

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



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*Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development*

**2005/2028(INI)**

15.3.2005

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the application by the Republic of Romania to become a member of the  
European Union  
(2005/2028(INI))

Draftsman: Albert Jan Maat

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Takes note of the Commission's estimations of the costs of Romanian accession in the field of agriculture;
2. Underlines the political and economic significance of Romania's accession to the European Union and the mutual efforts required to this end; emphasises, however, the difficulty for the European Parliament to vote on an Accession Treaty with Romania and the therein agreed costs of enlargement without an agreement on the way in which these costs are to be incorporated within the Financial Framework 2007–2013; draws attention in this context to the need to take full account of the cost involved in implementing the CAP in Romania and to determine accordingly the limits on the corresponding appropriations within the framework of the financial perspective 2007-2013;
3. Welcomes the progress made by Romania to implement the relevant *acquis*, but stresses that overall administrative and enforcement capacities should be further enhanced; emphasises, however, the importance of completing the necessary preparations for implementing the Community *acquis* which not only involves creating the necessary control and payment bodies but also presupposes that they will be staffed with properly trained personnel;
4. Notes that agriculture's share of total employment remains excessively high and underlines the need to target structural reform through rural development funds; the improvement of economic and social conditions of the countryside will lead to the creation of alternative sources of income and a fall in poverty indicators, keeping the population in rural areas and avoiding a concentration in urban areas;
5. Is concerned by the low absorption of SAPARD funds, where the 2000 allocations have been utilised but concerns remain for later allocations; this fact puts the country's preparations for smooth entry to the EU at risk; therefore calls on the Commission and the Romanian authorities further to improve information for and the involvement of the population in rural development projects;
6. Welcomes progress made on the adoption of the legal framework for a paying agency and the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), but points out that efforts need to be substantially enhanced to enable those systems to be fully operational in 2007;
7. Expresses grave concern about unreliable veterinary certification, the insufficient level of financing of veterinary services and the significant shortcomings in animal welfare; emphasises the need for timely and full implementation of livestock legislation and legislation in the plant protection and food safety sector, given the importance of these factors for operation of the domestic market, the protection of public health and avoiding distortions of competition, topics that may influence the other Member States;

8. Calls specifically on the Romanian authorities, as regards the use of genetically modified varieties, to adopt clear and forward-looking provisions on coexistence in order to ensure that they comply with the relevant Community provisions on the release of GMOs into the environment at the time of accession;
9. Urges the Romanian authorities to take further measures to fulfil Community hygiene requirements for agri-food establishments, particularly as regards raw milk, abattoir waste and animal waste processing plants; points out, however, that Community provisions on food hygiene should be solely designed to protect consumers and guarantee the quality of foodstuffs, and should not be misused as a pretext for structural concentration in the processing industry; therefore calls on the Romanian Government to use pre-accession aid for rural development to promote decentralised production of quality foodstuffs and their regional marketing;
10. Underlines the need to strengthen border controls in the veterinary and phytosanitary fields.

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	Application by the Republic of Romania to become a member of the European Union
<b>Procedure number</b>	2005/2028(INI)
<b>Committee responsible</b>	AFET
<b>Committee asked for its opinion</b> Date announced in plenary	AGRI 10.3.2005
<b>Enhanced cooperation</b>	-
<b>Drafts(wo)man</b> Date appointed	Albert Jan Maat 20.1.2005
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	3.2.2005      14.3.2005
<b>Date suggestions adopted</b>	14.3.2005
<b>Result of final vote</b>	for:                      20 against:                - abstentions:           -
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Filip Adwent, Katerina Batzeli, Niels Busk, Joseph Daul, Albert Deß, Ioannis Gklavakis, Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, Elisabeth Jeggle, Stéphane Le Foll, Albert Jan Maat, Mairead McGuinness, Neil Parish, María Isabel Salinas García, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi, Marc Tarabella, Jeffrey Titford, Witold Tomczak, Kyösti Tapio Virrankoski
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Milan Horáček, Wiesław Stefan Kuc
<b>Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>	-