Basic information

1997/2172(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) Romania: membership application and partnership, 22 June 1995 **Subject** 8.20.01 Candidate countries **Geographical area** Romania	Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	NICHOLSON OF WINTERBOURNE Baroness null (ELDR)	07/11/2000

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	BERNARD-REYMOND Pierre (PPE)	23/06/1997
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	NICHOLSON OF WINTERBOURNE Baroness null (ELDR)	23/09/1999

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	PRETS Christa (PSE)	20/03/2001

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2078	1998-03-30
Culture	2427	2002-05-23

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/07/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)2003	Summary
18/07/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/11/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
18/11/1998	Committee interim report tabled for plenary	A4-0428/1998	
02/12/1998	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	A5-0247/2000	
03/10/2000	Debate in Parliament		
04/10/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0426/2000	Summary
09/07/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
09/07/2001	Committee interim report tabled for plenary	A5-0259/2001	
04/09/2001	Debate in Parliament		
05/09/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0435/2001	Summary
05/09/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		

21/03/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2172(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/5/13768 AFET/4/10602 AFET/4/09121

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary		A4-0428/1998 OJ C 398 21.12.1998, p. 0003	18/11/1998	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament		T4-0712/1998 OJ C 398 21.12.1998, p. 0019-0050	03/12/1998	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary		A5-0247/2000 OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0007	14/09/2000	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament		T5-0426/2000 OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0073-0152	04/10/2000	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary		A5-0259/2001	09/07/2001	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament		T5-0435/2001 OJ C 072 21.03.2002, p. 0083-0200 E	05/09/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)2003	15/07/1997	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(1998)0702	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)0510	13/10/1999	Summary

Document attached to the procedure	COM(2000)0700	08/11/2000	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0710	08/11/2000	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2001)0660	13/11/2001	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0700	13/11/2001	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	SEC(2001)1753	13/11/2001	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0700	09/10/2002	
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2002)1409	09/10/2002	
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2002)0624	13/11/2002	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(03)0143	26/03/2003	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EU	Document attached to the procedure	31999D0852 OJ L 335 28.12.1999, p. 0015	06/12/1999	Summary
EU	Document attached to the procedure	32002D0092 OJ L 044 14.02.2002, p. 0082-0091	28/01/2002	

Romania: membership application and partnership, 22 June 1995

1997/2172(COS) - 13/10/1999 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : To present the 1999 Regular Report on Romania's progress towards accession. CONTENT : This report follows the structure of previous regular reports. It describes relations with the Union and analyses the situation in terms of the Copenhagen criteria. It addresses the question of Romania's ability to assume the obligations of membership and also covers judicial and administrative capacity. Relations with the Union: The report looks at developments under the Europe Agreement and reviews the implementation of the Accession Partnership. It assesses the use of Phare funding. In the years 2000-2002 total financial assistance available to Romania will amount to 242M EUR for Phare, 150M EUR for Sapard and between 208M EUR and 270M EUR for Ispa, per year. 16 projects have so far been twinned under Phare and 10 will be twinned under the 1999 programme. Copenhagen political criteria: The Commission considers that, at the moment, Romania still fulfills the Copenhagen political criteria although this position will need to be re-examined if the authorities do not continue to give priority to dealing with the crisis in their child care institutions. Living conditions in all child care institutions have very seriously deteriorated as result of financial and administrative problems. The unclear and complicated division of responsibilities between 4 central authorities exacerbates the problems. A single authority should be made responsible for establishing policies in relation to children in care and for supervising and controlling the performance of all institutions in accordance with established standards. The increased use of ordinances are a cause of further concern and further measures are required to ensure judicial independence. Roma still suffer from institutional and social discrimination. The fight against corruption needs to be strengthened. Copenhagen economic criteria: Romania cannot be considered as a functioning market economy and it is not able to cope with competitive pressures and market forces within the Union in the medium term. Macroeconomic instability and legal uncertainty continue to deter foreign private investments which are necessary to modernise the supply side of the economy. The reduction in exports, despite the large real depreciation of the currency, is worrying. Ability to assume the obligations of membership: alignment in the internal market is only partial. Significant progress has been made with the adoption of the law on public procurement, and a new law on state aid control. Environment continues to receive little investment and there is a need for greater attention in this sector which has serious problems in air, water and waste management. Administrative capacity: Lack of funds and weak administrative capacity continue to cause problems. Public administration reform has been identified as a priority but has not started in earnest. There is a general need to ensure the

