Basic information

1997/2171(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) Cyprus: accession to the European Union and progress in negotiations **Subject** 8.20.02 Enlargement 2004: new Member States **Geographical area** Cyprus	Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	POOS Jacques F. (PSE)	07/11/2000

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	POOS Jacques F. (PSE)	23/09/1999
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	BERTENS Jan Willem (ELDR)	28/07/1994

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	BÖGE Reimer (PPE-DE)	24/04/2001
CONT Budgetary Control	BÖSCH Herbert (PSE)	29/05/2001
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	OOSTLANDER Arie M. (PPE-DE) BERGER Maria (PSE)	29/05/2001 29/05/2001
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	GLANTE Norbert (PSE)	21/03/2001
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	SMET Miet (PPE-DE)	12/04/2000
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	GÖRLACH Willi (PSE)	27/03/2001

CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	ANDREASEN Ole (ELDR)	11/04/2001
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	RACK Reinhard (PPE-DE)	24/01/2001
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	LULLING Astrid (PPE-DE)	20/03/2001

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	ROTHE Mechtild (PSE)	25/10/1993
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	19/12/1994
RELA External Economic Relations	SONNEVELD Jan (PPE) MARCK Pol M.E.E. (PPE)	07/09/1994 21/09/1993
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	1767	1994-06-13
General Affairs	1830	1995-03-06
General Affairs	2027	1997-09-15
General Affairs	2029	1997-10-06
Culture	2427	2002-05-23

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/06/1994	Debate in Council		
15/09/1997	Debate in Council		Summary
06/10/1997	Debate in Council		
		COM(1998)0710	Summary

17/12/1998	Non-legislative basic document published		
08/03/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/03/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
24/03/1999	Committee interim report tabled for plenary	A4-0159/1999	
14/04/1999	Debate in Parliament		
23/05/2000	Additional information		Summary
14/09/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
14/09/2000	Committee interim report tabled for plenary	A5-0249/2000	
03/10/2000	Debate in Parliament		
04/10/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0428/2000	Summary
09/07/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
09/07/2001	Committee interim report tabled for plenary	A5-0261/2001	
04/09/2001	Debate in Parliament		
05/09/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0437/2001	Summary
05/09/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/03/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/2171(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/5/13757 AFET/4/10898 AFET/4/09127

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary		A4-0159/1999 OJ C 219 30.07.1999, p. 0007	24/03/1999	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament		T4-0335/1999 OJ C 219 30.07.1999, p. 0370-0448	15/04/1999	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary		A5-0249/2000 OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0008	14/09/2000	
		T5-0428/2000		

Interim resolution adopted by Parliament		OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0074-0156	04/10/2000	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary		A5-0261/2001	09/07/2001	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament		T5-0437/2001 OJ C 072 21.03.2002, p. 0084-0209 E	05/09/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(1993)0313	30/06/1993	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1998)0710	17/12/1998	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(1998)0712	17/12/1998	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0500	13/10/1999	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0502	13/10/1999	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1999)0535 OJ C 056 29.02.2000, p. 0056 E	09/11/1999	
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2000)0700	08/11/2000	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0702	08/11/2000	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2001)0652	13/11/2001	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0700	13/11/2001	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	SEC(2001)1745	13/11/2001	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0700	09/10/2002	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2002)1401	09/10/2002	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EU	Document attached to the procedure	32002D0084 OJ L 044 14.02.2002, p. 0012-0019	28/01/2002	

