

ORAL QUESTION H-0334/08
for Question Time at the part-session in May 2008
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Vural Öger
to the Commission

Subject: EU enlargement strategy

It is extremely important that EU citizens should be made aware of the fact that the EU has a clear strategy on future enlargements. Discussion of the EU's enlargement strategy in the European Parliament does not focus only on the strategy towards countries likely to join the Union, but also on EU policies aimed at countries with no prospect of accession, such as the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). Some people are calling for intermediate stages to be introduced between the ENP and the full enlargement process, others for closer cooperation between the Directorates-General Enlargement and External Relations.

Does the Commission take the view that the EU enlargement strategy should be kept strictly separate from policies which have a bearing on EU foreign policy as a whole, such as the ENP or the Barcelona Process: A Union for the Mediterranean? Or does it see a need for countries which are not yet ready for accession to be granted some form of intermediate status in the future?

Does the Commission believe that the EU should rethink its enlargement strategy? Does it take the view that the EU enlargement strategy, which is essentially based on a series of stages leading to full membership (stabilisation and association agreement – applicant country status – accession negotiations – accession), is realistic?

Tabled: 29.04.2008
de