independence of regulatory and supervisory bodies, including the Central Bank. Insufficient administrative capacity is currently a major constraint in the accession preparations.

Romania: membership application and partnership, 22 June 1995

1997/2172(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 newconfiguration 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. Negotiations will continue with those countries with which negotiations have been under way since 31 March 1998 (Hungary, Poland,Estonia, Slovenia, Cyprus and the Czech Republic) but will commence in 2000 with Malta, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and, if certain conditions are fulfilled, with Romania and Bulgaria (in particular, if the particularly strict economic conditions are met in the case of the latter country). 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 closure 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 thepoint of view of the application of the competition regime and internal market rules should be reviewed, as well as that of the liberalisation of trade in agricultural products.

Romania: membership application and partnership, 22 June 1995

1997/2172(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.

Romania: membership application and partnership, 22 June 1995

1997/2172(COS) - 08/11/2000 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

This Regular Report for 2000 on Romania follows the same structure as the Commission's 1997 Opinion and of the subsequent regular reports. However, it differs from that used in previous years on three minor points. Firstly, the part of the present report assessing Romania'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 Romania's administrative capacity to apply the acquis under each of the negotiating chapters (previously discussed in a separate section of the report). Thirdly, the report includes, for the first time, a section assessing the progress made by Romania in translating the acquis into its official language. Furthermore, this report takes into consideration progress since the 1999 regular report and whether intended reforms have been carried out. The report also contains a separate section examining the extent to which Romania has addressed the short-term Accession Partnership priorities, and has started to address the the medium-term priorities set out in this framework. It should be noted that Romania has continued to implement the Europe Agreement correctly and contributed to the smooth functioning of the various joint institutions. Moreover, recent indicators point to an improvement in Romania's trade situation. Romania's exports to the EC have been steadily increasing. Current discussions in the framework of the Europe Agreement focus on the implementation of the Accession Partnership priorities, and seek to achieve progress in areas like excise duties, competition/state aid, customs procedures, the right of establishment of EU firms in Romania, and the transition to the second stage of the Europe Agreement. In addition, in May 2000 Romania presented a revised National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA), in which it outlines its strategy for accession including how to achieve the priorities contained in the Accession Partnerships. As regards Community aid, in the years 2000-2002 total financial assistance to Romania will amount to at least EUR 242 million from Phare, EUR 150 million from SAPARD, and between EUR 208 and EUR 270 million from ISPA. On the political scale, the government has shown a political commitment to addressing the problems of institutionalised children and progress has been made. Romania has advanced with the adoption of the acquis, although the achievements over the last year have been mixed. In certain sectors both legal transposition and the setting up of the necessary administrative structures are advanced. Concerning internal market legislation, progress has been made in the field of public procurement and positive developments have also taken place with regard to the simplification of the issuance of work permits for EU citizens and the adoption of a new law on social security. Progress has also been made in combating the problem of money laundering. Despite the positive achievements noted above, there are many areas where further progress is needed. For instance, the financial services, agriculture, discrimination, decision-making, macroeconomic stabilisation.