Cyprus: accession to the European Union and progress in negotiations

1997/2171(COS) - 17/12/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to present the regular report from the Commission on Cyprus' progress towards accession. CONTENT: In line with the timetable of Agenda 2000 and the guidelines agreed by the European Council in Cardiff, the Commission presents a report in the form of an appraisal of the progress made by this country with regard to accession. However, as the political situation in Cyprus is dominated by the island's partition, the report largely concentrates its analysis on developments in negotiations to resolve the Cypriot question. Overall, little progress has been made in this respect since the publication of the Commission's 1993 observations and its report of July 1997 regarding Agenda 2000. Although many efforts have been made to bring the two sides closer, the resumption of dialogue has not been achieved and the Turkish Cypriot authorities are still refusing to take part in the accession process. As a result, only the Southern part of the country will be involved in accession and the various assessments made by the Commission in this report relate primarily to this part of the island. As in the case of the other candidate countries, the report concentrates on analysing the political and economic progress that Cyprus has made in relation to accession and examines the extent to which the Community acquis has been transposed in this respect. The Commission considers that economically Cyprus has made satisfactory progress, even though growth in GDP has slowed down significantly over the last two years. Cyprus has lost competitiveness in traditional sectors (industry and tourism) and it is therefore necessary to restructure these sectors within the framework of accession. The economic disparity between the poorer North and the richer South of the island has increased since 1993 even though the report says that the integration of the northern part of Cyprus should not pose major economic problems. As far as the adoption of the acquis is concerned, a large number of the instruments required for the progressive adoption of the acquis were already contained in the Association Agreement and the 1988 Protocol. On the basis of these instruments, Cyprus has made significant progress in adopting the acquis and more particularly within the framework of the Customs Union. Nevertheless, greater efforts still need to be made in the area of the single market (banking regulation). Maritime transport, telecommunications, and justice and home affairs represent other areas in need of particular attention. The Cypriot public administration seems well prepared to ensure the correct implementation of the acquis. In conclusion, from an economic point of view there is no major obstacle to Cyprus's accession to the EU ; however, the central question remains the partition of the island. A specific strategy will therefore have to be drawn up for Cyprus. A regular report will be put forward at the end of 1999 to evaluate the results of this country in its progress towards membership and to assess political progress on the island.

Cyprus: accession to the European Union and progress in negotiations

1997/2171(COS) - 04/10/2000 - Interim resolution adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted the report drafted by Mr Jacques F POOS (PES, L) supporting early accession for Cyprus on the understanding that this should not be conditional on a solution to the political problems of the present division of the island. The resolution deplores the lack of good will on the part of Turkey's Cypriot side and Turkey in reaching a political agreement on the future of the island. Furthermore, the Parliament believes that the Union is capable of making a vital contribution to the security of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities within the framework of a peace settlement and the demilitarisation of the island. The Union can also resolve the problem of the controlled return of refugees and the repatriation of the settlers.

Cyprus: accession to the European Union and progress in negotiations

1997/2171(COS) - 13/10/1999 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: To present the 1999 Regular Report on Cyprus's progress towards EU accession. CONTENT : This report looks at relations between Cyprus and the Union. It analyses the situation in terms of the Copenhagen criteria and looks at administrative and judicial capacity to apply the acquis. Relations with the Union : relations are intensifying in the pre-accession process. Cyprus implements its obligations under the Accession Agreement. Cyprus and the EU are to complete a Customs Union by 2002. The restrictions on Turkish imports into Cyprus have been lifted. The specific pre-accession strategy for Cyprus includes participation in Community Programmes. Copenhagen political criteria: Whilst the Commission states that Cyprus fulfils the Copenhagen political criteria, it notes that there has been little progress in the last year in finding a lasting solution to the Cyprus question. The Cypriot government's decision in December 1998 not to deploy additional weaponry was welcomed. As regards accession negotiations, the Union regrets the continuing absence of representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community, which would ensure that Turkish Cypriots' interests would be taken into account, and allow for the implementation of the acquis throughout the island. As a political settlement has not yet been achieved, arrangements regarding power sharing at the different levels of the administration are not effectively applied. The report states that progress towards accession and towards a just and viable solution of the Cyprus problem will naturally reinforce each other. Copenhagen economic criteria - Cyprus is a functioning market economy, which should be able to cope with the competitive pressures and market forces within the Union. Since the 1998 Report, the country has enjoyed rapid economic growth, while inflation has been contained. Efforts in the areas of structural reform and deregulation are still needed, particularly in progress towards privatisation. Integration of the north of Cyprus would enhance growth prospects and increase foreign direct investment. Ability to assume the obligations of membership: since the last regular report, Cyprus has made little progress in further alignment with the internal market acquis. There is no systematic control of state aid, and framework legislation is needed as a matter of priority. Administrative capacity to apply the acquis: Whilst starting from a good base, Cyprus needs to set up institutions in the areas of telecommunications, free movement of goods and justice and home affairs. Further reinforcement is needed in the maritime transport and environment sectors.

Cyprus: accession to the European Union and progress in negotiations

1997/2171(COS) - 05/09/2001 - Interim resolution adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Jacques F. POOS (PES, L) on Cyprus's membership application to the European Union. (Please refer to the previous text). Other points taken up include the deterioration in the macro-economic stability of Cyprus - although it satisfies the

Copenhagen economic criteria - and the special attention that needs to be paid to certain areas of the acquis, such as the environment. Among the amendments adopted was one, which stresses the importance of ensuring that homosexual rights are properly respected.

