

# Resolution on improving the method for consulting Parliament in procedures relating to the enlargement of the euro zone

2007/2583(RSP) - 20/06/2007 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted the resolution on improving the method for consulting Parliament in procedures relating to the enlargement of the euro area. The resolution was adopted by 552 votes in favour to 37 against with 43 abstentions. It called on the Council and Commission to adopt an interinstitutional agreement on a timetable for and approach to cooperation with Member States wishing to accede to the euro area, including the establishment of:

- a dialogue with Parliament to allow for at least two months' consultation, thus respecting the prerogative of Parliament duly to consider the proposals tabled by both the Commission and the European Central Bank;

- a commitment from Member States applying to join the euro area to announce their intention to make an official request by the autumn of the year preceding the submission of their official request, and to seek early contact with the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, in order to facilitate the overall process of introducing the common currency; and

- an interim convergence report by the Commission, to be drafted at the beginning of the year after a Member State has announced its intention to make an official request.

Parliament also wanted the Council and Commission to:

- ensure that the prospective European Statistical Governance Advisory Board and European Committee on Statistical Information closely monitor the preparation of the enlargement of the euro area regarding Member States joining;

- ensure that additional powers are assigned to the Commission to verify data because Parliament was convinced that the quality of the data available to the Commission is still wanting;

- ensure that the Commission check data forwarded by the national central banks against data received in the framework of the quarterly general government accounts in order to improve confidence in statistics through cross-checking;

Lastly, Parliament felt that any deficit procedure concerning a Member State must have been closed before compliance with the Maastricht criteria is assessed.