Basic information

1994/2121(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Enlargement: a European strategy to prepare the countries of Central and Eastern Europe CEECs for accession **Subject** 8.20.04 Pre-accession and partnership	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	OOSTLANDER Arie M. (PPE)	13/10/1994

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	TILLICH Stanislaw (PPE)	26/09/1994
RELA External Economic Relations	VALDIVIELSO DE CUÉ Jaime (PPE)	23/05/1995
REGI Regional Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	07/09/1995
INST Institutional Affairs	SAINT-PIERRE Dominique (ARE)	06/09/1995
FEMM Women's Rights		

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	1958	1996-10-28
General Affairs	1903	1996-02-26
General Affairs	1806	1994-11-28
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	1815	1994-12-08

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/07/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1994)0320	Summary
30/09/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/11/1994	Vote in committee		Summary
23/11/1994	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0081/1994	
28/11/1994	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
30/11/1994	Debate in Parliament		
30/11/1994	End of procedure in Parliament		
08/12/1994	Debate in Council		
19/12/1994	Final act published in Official Journal		
26/02/1996	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
28/10/1996	Debate in Council		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1994/2121(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/4/05919

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0081/1994 OJ C 363 19.12.1994, p. 0002	23/11/1994	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0166/1994 OJ C 363 19.12.1994, p. 0009-0016	30/11/1994	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	08169/1996	12/06/1996	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary

Non-legislative basic document	COM(1994)0320	13/07/1994	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(1994)0361	27/07/1994	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	CSE(1995)0606	05/12/1995	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	CSE(1995)0605	06/12/1995	Summary

Enlargement: a European strategy to prepare the countries of Central and Eastern Europe CEECs for accession

1994/2121(COS) - 13/07/1994 - Non-legislative basic document

This communication deals with the future of the Central and Eastern European Countries currently associated with the Community and their accession at a later date. It is the Commission's initial response to the Corfu European Council on closer links between the Community and these countries and to the strategy needed for the purposes of accession, which will only take place once these countries meet a number of economic and political criteria such as: - the existence of stable institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities; - the existence of a functioning market economy; - the ability to cope with competitive pressures and market forces within the Union; - the ability of the candidate country to take on the obligations of membership and, more importantly, to subscribe to the objectives of political, economic and monetary union. The Community also needs to make preparations during the period in the run up to accession. These preparations should take the form of the gradual integration of the political and economic systems of the associated countries and the Union and greater cooperation in all areas of common interest. At the same time, the Community should make provision for institutional changes so that it can operate smoothly in a Union of more than 20 countries. This communication therefore proposes a strategy covering two independent areas: - the full structuring of relations between the associated countries and the Union institutions; - the promotion of convergence, integration and regional cooperation on the basis of the Europe agreements.

Enlargement: a European strategy to prepare the countries of Central and Eastern Europe CEECs for accession