Cyprus: accession to the European Union and progress in negotiations

1997/2171(COS) - 09/10/2002

The European Commission has published its last Strategy Paper which highlights the processes to be accomplished before the integration of 10 new Member States. The Commission considers that Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia fulfil the political criteria and will have fulfilled the economic and acquis criteria within the timeframe foreseen for accession by the European Council. These countries will be ready for membership from the beginning of 2004. The Commission recommends concluding the accession negotiations with these countries by the end of this year with the aim of signing the Accession Treaty in Spring 2003. As for Bulgaria and Romania, the Commission will strongly support these two countries in achieving their objective to join in 2007. In addition to assessing progress made by each candidate, the Regular Reports and the Strategy Paper also evaluate to what extent the candidates will fulfil the Copenhagen criteria by accession, taking into account the envisaged timeframe for enlargement defined by the European Council. - Concerning the accession negotiations : the Commission therefore recommends to conclude the accession negotiations with these countries by the end of this year. The Regular Reports point to a number of areas where further improvements need to be made in the context of the political and economic criteria and in relationship to the adoption, implementation and enforcement of the acquis. These should be vigorously pursued. For all ten acceding countries, negotiations on both the chapters "agriculture" and "financial and budgetary matters" are not yet provisionally closed, although most issues in these chapters which are not linked to the financial framework to be proposed by the Union have been dealt with. Moreover, even if the chapters "regional policy" and "institutions" have been provisionally closed, specific questions linked respectively to the budgetary allocations and to institutional matters have been reserved for the last stretch of negotiations. In principle and in line with a practice followed in previous enlargements, it will not be possible to go beyond a certain point in time when considering new acquis in the negotiations. The Commission therefore has proposed to limit the scope of the negotiations as such to all acquis adopted and published up until 1 November 2002. - Overcoming difficulties : the 2002 Regular Reports show that, overall, candidate countries have generally reached a high degree of alignment in many areas, as a result of the considerable progress in transposing the acquis over the last years. Moreover, commitments made in the negotiations are generally being fulfilled. However, some difficulties are still apparent in areas such as customs, agriculture (very few candidate countries are at an advanced stage regarding the setting up of the integrated administration and control scheme (IACS)), regional policy (reinforce their administrative capacities) and financial management and control. The Commission's assessment of candidate countries in this year's Regular Reports carries three important messages: the Union's pre-accession strategy has proved a success. The transformation process in the candidate countries has been considerably accelerated by the prospect of enlargement; the accession negotiations, which have been based on theprinciples of own merits, differentiation and catching up, can be concluded with most candidates by the end of 2002. Preparations for enlargement will continue; and enlargement is an inclusive process which is not yet completed with the first accessions. The European Union continues to give its full support to current candidates that will not be in a position to participate in the next wave of enlargement. - With regard to the process of reinforcing administrative and judicial capacity : the Commission attaches the greatest importance to ensuring that the candidates further reinforce their administrative and judicial capacity. It is an essential requirement for creating mutual trust among Member States, indispensable for membership. The Commission has prepared in the first quarter of 2002 jointly with each negotiating country an Action Plan to reinforce their administrative and judicial capacity. Based on the 2002 Accession Partnership priorities, the Action Plans identify the concrete measures that remain to be taken for each country to achieve an adequate level of administrative capacity by the time of accession. The Action Plans identify targeted assistance required to support the countries in their efforts. For that purpose, the Commission has mobilised additional financial assistance of up to EUR 250 million in 2002 to accompany these efforts, bringing the Community's total support to strengthen the administrative and judicial capacity of the negotiating countries in 2002 to around EUR 1 billion. - Regarding transitional arrangements : the process of building up administrative and judicial capacity will need to continue after enlargement. A number of transitional arrangements agreed in the negotiations also demonstrate that in certain areas candidate countries need to continue efforts until they are in a position to apply fully the Community acquis. While accession negotiations are based on the principle that candidate countries effectively apply the acquis upon accession, a number of well-justified transitional measures have been agreed in the negotiations, in line with the principles laid down for transitional measures. These principles state that any transitional measure has to be limited in time and scope and be accompanied by a plan clearly defining stages for the application of the acquis. In addition, transitional measures must not involve amendments to the rules and policies of the Union, disrupt their proper functioning, or lead to significant distortions of competition. Transitional measures have been agreed, upon request of both the candidate countries (some 190 requests accepted so far) and the Union (some 28 requests accepted so far). - As regards the safeguard clauses : the general economic safeguard clause applies to situations where "difficulties arise which are serious and liable to persist in any sector of the economy or which could bring about serious deterioration in the economic situation of a given area". The safeguard clause would allow the Commission to determine the necessary protective measures. Both, new and current Member States would be able to make use of this safeguard clause. In order to ensure a smooth phasing in of an unprecedented number of new Member States in EU policies, the Commission considers, that for a limited time, the Accession Treaty should envisage the introduction of a specific safeguard clause for the internal market (including food safety)and also in the area of justice and home affairs, allowing to react more flexibly to possible problems associated with the initial period of membership. Moreover, the particular situation in the area of Justice and Home Affairs deserves a special mention. There is now a considerable acquis in this area. It covers difficult and politically sensitive subjects, in particular where the freedom of movement of people and the consequences of the suppression of internal frontiers are concerned. The implementation of these Schengen-based objectives is subject to a two-stage process, which eliminates the need for any separate safeguard mechanism. There are, however, other non-Schengen components in the area of freedom, security and justice (for instance regarding the implementation of judicial cooperation, in particular mutual recognition) which are still causing problems. - Concerning the abolition of border controls and free movement : the EU has made clear that full application of the Schengen acquis necessitates a process in two stages. In the first stage (2004) the countries will need to have achieved a high level of border control, even though certain special arrangements such as shared infrastructure and equipment or joint patrols could be envisaged with other Member States. The lifting of internal border controls will only occur some time after accession and will be subject to a separate decision making process for each new Member State separately. - With regard to the EMU and the Euro : the new Member States cannot immediately adopt the Euro upon accession. However, as for all Member States, economic policies become a matter of common concern and hence are subject to policy co-ordination and multilateral surveillance procedures. Until that time, the Treaty obliges Member States to pursue the high degree of sustainable convergence required for the adoption of the euro, but does not specify the timetable to attain this. - Concerning the timetable : six months before the

