Implications of enlargement for industry, external trade, research and energy

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The European Parliament, bearing in mind the contributions from the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy, considers that, in the field of industrial policy, the candidate countries essentially face two challenges, namely those of aligning their law with Community law and increasing the competitiveness of their industries. In relation to the enhancement of competitiveness and of social and economic cohesion, the Parliament proposes a concerted effort in the pre-accession period, covering: - specific measures designed to speed up the adjustment of industrial structures and encourage the development of new undertakings, especially SMEs; - measures to improve and simplify the legal framework, incorporating rules on product specification, market access, competition and financing and environmental standards, particularly for emissions in all fields of industry and not only to the energy sector; - appropriate measures complementary to industrial policy, such as the provision of a stable macroeconomic environment, increasing human resources, social dialogue, a viable social protection system, active labour market policies and adequate infrastructure; - measures to promote the creation of a non-discriminatory area of communication. Furthermore, the Parliament considers it imperative that five requirements should be met (in the interests of successful industrial adjustment in order to create or maintain a climate conducive to investment). These five requirements include: adequate financing of programmes, efficient capital markets, priority to new technologically advanced enterprises over the partially obsolete industrial complexes, equal competitive conditions for all businesses, and steps to combat corruption. The Commission is called upon to submit, to the European Parliament, a separate "progress report" concentrating on industrial policy, SMEs, telecommunications, the audiovisual sector and media and internet related industries. The candidate countries are expected to coordinate their trade policies with the EU's common commercial policy, in particular to adopt more effective measures to harmonise trade relations with third countries by means of common approaches within the WTO and international financial organisations (IMF and World Bank) and to prepare for accession by making further tariff reductions. The Commission is called upon to assist the candidate countries in their efforts to open markets further. With regard to energy, the Parliament calls on the Commission to give an overview of existing studies and if necessary to undertake and in-depth study of the following aspects of energy: - quantitative estimate of the modernisation of the energy industries in the CEECs, and the resources and time required to achieve a similar energy intensity and level of renewables production as in the EU; - an assessment of the simulation of emission trading models and their impact on the energy sector of the candidate countries; - the potential maximum contribution of the EU budget through programmes such as SAVE, JOULE, THERMIE, ALTENER etc. to all13 candidate countries, or other sources of financing and how such assistance could be coordinated.