underlines that these decisions will increase the applicant countries' capacity to implement and transpose the "acquis communautaire". As the standing rapporteur for the agencies, he also notices that after the Training Foundation which already provides a European contribution and expertise to the applicant countries, the European Environment Agency is the second agency which actively participates in the enlargement process.

Concerning the budgetary aspects, he wishes to clarify the following:

The case by case contributions which the applicant countries used to pay to the Agency will be replaced by a fixed amount according to the table below.

The contributions will be paid on a progressive basis over a period of three years on heading 6091 of the revenue title as earmarked revenue and allocated to heading B4-3101: European Environment Agency. The decision also foresees that the overall cost of the applicant countries' participation is based on this national GDP (Eurostat figures).

The decision foresees that the applicant countries may contribute only in part from their national budget and that the remaining part may be taken from the Community Assistance Programmes: Phare (B7-030), Malta (B7-040) Cyprus (B7-041) and Turkey (B7-050).

The budget of the EEA will increase by € 5,7 Mio on the first year and by € 8,7 Mio after 3 years.

In conclusion, the rapporteur:

- Welcomes the decisions which represents a concrete step forward to enlargement;
- Invites the European Agency to look at the value for money in implementing the increased budget avoiding duplication with the activities run at centralised level;
- Asks the Commission to include into the 2002 PDB a table with the cofinancing amounts under each programme concerned.

¹ The countries concerned are: Bulgaria Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Cyprus, Turkey, Malta.

(Thousands €)

Country	Country Share year 1	Community Assistance year 1	Country Share year 2	Community Assistance year 2	Country Share Year 3	Community Assistance year 3
Bulgaria	27	82	55	83	83.5	83.5
Czech Republic	139	418	281	423	425.5	425.5
Hungary	122	368	247	372	374	375
Poland	363	1 091	735	1 103	1 111	1 111
Romania	93	280	189	283	285.5	285.5
Slovak Republic	52	156	105	158	159	159
Slovenia	49	146	98	148	149	149
Estonia	12	38	25	38	38.5	38.5
Latvia	15	44	30	45	45	45
Lithuania	26	77	52	78	78.5	78.5
Cyprus	22	67	46	68	68.5	68.5
Turkey	508	1 525	1 038	1 557	1 563.5	1 563.5
Malta	9	27	18	28	28	28
TOTAL	1 437	4 319	2 919	4 384	4 410.5	4 410.5
TOTAL (EEA's additional funding)	5 756		7 303		8 821	

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Texts proposed by the Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1
Recital 5 (new)

The national contribution, together with the Community one, is included in the general budget in both revenue and expenditure parts.

Justification

For reasons of budgetary transparency, the level of co-financing should be updated each year in the general budget.

¹ OJ C ... (not yet published).