envisaged date of accession the Commission will produce a comprehensive monitoring report for the Council and the European Parliament which will look at the advancement of the implementation of necessary reforms and all commitments in the field of the Community acquis by each of the acceding countries. The Commission should adopt its Opinion on the applications for accession of the concerned countries. The European Parliament should then be asked to give its assent, followed by a decision of the Council on the admission of new Member States. Provided that the Commission can issue its Opinion in February 2003, and allowing sufficient time for the decision making process in Parliament and Council, the Accession Treaty can be expected to be signed in spring 2003. Thereafter, the Treaty, drawn up in all present and future Community languages, will be signed by the parties. - With regard to the financial framework : the Commission has proposed a common financial framework for the accession negotiations. This framework was based on the overall Berlin financial framework and on the assumption that ten new Member States would join the European Union (refer to INI /2002/2045). The Commission's proposals remain valid. In particular, the Commission considers that in the field of agriculture, the objective of gradually introducing direct payments for farmers in the new Member States from the year 2004 should be maintained.Structural actions should be based on a share of one third for the cohesion fund and be based on the overall volume proposed in January 2002. Also a temporary budgetary compensation, through a lump sum payment, should be envisaged for each new Member State which would find itself in a net budgetary position which is worse in comparison with its situation in the year before accession as beneficiary of pre-accession funds. Lastly, the Commission reiterates the need to earmark additional funds for the northern part of Cyprus in order to back a political settlement.

Cyprus: accession to the European Union and progress in negotiations

1997/2171(COS) - 13/11/2001 - Document attached to the procedure

In line with the previous strategy papers from the Commission which aim to set out the steps to be followed for the next enlargement, the Commission has puslished a new general document which sets out the progress made by all of the candidate countries with regard to accession to the European Union. If, on the one hand, certain countries have made substantial progress, considerable efforts still have to be made in order to ensure the effective application of EU legislation and standards ("acquis communautaire") before their accession. This is why the Commission announces that it shall present an important action plan in order to help the candidate countries strengthen their institution building capacities. The negotiations are conducted on the basis of the existing acquis, applying the principles of own merits and catching-up. It shall continue to follow the road map (please refer to the previous Commission working document for the year 2000) and the calendar approved by the European Council, which foresees the conclusion of the negotiations with the better prepared candidate countries before the end of 2002. In this context, the Union does not create new conditions for accession, which signifies that for all the subjects to come (in particular those which bare important financial implications such as agriculture, regional policy and the budget, shall be dealt with throughout the first semester of 2002), the Commission shall present negotiation proposals based on the acquis and the existing budgetary framework. The Commission considers that this framework provides a sufficient basis for the accession of up to 10 new Member States in 2004. The accession negotiations can be concluded independently of decisions for financing the EU after 2006. Given the present pace of negotiations and the progress made so far, the Commission should be able to make recommendations on those candidate countries ready for accession on the basis of its 2002 Regular Reports. It should also be noted that the countries which should be ready for accession on this date may be able to participate as Members of the Union in the 2004 European Parliament elections. In addition, it should be noted that the Commission's important action plan aiming to reinforce institution building should mobilise EUR 1 billion for the year 2002 alone (drawn mostly from the PHARE programme). In conclusion, the Commission announced that from November 2002, the Regular Reports that it presents shall identify which candidate countries are ready to become full Members of the European Union. The countries which do not conclude the negotiations in 2002 shall become subject to a new updated road map and eventually, a revised pre-accession strategy.

