Basic information

1995/2064(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) 2004 enlargement: preparation of the CEECs for integration into the internal market. White paper **Subject** 8.20.08 Enlargement's economic and monetary point of view	Procedure completed

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
AGRI	Agriculture and Rural Development	REHDER Klaus (PSE)	24/05/1995
ECON	Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	METTEN Alman (PSE)	13/09/1995
ENER	Research, Technological Development and Energy	DESAMA Claude J.-M.J. (PSE)	01/06/1995
RELA	External Economic Relations	VALDIVIELSO DE CUÉ Jaime (PPE)	23/05/1995
JURI	Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	HLAVAC Elisabeth (PSE)	24/05/1995
REGI	Regional Policy	SCHRÖDER Jürgen (PPE)	07/09/1995
TRAN	Transport and Tourism		
ENVI	Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	GAIGG Gerfrid (PPE)	23/05/1995
LIBE	Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	HAARDER Bertel (ELDR)	21/06/1995
CONT	Budgetary Control	KJER HANSEN Eva (ELDR)	19/07/1995

	INST Institutional Affairs	SAINT-PIERRE Dominique (ARE)	06/09/1995
	PECH Fisheries	KINDERMANN Heinz (PSE)	05/05/1995
	FEMM Women's Rights	GLASE Anne-Karin (PPE)	27/06/1995

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	1853	1995-06-12
General Affairs	1844	1995-04-10
General Affairs	1825	1995-01-23
General Affairs	1827	1995-02-06
General Affairs	1847	1995-05-29
Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	1828	1995-02-20
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	1851	1995-06-06

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/01/1995	Debate in Council		
06/02/1995	Debate in Council		
20/02/1995	Debate in Council		
10/04/1995	Debate in Council		Summary
03/05/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0163	Summary
29/05/1995	Debate in Council		
06/06/1995	Debate in Council		
12/06/1995	Debate in Council		Summary
16/06/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/03/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
25/03/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0101/1996	
17/04/1996	Debate in Parliament		
17/04/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
13/05/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/2064(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/4/06605

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0101/1996 OJ C 141 13.05.1996, p. 0006	25/03/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0187/1996 OJ C 141 13.05.1996, p. 0088-0135	17/04/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0163	03/05/1995	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1087/1996 OJ C 030 30.01.1997, p. 0059	25/09/1996	Summary

2004 enlargement: preparation of the CEECs for integration into the internal market. White paper

1995/2064(COS) - 25/09/1996 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

This Opinion is intended to have a broad political thrust. First and foremost, the Commission's White Paper must be recognized as being of key importance in that it amounts to a genuine "European compendium", which analyzes all the intricacies of the internal market, both from the more specifically legal angle and from the angle of the institutional and administrative structure built up in recent decades. The Committee sees the White Paper as a major blueprint for speeding up integration of the CEECs into the EU and facilitating their internal cooperation. In the long term integration will benefit both the Eastern and Western European countries and it remains the ultimate aim of EU-CEEC relations. To promote economic growth and convergence in the CEECs, efforts must be made to encourage the restructuring and modernization of their economies (especially in industry and the public administration) and to stimulate domestic and foreign investment. These changes must improve living and working conditions as quickly as is feasible, this being the fundamental aim of European integration. However, the main problem is that alignment of legislation is not sufficient per se; the requisite structures, and hence resources, are also necessary. The technical and financial assistance that the EU can provide under PHARE and other aid programmes will therefore be of key importance in facilitating standardized implementation of internal market legislation. While recognizing that the Commission has drawn up a blueprint of key importance for both the CEEC accession process and the framing of future Community policies, attention should be drawn to a number of shortcomings that could detract from the objective value of the White Paper.

2004 enlargement: preparation of the CEECs for integration into the internal market. White paper

1995/2064(COS) - 12/06/1995

The Council agreed on the conclusions on the Commission’s White Paper on the preparation of the associated countries for their integration into the internal market of the Community, which it agreed to submit for the attention of the Cannes European Council. It also felt that it should submit to the Cannes European Council a report on the implementation during the first half of 1995 of the strategy to prepare those countries for accession.

2004 enlargement: preparation of the CEECs for integration into the internal market. White paper

