

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

---

*Session document*

17 December 2002

B5-0661/2002

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the European Council report and Commission statement

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Luis Queiró, José Ribeiro e Castro, Cristiana Muscardini and Niall Andrews

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the 12-13 December 2002 Copenhagen European Council

**European Parliament resolution on the 12-13 December 2002 Copenhagen European Council**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the conclusions of the Copenhagen (1993), Berlin and Helsinki (1999), Nice (2000), Laeken (2001) and Brussels and Copenhagen (2002) European Councils,
- A. whereas for the European Union, enlargement represents an historic task if it is to achieve its ambition of establishing peace and prosperity throughout the continent,
- B. whereas the remaining challenge is to consolidate freedom and democracy in the applicant countries – two of the EU's premier values and ones to which the peoples in those countries aspired during the fifty years and more which they spent under the Communist yoke,
- C. whereas both the applicant countries and the EU Member States will benefit from the enlargement process and whereas all of them should seize this historic opportunity in order to secure long-term stability, security and prosperity in Europe,
- D. whereas the peoples of the applicant countries have already made substantial efforts against the background of their complex history and the colossal difficulties stemming from the post-war period and the Cold War,
- E. whereas, in view of the profound changes which have had to be made in preparation for accession, the European Union must ensure that it never undermines the dignity of the peoples in the applicant countries by insisting upon other inappropriate requirements,
- F. whereas the decisions taken in Berlin in 1999 concerning the financing of the European Union for the 2000-2006 period have provided precise guidelines for the Member States' budgetary policies and whereas, at the time of the Berlin Agreement, the plans for the enlargement of the Union did not include precise dates, nor was the current scope of the enlargement envisaged,
- G. whereas this new *Prestige* oil tanker disaster has again underlined the need for effective action at international and EU level in order significantly to improve maritime safety,
- H. whereas the Stabilisation and Association Process has proved to be a valid instrument in strengthening cooperation between the EU and the countries of the Balkan area and in ensuring peace among the different peoples of this area,
- 1. Welcomes the conclusion of the accession negotiations with Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia;
- 2. Welcomes enlargement not only as an achievement on the part of the European Union but

also and in particular as a victory by the applicant countries over the course of history, and reaffirms that enlargement constitutes an extremely important political task for Europe;

3. Urges the Commission to pursue the enlargement process until the accession treaty is signed and ratified, so as to enable the applicant countries with which the negotiations have been concluded to become effective members of the Union in 2004 and to take part as such in the elections to the European Parliament;
4. Considers that the Commission should ensure that the Community *acquis* is applied within the enlarged Europe from the first day of accession and that the Commission should fully meet its obligations as regards both the implementation of Community laws, policies and programmes and the adoption of the measures needed to enable the new Member States to be admitted;
5. Calls on the Commission to monitor very closely and to report on the application of the principle of social and economic cohesion within the European Union (as laid down in the treaties), and would not accept any undermining of that principle by an aid-distribution policy, either in the case of the applicant countries or in that of the 15 existing Member States;
6. Urges the Commission to intensify and conclude the administrative and language-related preparations for enlargement by completing the publication of the treaties, by consolidating legislation and by commencing codification in the existing languages, by publishing the Community *acquis* in the new official languages and by making administrative preparations for the selection, recruitment and induction of officials from the new Member States;
7. Notes the Copenhagen European Council conclusion concerning the allocation to the accession countries of a significant and appropriate amount from the 2004-2006 Structural and Cohesion Funds, to be distributed in accordance with agreements which have already been concluded and by means of a progressive system, so as to enable those countries to enhance their administrative capability with a view to using those funds as effectively as possible; considers that the balanced set of results obtained provides a firm basis for the smooth integration of 10 new Member States, whilst allowing the enlarged Union to function efficiently;
8. Insists in this connection that the Commission remain within the ceiling of the financial perspective for the period up to 2006 which was adopted at the Berlin European Council and adjusted at the Copenhagen European Council;
9. Welcomes the decision taken at the Copenhagen European Council to the effect that the next 2003-2004 Intergovernmental Conference will take place with the full involvement of the 10 current applicant countries;
10. Calls on the Member States' and the applicant countries' Heads of State or Government to step up the public information campaign on enlargement in order to make the general public more aware of the benefits and obligations stemming from accession to the European Union;

11. Welcomes both the Copenhagen European Council conclusion to the effect that a specific problem arising from the way in which the CAP currently applies to Portuguese agriculture still exists and the European Council's invitation to the Commission to submit a report on the matter; calls, therefore, on the Commission to draw up that report as soon as possible and to forward it to the Council and the European Parliament before the closing Greek EU Presidency European Council;
12. Calls, furthermore, on the Commission to consider the situation in other parts of the Union, where similar specific problems may also exist;
13. Expresses its regret and its considerable concern at the serious accident which befell the oil tanker *Prestige* off the north-west coast of Spain, expresses its solidarity with the countries, regions and local people affected, and supports the efforts made by those countries and by institutions and civil society in order to clean up the polluted areas; pays tribute to those efforts;
14. Calls on the Commission to release new funding immediately from the budget headings assigned to emergency situations, so as to help reduce the efforts being made by governments, regions, institutions and civil society in order to mitigate the effects of the disastrous shipwreck of the *Prestige*;
15. Supports the decision of the European Council to take all necessary measures to avoid a repetition of similar catastrophes and calls on the Commission to speed up the implementation of the measures adopted as part of the Erika I and Erika II packages proposed by the Commission and to consider the need for special new measures to be adopted; once again urges the Commission to give priority to the drawing up of the report into such matters which was called for at the Copenhagen European Council;
16. Takes note of the determination of the Council to support the efforts of South-East European states to move closer to the EU within the framework of the Stabilisation and Association Process; in this respect, considers that the decision of the incoming Greek Presidency to organise a Summit on 21 June between EU Member States and countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process will be an important step towards revitalising this process;
17. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, the national parliaments of the Member States and the parliaments and governments of the applicant countries.