Agenda 2000: the enlargement, EP position on Commission'opinions on applications for accession

1997/2183(COS) - 17/11/1997

The Committee voted to adopt a triple approach for responding to the challenge of Agenda 2000 and enlargement. Tom SPENCER said that the committee has opted for an approach that balances the problem of treating the applicant countries with equity while recognizing that some countries are readier for membership than others. The report by Enrique BARON CRESPO (PES, E) and Arie OOSTLANDER (EPP, NL), adopted by 31 votes for, 10 against and 4 abstentions, recommends that "intensive negotiations should begin with the countries which have made the most progress" i.e. Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovenia, Cyprus in early 1998. The committee believes that the development of negotiations will depend upon the extent to which each applicant country meets the accession requirements (political and economical) and its ability to take on board the "acquis communautaire".