1995/2064(COS) - 03/05/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

This Commission White Paper deals with preparation of the associated countries of central and eastern Europe for integration into the internal market and forms part of the pre-accession strategy adopted by the Essen European Council in December 1994. Its aim is to help these countries to prepare to run their economies in line with the rules of the internal market. Alignment with the internal market is a separate issue from accession to the Union, with its implied acceptance of Community acquis in its entirety. This White Paper outlines the key measures in each sector of the internal market and proposes the order in which legislation should be harmonized. Nonetheless, purely formal transposition of Community legislation will not bring about the desired economic effect, nor will it guarantee the proper working of the internal market following further enlargement. Particular importance is therefore attached to implementing structures which will allow legislation to be implemented and ensure that it is complied with. Including legislation under social policy, competition and the environment will ensure a balanced approach. According to this paper, primary responsibility for aligning with the internal market lies with the associated countries themselves, as does responsibility for setting their own sectoral priorities. The Union already provides assistance with harmonizing legislation, mainly under PHARE. This assistance now needs to be strengthened and adapted to the recommendations in the White Paper. Approach and structure of the White Paper: The White Paper is directed at countries already associated with the Union and CEECs preparing for associate status (Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Baltic Republics and Slovenia). Each country will set its own priorities and timetable in line with its own economic, social and political situation. The White Paper is structured as follows: . The first section analyses the objective and the nature of this exercise in political terms: - Chapter 1: description of the context, scope and approach of the White Paper. - Chapter 2: general framework for the exercise, highlighting the main features of the internal market and the methods used to dismantle obstacles to free movement and examining the basic function of competition. - Chapter 3: description of the legislative measures needed in order to create and preserve the internal market. - Chapter 4: presentation of the CEECs (legislation, structure, specific difficulties of each country in applying Community rules and practices). - Chapter 5: this deals with Union aid and outlines a new type of approach which would allow current Community measures to be strengthened. - Chapter 6: presentation of the benefits of applying the recommendations in the White Paper and the measures which the Commission, the CEECs and the Member States should take if these benefits are to be felt in practice. . The second section contains: - an analysis sector by sector of the key elements of the Community legislation in question; - an explanation of the objectives and development of the legislation in each sector; - a description of the structures needed in order to implement and apply the internal market rules effectively; - the order in which the measures required in each sector need to be adopted.

2004 enlargement: preparation of the CEECs for integration into the internal market. White paper

1995/2064(COS) - 10/04/1995

The Council prepared for the joint ministerial meeting with the associated CEECs, which comes within the framework of ‘structured relations’ under the pre-accession strategy drawn up by the Essen European Council. That meeting subsequently took place (towards the end of the morning) alongside the Council meeting, with the participation of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the six associated countries: Mr Gueorgui PIRINSKI for Bulgaria, Mr Laszlo KOVACS for Hungary, Mr Wladyslaw BARTOSZEWSKI for Poland, Mr Teodor MELESCANU for Romania, Mr Juraj SCHENK for Slovakia and Mr Josef ZIELENIEC for the Czech Republic. The debate covered economic subjects, namely preparation of the White Paper for the integration of the associated countries into the internal market and regional cooperation, as well as political topics such as the situation in Russia and in the CIS (Chechnya, Ukraine, the Caucasus), the European security architecture, former Yugoslavia, consultation in the United Nations framework and non-proliferation.

2004 enlargement: preparation of the CEECs for integration into the internal market. White paper

1995/2064(COS) - 17/04/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Parliament adopted the report by Mr Arie OOSTLANDER (PPE, NL) on the Commission's White Paper on the preparation of the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe for integration into the internal market of the Union. - On the principle of accession: Parliament believes that enlargement presents an opportunity for the European Union to contribute to peace, security and prosperity throughout Europe. It noted that the