Romania: membership application and partnership, 22 June 1995

1997/2172(COS) - 06/12/1999 - Document attached to the procedure

PURPOSE: presentation of the second accession partnership for Romania. CONTENT : Like its previous version, this partnership for the accession of Romania resembles a work programme proposing priorities and objectives to be attained by the country in the short and the medium-term in order to become a member of the Union. These objectives take into account the regular report on Romania (1999). The short-term priorities (end of 2000) concern political criteria: responsibility for abandoned children and the complete reform of the regime for assistance to children. Other measures in favour of the Roma and disabled persons are awaited. In terms of economic criteria, the main reforms concern the re-establishment of macroeconomic stability, the restructuring of the public finances and the promotion of a private sector strong enough to resist market forces. Other measures concern the internal merket (basically continuing the harmonisation process, especially in the areas of public procurement and intellectual property protection) ; agriculture; transport (maritime safety); environment (introduction of a framework law and sectorial directives in several fields); social affairs and employment; justice and home affairs (surveillance of borders and demilitarisation of the Ministry of the Interior) and the strengthening of administrative and judiciary capacity (in particular the management and control of EU funds). In the medium term, the measures will concern further initiatives for deprived children and the Roma. In the economic sector, they will relate to the consolidation of the legal and political framework facilitating sustainable economic growth. In the area of the single market, the further alignment is necessary. Further measures are envisaged in the area of agriculture, fishing, energy (transposition of the Community Gas and Electricity Directives), transport, the environment, justice and home affairs (fight against drugs). With regard to the programming of financial resources, the partnership confirms aid granted in line with AGENDA 2000 and the various instruments provided therein (Phare, SAPARD and ISPA) in accordance with the rules already foreseen. It should be noted that assistance is only granted if the country respects the provisions of the EC-Romania Association Agreement, makes progress towards satisfying the Copenhagen criteria and assures in the year 2000 the achievement of the specific priorities of this accession partnership.

Romania: membership application and partnership, 22 June 1995

1997/2172(COS) - 15/07/1997 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: AGENDA 2000: presentation of the Commission's opinion on Romania's request for membership (22 June 1995). CONTENT: All the requests for membership were assessed using a single method based on the criteria established at the Copenhagen European Council (June 1993). These criteria are as follows: - political criteria: the candidate countries must have stable institutions guaranteeing democracy, human rights and respect for minorities, - economic criteria: these countries must have a functioning market economy, as well as the ability to cope with competitive pressures and market forces within the Union, - criteria relating to the ability of the countries to take on the obligations of membership (in particular integration of the acquis, to a greater or lesser extent, and respect for the criteria concerning economic and monetary union). With regard to these criteria the following emerges: 1) in political terms, Romania is on the way to satisfying the criteria for membership, in particular following the arrival in power of a new government; 2) in economic terms, this country would face serious difficulties in coping with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union although its progress in the creation of a market economy is considerable; 3) with regard to the capacity to take on the obligations of membership, despite significant progress Romania has neither transposed nor taken on the essential elements of the acquis, particularly as regards

the internal market. There is, therefore, uncertainty on this point even in the medium-term. In addition, considerable efforts still need to be made in the areas of investment, the environment, transport, employment and social affairs, justice and home affairs and agriculture. More generally, substantial reforms will be indispensable if the country is to have (administrative and institutional) structures capable of applying and enforcing the acquis. In conclusion: the Commission considers that accession negotiations with Romania cannot be opened until its has made sufficient progress in the economic sector and with regard to respect for the acquis. The primary objective will therefore be to strengthen the pre-accession strategy.

Romania: membership application and partnership, 22 June 1995

1997/2172(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.

Romania: membership application and partnership, 22 June 1995

1997/2172(COS) - 05/09/2001 - Interim resolution adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted the report by Baroness Nicholson of Winterborne (ELDR, UK) on Romania's application for membership of the European Union. (Please refer to the previous text).