Cyprus: accession to the European Union and progress in negotiations

1997/2171(COS) - 15/09/1997

The Council regretted that the UN-sponsored talks held in August at Glion had made no progress. The Union is about to start on its enlargement on which the Commission has already presented a comprehensive communication. The Council rejects any link between the inter-communal talks and the start of the accession negotiations with Cyprus, which will start six months after the end of the IGC in accordance with decisions taken by the European Council in 1995 and reaffirmed subsequently. The Council recalled the conclusions of the Amsterdam European Council in this context.

Cyprus: accession to the European Union and progress in negotiations

1997/2171(COS) - 08/11/2000 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

This Regular Report for 2000 on Cyprus follows largely the same structure as the Commission's 1997 Opinion and of subsequent reports; however, it differs from that used in previous years on two minor points. Firstly, the part of the present report assessing Cyprus's ability to assume the obligations of membership has been structured to follow the list of 29 negotiating chapters covering the acquis. Secondly, this part has been broadened to cover also Cyprus's administrative capacity to apply the acquis under each of the negotiating chapters (previously discussed in a separate section of the report). This report takes into consideration progress since the 1999 report and looks at whether intended reforms referred to in the 1999 report have been carried out and it also examines new initiatives. As regards the relations between the European Union and Cyprus, there are intensifying as the accession negotiations progress. Moreover, on the basis of a new Financial Regulation, an Accession Partnership was established by a Council Decision of 20 March 2000. In mid September Cyprus submitted a first National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA) to the Commission, in which it outlines the strategy for accession including how to achieve the priorities contained in the Accession Partnership. As far as Community aid is concerned, four financial protocols are signed with Cyprus between 1978 and 1999. After the expiry of the Fourth Financial Protocol with Cyprus on 31 December 1999, the Council adopted on 13 March 2000 Regulation 555/2000/EC, on the implementation of operations in the framework of the pre-accession strategy for Cyprus and Malta. The global amount of pre-accession aid available to Cyprus for the whole five year period 2000-2004 will be EUR 54 million. For the time being no twinning projects have been implemented but the possibility of using twinning is being envisaged for 2001. Cyprus continues to fulfil the Copenhagen political criteria. The predominant political problem is the continued division of the island, but over the last

year important efforts have been made in the search for a political settlement in line with the Accession Partnership. From the fourth round of proximity talks held in September there were encouraging signs that the two sides were engaging in substantive discussion. In terms of the economy, it is continuing to grow strongly and is operating at full employment. Some progress is being made in the areas of liberalisation and structural reforms. On the other hand, macroeconomic stability has weakened recently, and the current level and stance of fiscal policy are not susutainable over the medium term. There is a need to develop a credible and coherent approach to fiscal consolidation. With a view to progressive capital liberalisation, monetary policy must be made more efficient and market-oriented by the use of indirect instruments rather than direct interventions. Overall, during the period covered by this report, Cyprus has achieved substantive progress in various areas of the acquis adn continued with further harmonisation measures. Progress has been made in the areas of the internal market, although further efforts are still needed in respect of standardisation and certification; indirect taxation; transport and fisheries;justice and home affairs. It should be noted that the situation relating to State aid remains unsatisfactory, as there stilll exists no proper State aid control and no legal basis for it. Further efforts are needed both in relation to veterinary controls at border posts and the setting up of regulatory authorities.

