# Europe association agreement EC/Slovenia

1994/2180(INI) - 17/09/1996

In adopting the report by Mr Bernd POSSELT on the economic and commercial aspects of the European association agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Slovenia, the Committee on External Economic Relations called on the EU and Member States to ratify the association agreement without delay. The report welcomed the fact that Slovenia had applied to accede to the Union on 10 June 1996, which placed it in the first group of countries applying for accession. While urging the Slovenian Government to continue its policy of privatisation, the report called on the Commission to provide financial support, in the border regions between Slovenia and the European Union, for restructuring projects which have been made necessary by the disappearance of typical border-region activities and to promote economic and cultural cooperation. Member States were also called upon to provide sustainable support for the major infrastructure projects under way in Slovenia and to ensure that these are included in European plans for trans-European transport and networks. Lastly, the report welcomed the compromise arrangement between Italy and Slovenia and, recognizing the validity of the right of citizenship (and in particular the special status of native Italian and Hungarian communities), called on Slovenia to adopt even stronger measures to protect minority groups.