Romania: membership application and partnership, 22 June 1995

1997/2172(COS) - 04/10/2000 - Interim resolution adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted the report by Baroness NICHOLSON of Winterborne on Romania's application for membership to the European Union. This resolution outlines that despite the efforts undertaken since its return to democracy, Romania still faces challenges in meeting some of the Copenhagen economic criteria which is also made more difficult by internal political problems. The problem of children in institutions continues to be of great concern and a human rights problem which affects the accession procedure. The EU institutions are called upon, in cooperation with the Romanian Government, to examine all the possibilities for drawing-up and co-funding joint programmes for the social rehabilitation and integration of the children in institutions in order to secure a definite long-term solution to the problem. Moreover, the prevalence of corruption and inadequate reform of public administrations is also a problem. With regard to the environment, the Parliament calls upon the Romanian authorities to apply the strictest environmental requirements in Europe when considering the reopening of the Baia Mare and similar plants. In addition, this resolution confirms the view that Romanian nationals should not be required to hold a visa in order to enter the EU. Lastly, it was highlighted that Romanian's accession would reinforce the Common Foreign and Security Policy.

Romania: membership application and partnership, 22 June 1995

1997/2172(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 Romania 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 Romania has addressed the Accession Partnership priorities. Firstly, with regard to the pre-accession instruments, for the years 2000-2002 total indicative financial allocations to Romania amount annually to EUR 260 million from Phare with EUR 150 million added in the course of 2001), EUR 6.5 million from SAPARD and between EUR 208 and EUR 270 million from ISPA. With regard to the Copenhagen criteria for membership: 1) Political

Criteria : Romania continues to fulfil the Copenhagen Political criteria. The government has shown a political commitment to addressing the problems of institutionalised children and progress has been made. Responsibility for the institutions has been transfered to local authorities, a national strategy aimed at structural reform has been adopted, and the necessary budgetary transfers have been made. The reform of the judicial procedures has continued. Corruption, on the other hand, remains a serious problem. Significant progress has been made in the field of human rights, homosexuality has been decriminalised and important new legislation has been passed regarding the restitution of property and the treatment of asylum seekers and refugees. New legislation extending the use of minority languages was approved. 2) Economic Criteria : Romania has made progress towards establishing a functioning market economy and although it would not, in the medium term, be able to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union, it has taken measures that would allow to development its future capacity, provided that it keeps to the engaged economic reform path. Progress has been towards macroeconomic stabilisation : growth has resumed and exports have increased. However, there are still serious economic imbalances with the high inflation and a widening current account deficit, in a difficult social environment. The still fragile macroeconomic environment, the uncertain legal framework and the poor administrative capacity hinder the development of the private sector. 3) Legislative alignment of the acquis : Romania has continued to make good progress with the adoption of the acquis. However, advances in legal transposition have not always been matched by improvements in administrative capacity. - internal Market : progress in this area has been mixed. Other than the adoption of new legislation on public procurement, little progress has been made with the free movement of goods andthe framework legislation for the New and Global Approach has still not been adopted. The administrative infrastructure for standardisation, certification and market surveillance should be reinforced. Only limited progress has been made in aligning the acquis on free movement of persons, and while progress has been made with insurance and banking supervision there has been no progress with transposing the acquis on financial securities markets. Further progress was made in aligning with the company law and competition policy acquis - sector where Romania has already achieved a high degree of transposition; - agriculture : while Romania has made progress in aligning with several aspects of the agricultural acquis, restructuring of the sector has barely begun. The overall administrative capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture remains weak and Romania still needs to develop the ability to implement the management mechanisms of the Common Agricultural Policy; - environment : Romania has made advances in aligning itself with the environmental acquis but does not have the administrative capacity to effectively enforce the newly adopted legislation and insufficient financial resources are allocated to the sector; - transport : Romania has continued to make good progress in harmonising its transport legislation; - energy : policy related to the energy sector has been inconsistent and therefore only limited progress can be noted. - social policy : while progress has been made further alignment with the acquis is necessary, as are improvements in the administrative capacity (in particular in the area of occupational health and safety and in strengthening labour inspectorate); - justice and home affairs : significant progress has been made in the fields of visa policy, border control and migration. However, there is still a need to adopt legislation in some important areas such as data protection and to further upgrade the capacity and infrastructure for border management. 4) Administrative Capacity : the overall capacity of the public administration to implement the acquis remains limited and represents a major constraint on Romania's accession preparations. While certain parts of the administration are able to function effectively there are many important sectors where the weakness of the administration is a serious cause for concern. These concerns extend beyond the adoption of the acquis and also apply to the management of the EC funds. 5) Accession Partnership : with regard to meeting the short-term Accession Partnership priorities. Romania has met the priorities related to transport. While progress has been made in the areas of taxation, customs and justice and home affairs none of the priorities identified for these sectors have been fully met. Some, limited progress ahs been made in addressing the priorities related to the internal market, agriculture, environment, employment and social affairs and the reinforcement of the administrative and judicial capacity. Romania has started to address some medium-term Accession Partnership priorities. In transport and fisheries Romania is close to meeting the medium-term priorities. However, no substantial progress has been made in the case of agriculture, environment and employment.

