

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3957/08  
by Vural Öger (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Connection between EU enlargement and consolidation or EU reforms

After the Irish people rejected the Lisbon Treaty in their referendum on 12 June 2008 various politicians spoke out against further EU enlargement. Among them were the President of Parliament, Hans-Gert Pöttering, the French President Nicolas Sarkozy and the Luxembourg Prime Minister, Jean-Claude Juncker.

What is the Commission's view of the judgement that no further EU enlargement should take place without the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty? Is EU enlargement legally possible even with the Treaty of Nice as the legal basis? Is the Commission in favour of EU enlargements on the basis of the existing Nice Treaty? Does the Commission consider it right to see a causal connection between institutional reforms and the EU's capacity for enlargement? How realistic are other institutional reforms and/or a new edition of the Lisbon Treaty? Does the Commission take the view that institutional reforms should be a component of the definition of integrational capacity?