1994/2121(COS) - 30/11/1994 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Oostlander on the strategy to prepare the CEECs for accession in the run up to the Essen European Council (9-10 December 1994). In its resolution, Parliament approved of enlargement in principle but pointed out that it would examine each candidature on its own merits and that the internal institutional problems of the Union would need to be resolved before any accessions (mainly by reforming Community procedures and powers and the budget at the IGC), insisting here that Parliament play as important a role as the other institutions in preparing candidates for accession. As regards the Commission strategy, it highlighted the interesting points of the proposal but pointed out that the strategy contained omissions. In all events, it called for accession criteria to be defined by the Council and the Commission and for the enlargement process to be modulated in order to help the CEECs cope with integration into Europe. In addition, Europe should formulate a new democratic and pacifist European order as the basis for enlargement. Parliament refused to sanction the possibility of new Member States "opting out", especially from EMU and social policy. As regards the Commission's proposed method, Parliament approved the development of "structured relations" between the Union and the CEECs, but pointed out that these relations should cover the CFSP and include an interparliamentary dimension. In this respect, Parliament hoped that such relations would not compromise the decisional autonomy of the Union, especially the powers of the European Parliament. The Commission, for its part, should evaluate the budgetary consequences of enlargement, especially in the agricultural and regional policy areas. A structured dialogue should also be held on the agricultural sector. As regards certain aspects of enlargement, Parliament approved of strengthening all forms of cooperation (especially interregional) with these countries but pointed out that new programmes were needed in order to offer minorities enhanced protection of their human rights, in home affairs and in order to maintain levels of female employment. At the same time, it called for stronger ties with the countries of the former Soviet Union and, more importantly, a new strategy for the countries of the Mediterranean basin. Finally, it called for CEECs to support efforts being made by Europe within the framework of the "partnership for peace" in order to guarantee security throughout Europe. It called for the Essen Council to address the various stages of accession at the summit. Finally, as regards the budgetary aspects of enlargement, Parliament again drew the Commission's attention to the financial repercussions of any new accession; inevitably, plans would need to be made to overhaul and increase the Union's own resources. Efforts should therefore be made to allocate appropriations in category IV of the budget to PHARE and TACIS, which should focus on infrastructure, energy, nuclear security, environmental, transport and education projects and on stabilising democracy. In particular, it suggested increasing the rate of project investment aid to 30% (from 15%, in order to widen the scope for multilateral funding, and also suggested the possibility of joint funding for cross-border projects by PHARE and TACIS beneficiaries (especially environmental and transport projects). Finally, it called on the Commission to present a breakdown per country of the cost of accession of the CEECs by the middle of 1995.

Enlargement: a European strategy to prepare the countries of Central and Eastern Europe CEECs for accession

1994/2121(COS) - 05/12/1995 - Document attached to the procedure

OBJECTIVE: this communication analyses the political and economic effects of the enlargement of the Community and sets out the main points to be considered with regard to the reforms to be implemented. SUBSTANCE: the enlargement of the Community to include the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (currently Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Romania and Slovakia) will have a considerable impact on the Commission: . political effects: enlargement will help to ensure peace and security among all the people of Europe but guarantees will have to be provided with regard to respect for human rights and the protection of minorities; . economic effects: the main economic challenge of enlargement affects, first and foremost, the CEECs themselves, which must establish adequate regulatory and administrative frameworks whilst often implementing far-reaching reforms and making significant improvements to their macro-economic situation. To ensure that the countries' accession succeeds, the Commission lists three types of problems and proposes an initial response to each: - the pre-accession strategy must continue and may even need to be strengthened: exhaustive preparation is the key to enlargement. The Commission therefore believes that the CEECs must continue to introduce laws that are compatible with the Community system and progressively implement the measures to apply them. Measures to stabilise monetary policies must also be enhanced; - the transitional periods at the time of accession must be well-balanced: even for the countries that are "ready" for accession, significant transitional measures will be necessary to ensure progressive integration. Nonetheless, the Commission warns against any system of permanent derogations which would lead to a form of "à la carte" or "second-class" accession. The new members must accept the obligations and laws accompanying accession together with the constraints involved therein; - in certain areas such as the cohesion policy and the agricultural policy, which account for a significant proportion of the budget, it is still difficult to determine the acquis to be taken over by new members: . as regards economic and social cohesion: the Commission will have to reconsider the prospects and regulations relating to the Structural Funds for the period up to 1999, and in 1996 it will present an initial report outlining this policy incorporating the aspect of enlargment. In this respect, the Commission feels that the countries benefiting from support should be guaranteed a sustainable level of solidarity, but only in accordance with the results obtained and with the least-favoured regions continuing to receive priority. It also points out that a massive transfer of funds towards the new countries is not desirable given the state of their administrative systems and the fact that they would find it difficult to absorb all the funds; . as regards agriculture, the Commission feels that it would not be advisable to maintain the status quo with an enlarged Europe, as enlargement would entail less systematic recourse to aid for prices, the implementation of more environmental and social policies and the definition of an integrated rural policy.