Romania: membership application and partnership, 22 June 1995

1997/2172(COS) - 03/12/1998 - Interim resolution adopted by Parliament

In adopting the report by Mr Pierre BERNARD-REYMOND (EPP, F) on Romania's application for membership of the European Union, Parliament reaffirmed a position already expressed in its resolution of 4 December 1997 according to which all countries should be placed on the same footing even if it was logical to open negotiations with the most advanced countries. It stressed the need for the advancing accession process to cover all the countries with which the European Union had signed a Europe Agreement and underlined again its firm conviction that there should be no closed groups of accession candidates. It also stressed that the opportunity for a smooth transition to the phase of intensive negotiations should remain open at all times. Believing, in general terms, that the integration of the candidate countries into the European Union would contribute to security in Europe, Parliament, like the Commission, considered that it would be premature to open accession negotiations with Romania in 1999, even though it aspired to become part of the European Union. Parliament based its view on the fact that macro-economic imbalances had worsened and GNP had fallen since 1997. In political terms, Parliament stressed the considerable progress made by Romania, which in general met the political criteria laid down in Copenhagen. While encouraging Romania to remedy the outstanding shortcomings concerning human rights (e.g. the protection of children, freedom of the press, prison conditions) Parliament highlighted the delays in Romania's undertaking the structural reforms to its economy and called on that country to press on with the vital reforms (continuation of the privatization process, reform of the banking system, restructuring of the large state undertakings and the consolidation of a legal framework capable of attracting foreign investment). It drew Romania's attention to the need for an in-depth reform of its administration and called on the European Union to approach international financial institutions in order to gain their support for the Romanian Government's reform programme. The Union and Romania were also called on to align their respective foreign and security policies and to reach a satisfactory solution to the outstanding questions in respect of justice and home affairs (removal of visa requirements for Romanian nationals travelling to European Union countries provided that Romania establishes a strict emigration control policy). Parliament pointed out that only by making full use of the existing instruments (Europe Agreements and the accession partnership) could mutual cooperation be expanded between the European Union and Romania. Parliament also called on Romania to annul all legislation giving rise to prosecution on the basis of sexual orientation and to find a full and fair solution to ensure full return of confiscated property in that country. Lastly, it proposed to that country the establishment of a European Research Facility on minority policies in Central and Eastern Europe, to collaborate with European bodies already working on similar problems (e.g. European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages in Dublin).

