

CCEEs applicant for membership : assistance in the framework of the pre-accession strategy

1997/0351(CNS) - 11/03/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Arie OOSTLANDER (PPE, NL), Parliament made certain amendments to the Commission proposal on assistance to the applicant countries in central and eastern Europe (CEECs) in the framework of the pre-accession strategy. In particular, Parliament wished other criteria to be respected in connection with accession partnerships: -political criteria, on which continued progress was essential for the continuation of the accession process, -obligations as to the adoption of the *acquis communautaire*, specifically as to its social and environmental aspects, -economic obligations incumbent upon a future Member State. The funds for assistance to each applicant country must be geared to supporting sustainable development. As regards procedure, Parliament asked to be consulted before the Council decided on the principles, priorities and general conditions of each accession partnership. It also wished the Commission to inform Parliament regularly about the implementation of each such partnership. In the event of any violation of democratic principles, the rule of law, human rights, or respect for and protection of minorities, Parliament wished to have the opportunity to deliver its opinion before the Council took the appropriate measures. Parliament specified that these measures could include measures of a financial, economic and budgetary control nature.