Cyprus: accession to the European Union and progress in negotiations

1997/2171(COS) - 30/06/1993 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: presentation of the Commission's opinion on the application by Cyprus for membership of the Community. CONTENT: In its opinion, the Commission does not envisage starting real negotiations on membership until the Cyprus problem has been settled. Without this political settlement, inevitable problems would arise for the adoption of all Community legislation based on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms (principles which are still not accepted by the whole island). With regard to the economy, the opinion shows that, through the customs union between Cyprus and the Community, this country has showed the ability (in particular in the south) to adapt to Community rules. However, the opinion shows also that the gap in development between the north and south of the island can only be accentuated by the integration of Cyprus into the Community. Nonetheless, and without waiting for a final solution to the Cyprus question, the Commission proposes using the instruments provided under the EEC-Cyprus Association Agreement to ensure the gradual economic, social and political transition of this country with a view to its future membership. For its part, the Community should examine the institutional problem posed by Cyprus in order to enable this country to participate effectively in the Community's decision-making process in relation to its size. In view of the conclusions of its opinion and the impossibility of predicting in the foreseeable future the date of the solution of the Cyprus question, the Commission proposes reconsidering the question of this country's membership in January 1995.

Cyprus: accession to the European Union and progress in negotiations

1997/2171(COS) - 15/04/1999 - Interim resolution adopted by Parliament

The Parliament adopted its resolution, drafted by Mr. Jan Willem BERTENS (ELDR, NL), concerning the regular report from the Commission on Cyprus's progress towards accession even if some difficulties persisted. It calls on the Commission to propose a financial mechanism to replace the financial protocol and calls on the Council to reallocate the remaining EUR 17 million under this protocol to the pre-accession strategy. Like the Commission, the Parliament welcomes the progress made in adopting the acquis but it regrets the difficulties arising from the continued occupation of a part of the island. It particularly criticised the declarations made by certain Member States which oppose Cyprus's accession for as long as it is divided. It invited all the parties in the conflict to participate in dialogue to find a solution to the partition of the island. Lastly, the Parliament called on the Greek government to lift its veto on EU financial assistance to Turkey under the EU-Turkey customs union.

Cyprus: accession to the European Union and progress in negotiations

1997/2171(COS) - 17/12/1998

This composite paper presents an outline of the progress made towards accession by all of the candidate countries in relation to the Copenhagen criteria since the publication of the Commission's opinions in June of 1997. These regular reports for each of the candidate countries concentrate on all aspects of the adoption of the Community acquis and establish a precise assessment of the capacity of each of the candidates to fulfil the political and economic criteria required for accession. The case of Cyprus differs from the other candidate countries, in particular the Central and Eastern European countries (CEECs), in that the main obstacle of the progress of negotiations is not the level of economic progress or the adoption of the acquis, but the islands political situation. In this document, the Commission indicates that it has not been possible to establish a complete summary of measures taken by Cyprus in the context of accession. Effectively, the invitation by the Cypriot government to include representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community in the accession negotiations was not accepted. As a result, the Commission's analysis only covers one part of the island (the South). Essentially, the report on Cyprus confirms the 1993 analysis as regards economic disparities between the two parts of the island (the North of Cyprus continues to lag behind the South in terms of economic performance). As regards the adoption of the acquis, the Commission considers that there are no major problems. However, the fact remains that without a speedy resolution of the Cypriot question, progress towards accession will remain slow and uncertain.

Cyprus: accession to the European Union and progress in negotiations

1997/2171(COS) - 08/11/2000

The Commission has presented for the first time a 'strategy document for enlargement' which seeks to be more analytical and forward-looking than its previous versions issued in 1998 and 1999. In the first part, the Commission recalls the challenges of the future enlargement, in particular in geopolitical and strategic terms, which go far beyond those faced in previous enlargements: Europe's improved security, stability and prosperity will be top priority in the complex negotiations which will result in the membership of between 10 and 13 new member states. The Commission also discusses