Enlargement: a European strategy to prepare the countries of Central and Eastern Europe CEECs for accession

1994/2121(COS) - 27/07/1994 - Document attached to the procedure

This communication deals with the future of the Community's relations with the countries of central and eastern Europe (currently associated countries) and their future accession. It is the second response by the Commission to the Corfu European Council on a strategy to prepare the countries of central and eastern Europe for accession and follows on from another communication on the same subject. The present communication sets out specific proposals for the implementation of this strategy. It puts forward proposals in the following areas: - creating the framework for a deepening EC-CEEC relationship: the Commission puts forward a series of proposals for strengthening relations with the institutions of the Union, in particular in the areas of justice and home affairs and intra-regional cooperation; - creating a legal and institutional environment conducive to economic development and integration: approximation of legislation, in particular with regard to competition and the control of state aids; - enhancing trade opportunities: establishment of measures to facilitate trade flows and reduce trade tensions; - macroeconomic and structural change and other forms of cooperation: promoting inward investment, integration of these countries into a single transport area, strengthening of cooperation in the energy, environmental and agriculture sectors, nuclear safety, regional development, social and cultural policy and science; - Community assistance for integration and reform (measures must be taken at Community level to strengthen the integration of these countries, in particular through the Phare programme or more appropriate financial instruments).

Enlargement: a European strategy to prepare the countries of Central and Eastern Europe CEECs for accession

1994/2121(COS) - 28/11/1994

Enlargement: a European strategy to prepare the countries of Central and Eastern Europe CEECs for accession

1994/2121(COS) - 06/12/1995 - Document attached to the procedure

OBJECTIVE: This report presents a general overview of the progress of the pre-accession strategy, the political and economic situation of the CEECs and the priorities to be implemented from 1996 in order to improve this strategy. CONTENT: - Pre-accession strategy: the main instruments of this strategy comprise the following: .Europe Agreements: in addition to the six agreements already in force, agreements were signed in 1995 with the Baltic countries and Slovenia. Under those agreements, adjustments should be made in 1996 in the agricultural sector to take account of the Uruguay Round reforms; .Structured relations: a series of meetings were held in 1995 in order to gain a better understanding of one another's concerns. The Commission proposes improving the structure of this dialogue through better preparation of the exchanges, which should relate to the pre-accession strategy itself; .PHARE: modifications have been made to PHARE planning in order to make financial contributions to the medium-term adjustment process in the beneficiary CEECs. In 1996, PHARE should implement projects in the field of justice and home affairs, with simplified procedures; . Integration in the Internal Market: national programmes for the approximation of legislation have been adopted. An information exchange office will be

set up from 1996 to assist local officials more effectively in defining and implementing their amended legislation; .Agriculture: a report has been published by the Commission analysing the strategies to be adopted in order to develop agricultural relations with the ten CEECs (COS0365). In the meantime, the Commission intends to improve the use of tariff quotas opened by the Union and insufficiently used; .Improvement of cooperation, particularly by the promotion of investments in sectors such as the environment, transport, energy, networks etc. Regional cooperation and relations of good neighbourliness should also be improved through a series of appropriate programmes; .Trade: the Commission will prepare proposals in 1996 to extend the cumulation of origin rules and to harmonise them in the different agreements between the Union and the CEECs; - Political and economic situation in the CEECs: .Political situation: as a general rule, the democratic institutions are functioning well, elections are free and human rights are respected. However, with regard to the protection of minorities, the balance between institutions and the media leaves something to be desired. Work must be done in this area; .Economic situation: in 1994, all the CEECs recorded positive growth. In 1995, growth should be at least at the same level in most of these countries. Trade between CEECs has also increased. Unemployment is beginning to fall as a result of the recovery and inflation has been reduced as a result of austerity policies. With a few exceptions, the private sector represents more than half of the GDP even though privatisation strategies are not always satisfactory. Efforts must therefore be made with regard to privatisation, taxation and restructuring of undertakings.