European Council decided at its meeting of December 1995 that the negotiations with the candidate countries would only start half a year after the end of the IGC and emphasized that no decision could be taken concerning the outcome so long as the financial consequences of the accessions were not fully known. It urged the Council at the IGC to increase the transparency of decision-making and to do its utmost to ensure that the institutions functioned effectively after enlargement. Measures should be taken to ensure that the conclusion of an Association Agreement or Accession Treaty cannot be blocked by a single country and that new Member States cannot veto the accession of subsequent ones. It took the view that, upon their accession to the Union, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe should accept the 'acquis communautaire' in its entirety and cooperate in the institutional development of the Union in the direction of greater democracy and more effective decision-making procedures involving the transfer of part of national sovereignty to European level. It stressed that accession consultations should begin simultaneously so as to prevent the emergence of classes of applicant countries and urged the Commission to take account of the state of affairs in each country with regard to the rule of law, democracy and respect for the rights of minorities in the opinions it was to draw up. These documents should be submitted to it immediately after the IGC. At the same time it pointed out that, for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, membership involved not only rights but also obligations. They should persevere in the restructuring and reforms embarked upon in the transition to a social market economy. They also had to fully establish and maintain a democratic system at all levels of society. During the transitional period encouraging private investment was vital. Parliament pointed out, however, that overhasty accession by the countries of Central and Eastern Europe on purely political grounds would undermine the internal market itself and would not help the Union to function efficiently. It called for the establishment of a phased plan which took account of the social dimension with a view to the CEECs gradual integration into the internal market. It called on the Union to adopt measures to strengthen the CEECs social, administrative and organizational structure in the following areas: - development of the social dialogue; - social security schemes and health services; - employment agencies; - worker representation bodies; - introduction of vocational training schemes and programmes aimed at guaranteeing equal opportunities for men and women; - collection of accurate statistics; - labour inspection schemes and action to counter discrimination in the workplace; - action to combat poverty and social exclusion. It called on the Commission to draw up minimum criteria to be complied with in the run-up to accession and to inform it regularly of the progress made in the various areas, with an effective monitoring of the criteria drawn up. As regards the financial and socio-economic aspects of accession: Parliament called on the Commission to present it with a realistic analysis of the political and economic benefits and budgetary consequences of enlargement, as well as its impact on the CAP and the Structural Funds. Whilst acknowledging that protecting the markets of Central and Eastern European countries was permissible in order to facilitate the viable development of domestic trade, it pointed out that disguised forms of protectionism would do nothing to promote either side's confidence in the further positive development of trade relations. It noted the shortcomings in the current transit system and opposed any extension of the common transit system to the CEECs before: . the transit system currently in force in the Union has been reformed, . the resources at the disposal of the customs administrations have been redirected, . the customs administrations' legal powers have been strengthened in order to ensure genuine control. It also hoped that the countries of Central and Eastern Europe would be involved in the Union's programmes to combat fraud and stressed the important monitoring role of the Court of Auditors. It referred to the observations made in the latter's report about the unclear organization of aid to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, with a view to remedying waste and inefficiency as far as possible. With regard to the PHARE programme, it reiterated its belief in the maximum possible level of operational decentralization for the management of the programme and stressed the importance of the procurement rules applying to the PHARE programme being brought into line with the rules applying to the internal EU programmes. It called for a special commitment to tackling the position of women in the CEECs, particularly as regards equality of opportunity and, above all, prostitution. With regard to the rebuilding of civil society, it felt that the NGOs had an important role to play and called on the Commission to give active support to these organizations. Parliament noted that privatization in the fields of culture, education, social welfare and health, in line with the EU's vision of a social market economy, was more a matter for socially-oriented bodies (non-profit-making NGOs) than for the profit-oriented commercial sector. In the industrial sector, Parliament stressed the importance of industrial cooperation between the EU Member States and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, without prejudice to the social acquis and ecological guarantees. It called for the development of a code of conduct for firms based in the EU that invested in the CEECs so that the same environmental norms and laws that applied in the EU were also applied in the CEECs. It called on the Commission to make the best possible use of the results of PHARE, especially with regard to energy. It laid particular emphasis on the transfer of technology for the development and diversification of energy sources and notably nuclear safety. Aware of the serious environmental problems inherited by the CEECs, it called for financial assistance and institutional adjustments in those countries in order to draw the problem to the attention of their authorities and public opinion. As regards transport, Parliament proposed a rapid harmonization of the national legislation of the CEECs with EU transport legislation and called for investment in the trans-European networks and less damaging modes of transport (such as rail and combined transport, for example). It attached great importance to regional and international development programmes which could enable the CEECs to promote all useful forms of cooperation more effectively. With regard to agriculture, Parliament believed that the CEECs must carry out fundamental reforms. Further intensification of contacts was necessary at all levels with a view to the convergence of agricultural policies. This meant eliminating the inequality in agricultural trade between the Union and the candidates for accession. The latter were urged to intensify trade with the CIS States. Furthermore, Parliament called on the Union not to resort to export subsidies for agricultural products where the domestic production of the associated countries was under threat. As regards education, information and the media, Parliament wished priority to be assigned to training and transfers of know how to improve the quality of public administration and proposed, therefore, that the number of Jean Monnet chairs be significantly increased. It also hoped that the Commission would assist the ordinary citizen towards a better understanding of all the implications of accession through an effective communication policy. In addition to economic support, Parliament emphasized the need for education and training actions and aid to local model projects in the fields of youth, culture, education and the audio visual sector. It was important to act more quickly to open up programmes such as Socrates and Leonardo, particularly the facilities for language education, to the CEECs. Regarding the media, Parliament urged the Commission to adopt practical measures in order to eliminate material problems by providing financial and operational support to free and independent media. As regards the rule of law and internal security: Parliament stressed the decisive role of the protection of human rights and pointed out that it is important to find solutions to problems which arise in protecting the rights of minorities and combating racism, anti-semitism, xenophobia and intolerance. It believed that socially oriented bodies have a vital part to play in this context and observed that developing and maintaining the rule of law is a necessary condition for tackling cross-border crime through European cooperation in the fields of Home Affairs and Justice. It regarded a structured dialogue with the Ministers of Home Affairs and Justice as essential and called for that dialogue to be expanded by involving representatives of the candidates for accession in European cooperation arrangements such as Europol, CIREFI and the Monitoring Centre for drugs. In addition, it urged the CEECs to draw up stringent practical measures to help combat illegal immigration to the countries of the Union. Finally, it called on all the CEECs scrupulously to comply with the clauses concerning human rights and the rights of minorities and called on them to deal with any conflict that might exist through a permanent and constructive dialogue structure in the spirit of the Stability Pact. As regards international relations and security: it noted the desire of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to opt independently for integration into the security structures of which most EU Member States were already members. Parliament would welcome the candidate country eventually being a party to future Union security legislation, which would be considered at the IGC. This would

constitute a contribution to peace and security in the European Continent. The debate about the integration of the WEU and the EU should take into account the eventual accession of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Since, in addition to military aspects, security had economic, ecological and social aspects the Commission should have at its disposal the necessary instruments. Parliament expected the applicants for accession to start making a major contribution to the CFSP through structured dialogue.