the new potential candidates for membership from the Balkans area which will be declared in the relatively near future. A process in parallel to that started in 1989 for the current candidates from Central and Eastern Europe is under way in this region so as to prepare the countries of the former Yugoslavia and Albania for future membership: this involves a stabilisation and association process coupling financial and technical support, as well as strengthening the political dialogue between the parties. In recalling the various elements that comprise the pre-accession strategy (accession partnerships; national programmes for the adoption of the acquis communautaire; more than 3 billion euros per year of financial assistance with PHARE, ISPA and SAPARD; association agreements that set the institutional framework and the structural objectives of pre-accession; involvement of the candidate countries in the various Community programmes and agencies), the Commission presents a state of play sector-by-sector of the progress made by the candidates on the path to accession. The Copenhagen criteria (political, economic, adoption of the acquis) are reviewed in the second part of the document in order to determine for each country concerned the work that remains to be done before becoming a member of the Union. The Commission describes, in a third and important part of the section, the negotiation strategy that it intends to implement in the course of the next two years (2001-2002). In this regard, the Commission stresses the need to respect the timetable for the negotiations, considering that it is not in the interests of either the Union or the candidate countries to see the enlargement process get bogged down indefinitely. This is why a strategy in stages is proposed in order both to encourage the candidate countries to intensify their preparation efforts and to give them greater confidence in the process under way. This strategy involves the following stages: 1) the drawing up of a lists of candidate countries' requests for transitional measures and negotiation of these measures by making, on the EU side, a clear distinction between measures considered acceptable (basically transitional measures in the short term of a technical nature that do not pose a particular problem), negotiable (measures having an effect on competition or the internal market and a longer duration), and unacceptable (posing very fundamental problems in the context of membership); 2) the drawing up of a detailed 'road map'for each country laying down clearly the order in which pending questions should be dealt with in 2001-2002. The road map is, without doubt, the most innovative aspect of the planned negotiation method since it involves for all the parties an undertaking to finishnegotiations within a realistic timescale. The approach favoured by the Commission is one in two phases: 2001 will see the majority of the pending questions raised (mainly, the internal market, social questions, environment) with the exception of those which have the most important financial implications; these latter will be dealt with in the course of the first six months of 2002, with the 'institutional questions' chapter and the other unresolved matters (agriculture, in particular). A clear list of chapters for negotiation that must be tackled is presented in the Commission's document, breaking down the most important questions to be resolved into 3 semesters (up to June 2002); 3) the opening of negotiating chapters: it is up to the candidate countries to open negotiating chapters as a function of the timing proposed by the Commission in its road map. Certain countries that are already well advanced would be able, by virtue of the principle of differentiation, to pursue their negotiations at a more sustained rhythm and hope to be part of the first cluster of new member states. However, where the number of remaining problems is very limited, these can be put aside provisionally to be revisted in order to find a solution to the few remaining issues at the appropriate moment. In conclusion, and in virtue of the method proposed in this working document, the Commission considers that Union should be in a position to welcome new Member States from the end of 2002.

Cyprus: accession to the European Union and progress in negotiations

1997/2171(COS) - 13/11/2001 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

The Commission has prepared this fourth series of Regular Reports with a view to the Laeken European Council in December 2001. The structure followed by this Regular Report is the same as that used for the 2000 Regular Report. It takes into consideration progress since the 2000 Report. It looks at whether intended reforms referred to in the 2000 Regular Report have been carried out, and examines new initiatives. In addition, this Report provides an overall assessment of the global situation for each of the aspects under consideration, setting out for each of them the main steps which remain to be taken by Cyprus in preparing for accession. In accordance with this approach, the assessment of progress in meeting the political and acquis criteria focuses on what has been accomplished since the last Regular Report. The Report contains a separate section examining the extent to which Cyprus has addressed the Accession Partnership priorities. Firstly, with regard to the pre-accession budget allocated to Cyprus for the period 2000-2004, this adds up to EUR 57 million. One third of the funds should be used for bi-communal projects (activities to contribute to the reconciliation of the two Cypriot communities). The projects foreseen under the 2001 allocation (EUR 11.5 million) include the following activities : bi-communal projects, urban wastewater and participation in the Community programmes. The implementation of these projects is expected to start in 2002. With regard to the Copenhagen criteria for membership: 1) Political Criteria : further efforts have been made to prepare the administration for operation within the EU, and the authorities' record on democratic and human rights remains generally good. 2) Economic Criteria : Cyprus is a functioning market economy. It should be able to cope with competitive pressure and market forces. The macroeconomic situation has continued to be robust, notably within the financial sector, the environment, and healthcare. Both the financial sector and the capital account took major steps towards greater liberalisation. However, the current account deficit increased significantly. The welcome liberalisation of the financial sector and the capital account pose new challenges to the economy. 3) Legislative alignment of the acquis : during the period covered by this Regular Report, Cyprus achieved substantive progress in different areas of the acquis and has continued at a steady pace with further legislative alignment as well as with setting up and upgrading of the necessary administrative institutions. The alignment process has gradually accelerated. However, there remain still a considerable number of laws to be adopted. - internal market : over the last year, there has been progress in important areas of the internal market. Concerning free movement of goods, the adoption of EN standards has been accelerated and new legislation was passed as regards sector specific legislation. However, continuing efforts are required to transpose and implement the acquis, in particular as regards the framework law on the new and global approach principles and subsequent regulations for the transposition of the New Approach Directives. Moreover, an overall strategy for better co-ordination of the authorities responsible for marketsurveillance should be developed. Although Cyprus has undertaken certain measures to abolish inconsistencies with the acquis in the area of free movement of persons in particular as regards the co-ordination of social security systems, important legislative work remains to be done before accession. Concerning financial services good legislative progress can be reported, and the overall standard of supervision appears to be satisfactory. Particular importance should be given to the restructuring of the co-operative and saving societies sector. The liberalisation of capital movements has continued and should be maintained to ensure a proper functioning of the markets upon accession; - agriculture : partial progress has been made in this field but substantial elements and mechanisms of the acquis remain to be applied as regards in particular the Common Market Organisation and the veterinary and phytosanitary sectors; - environment : good progress can be reported. Cyprus has continued with harmonisation measures both as regards legislative alignment as well as strengthening administrative capacity. Particular attention should now be paid to proper implementation and enforcement; - transport : significant progress has been made in nearly all sectors of transport policy; - energy : with regard to the security of supply, the issue of oil stocks (storage capacity needs to be developed) should be addressed as soon as possible. Cyprus has undertaken to implement the Electricity Directive by the date of accession; - employment and social affairs : although Cyprus has

