Resolution on the accession of Bulgaria and Romania

2006/2516(RSP) - 14/06/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

In adopting a joint resolution on the accession of Bulgaria and Romania, MEPs have noted with great interest the reports by the Commission on the state of preparedness of Bulgaria and Romania for their accession to the European Union and pay tribute to the great care and seriousness with which the Commission has monitored the preparatory efforts for and the implementing measures taken by both countries in order to meet the conditions for their entering the European Union by 1 January 2007.

They noted with satisfaction that the Commission maintains the deadline for both countries to enter the European Union by 1 January 2007 on condition that the necessary measures are taken to resolve the outstanding problems. Parliament accepted the recommendations made by the Commission with regard to the further procedure for taking a final decision on the date of accession of Bulgaria and Romania. It called on the European Council, at its meeting of 15 and16 June 2006, to maintain its commitment to Bulgaria and Romania joining the EU on 1 January 2007 if they are ready. At the same time, Parliament welcomed the specialist assistance that has been provided by Member States, particularly in the field of justice and policing, and urged reinforcement of this assistance in the coming months.

Parliament noted with satisfaction the serious efforts made by Bulgaria and Romania in past months to meet the EU's political and economic criteria and to adopt and implement the acquis communautaire. It emphasised the need for both countries to continue to consolidate the ongoing reform of their justice systems, by further enhancing the transparency, efficiency and impartiality of the judiciary, and to demonstrate further substantive results in the fight against corruption, with special emphasis on the fight against organised crime in the case of Bulgaria. Parliament stressed the utmost importance of taking all the measures required to combat the trafficking of human beings and to enhance the degree of social inclusion of Roma communities, especially with regard to housing, health care, education and employment.

Parliament was aware that a decision on the accession of each country will be taken on its own merits and in the light of each country's achievements, but would welcome it if Bulgaria and Romania could enter the European Union together and on the same date. It called on all political forces in Bulgaria and Romania to concentrate their activities on meeting the conditions for EU membership by 1 January 2007 and to maintain the political commitment needed to achieve this objective. Parliament also called on the Commission, as a matter of urgency, to provide Bulgaria and Romania with the clearest possible guidance on the outcomes that are expected in order to meet its concerns, to ensure that maximum Community resources are targeted on these areas in order to help produce tangible improvements, and, in cooperation with the Bulgarian and Romanian authorities, to define the nature of and procedures for any possible post-accession monitoring measures and the circumstances under which they might be necessary.