achieved good progress, some parts of the acquis have not yet been fully transposed. In the area of labour law, the Directives on working time, part time work and posting of workers still need to be transposed; - justice and home affairs : progress has been made in particular in the fields of border control, migration and in the fight against corruption and fraud. On asylum, although the administrative capacity has been strengthened with the setting up of a refugee authority, no legislative progress can be reported. In light of increasing numbers of application alignment should be accelerated as regards in particular the criteria for applications and the setting up of an independent appeal authority. 4) Administrative Capacity : overall, the administrative capacity of Cyprus is already largely in place to implement the different aspects of the acquis. Training programmes have been organised in different sectors, such as co-ordination of social security systems, maritime safety, and justice and home affairs. Furthermore, additional staff have been recruited in key areas such as financial services, company law, veterinary and phytosanitary issues, fisheries, transport , taxation, social policy and employment. 5) Accession Partnership : over the last year Cyprus has met the short-term priorities of its Accession Partnership with regard to the free movement of capital, environment and financial control. In most other areas the priorities were partially fulfilled. Cyprus has continued to make good progress in addressing the medium-term Accession partnership priorities, and has partially fulfilled a number of them, such as justice and home affairs, regional policy and co-ordination of structural instrument and issues relating to the internal market.

Cyprus: accession to the European Union and progress in negotiations

1997/2171(COS) - 13/10/1999

This second composite document, like the first in the series, provides a resumé of the regular reports prepared for all accession candidate countries. Although the main areas covered, the methodology and the analysis of the progress made by all the candidate countries remain the same, the Commission's formal conclusions on a country by country basis differ from those in the 1998 report. Firstly, the Commission recalls that the enlargement process is a complex one which is not simply confined to pure and simple integration of new countries in the Union. Besides the difficulties associated with integration both for the Union and the countries themselves, the Commission considers that the new configuration of 25-30 countries will require not only internal but also external changes. In particular, it considers that the development of Europe has inevitable consequences with respect to the Eastern countries that are not yet on the 'candidate list' (ex-Yugoslavian countries, Albania, in the first instance), but also further East with Russia and the Ukraine, with which relations will have to be accorded a new dimension. The Commission considers that the new configuration envisaged also implies a modification in Europe's approach with respect to the South and in particular the countries of North Africa in respect of which new responsibilities are developing. On another level, the Commission considers that the enlargement negotiations should be started with all the candidate countries (thus abandoning the 'in' and 'non-in' idea) that satisfy the political Copenhagen criteria and can prove that they are ready to take the necessary measures to satisfy the economic criteria. In the current state of affairs, the Commission considers that the following countries should be in the first line to start negotiations : Bulgaria, Malta, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia. In this document, the Commission also outlines the method that it intends to apply to open negotiations with each of the countries concerned. In taking account of the progress made by each candidate country in its preparation for membership, the Commission will open one (or several) chapters for negotiation based on the principle of differentiation (certain chapters for certain countries in function of progress in given fields of the acquis). The chapters left in suspense in the framework of the negotiations under way, will be reviewed afterwards taking into account the progress of the country in these fields. The provisional closing of certain chapters will also depend on the extent to which the candidate country has undertaken its commitments in preparing for membership. Furthermore, the Commission considers that membership can only take place if the institutional reform has taken place by the end of 2002. The Commission also considers that the Union should undertake to be in a position to decide by that date on the eventual membership of candidates that fulfil the required criteria. Lastly, during 2000, the situation of all candidates from the point of view of the application of the competition regime andinternal market rules should be reviewed, as well as that of the liberalisation of trade in agricultural products.