Romania: membership application and partnership, 22 June 1995

1997/2172(COS) - 17/12/1998

OBJECTIVE: to present the regular report for 1998 on the progress made by Romania in preparation for EU accession. CONTENT: in line with the Agenda 2000 timetable and the direction given by the Cardiff European Council, the Commission presents its report in the form of an appraisal of the progress made by this country with regard to EU accession. The report examines: - the relations between Romania and the EU, particularly in the framework of the Europe Agreement; - the situation in respect of the political conditions set by the Copenhagen European Council (democracy, rule of law, human rights, protection of minorities); - Romania's situation and prospects in respect of the economic conditions mentioned by the European Council (functioning market economy, capacity to cope with competitive pressures and market forces within the Union); - the question of Romania's capacity to adopt the obligations of membership (in particular, the Community acquis). In the conclusions of its report, the Commission considers Romania's results satisfactory in political terms, although progress still needs to be made in eradicating corruption, improving the operation of the judiciary and protecting individual civil liberties and the rights of the Roma people. On the economic front, Romania has made very little progress in establishing a market economy and its capacity to cope with market forces in the Union has deteriorated. Even if prices have been liberalized and inflation controlled, the reforms appear, overall, too timid and too slow. Furthermore, legal and administrative uncertainty are impeding the progress of reforms, thereby weakening the country's macroeconomic stability. For the Commission, Romania's economic situation is serious and needs to be accorded absolute priority on the part of the new Romanian government. The report advocates, in particular, an important privatization programme and the restructuring of companies. As far as legislative alignment is concerned, Romania has made notable progress in the transposition of certain areas of the acquis. However, the country still needs to make considerable efforts in terms of alignment and the implementation and effective application of legislation before it is able to assume the obligations that derive from accession. Certain essential priorities for the pre-accession partnership (combatting corruption, border controls, restructuring of the banking sector, public procurement, and the environment) have not received all the attention that they required. The National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis is currently undergoing revision so as to place greater emphasis on the process of alignment with Community legislation. In the course of the second half of 1999, the Commission will present its position on the revised version of this programme to the Council of Ministers at the time when the pre-accession partnership is being re-examined.

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1997/2172(COS) - 17/12/1998 - Document attached to the procedure

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 July 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. Overall, the Commission's analysis of the progress achieved by each of the candidate countries since July 1997 has not persuaded it to amend its general assessment of the candidates. Therefore, it does not consider it necessary, on the basis of the reports being presented, to make new recommendations "on the conduct or extension of the negotiations", as envisaged by the European Council. Nonetheless, the Commission stresses the increasing importance of revising the national programmes for adoption of the acquis in order to further accelerate the process of alignment with European legislation and strengthen the administrative capacity of the candidate countries, with a view to efficiently implementing all the regulations necessary for admission to the Union. The document ends by specifying that the preparatory measures undertaken must determine for now, the assistance of the Union to these countries and, subsequently, the timetable for the first accessions. For this reason, the Commission intends to submit further progress reports to the Council at the end of 1999 to allow it, if appropriate, to take decisions on the conduct or extension of the negotiations.

Romania: membership application and partnership, 22 June 1995

1997/2172(COS) - 26/03/2003 - Document attached to the procedure

OBJECTIVE: to propose a revised Accession Partnership with Romania. CONTENT: The reform of the public administration, the judicial system and the pursuit of economic reform are some of the main priorities Romania has to address to meet the EU accession criteria. This follows from this proposal for a revised Accession Partnership proposed by the Commission. To recall, the Accession Partnerships are adopted by the Council of the European Union, on a proposal by the Commission. They identify short and medium-term priority objectives on which the candidate countries should focus their efforts in order to comply with the EU accession criteria. The pre-accession financial assistance provided by the EU supports the efforts of the candidates to meet these objectives. The first Accession Partnership for Romania was decided in March 1998 with updates approved in December 1999 and January 2002. On announcing the Roadmap for Romania's accession to the EU at the end of 2002, the Commission stated that it would propose a revised Accession Partnership in light of the findings of the 2002 Regular Report and the contents of the Roadmap. The revised Accession Partnership develops in more detail the short and medium-term issues identified in the Roadmap, namely the reform of public administration, the judicial system and pursuit of economic reform. The priorities thus identified are developed within the Accession Partnership and short and medium-term issues are detailed in order to provide a revised basis for the programming of pre-accession assistance to Romania.

Romania: membership application and partnership, 22 June 1995

1997/2172(COS) - 13/11/2002

PURPOSE : to present the roadmaps to help Bulgaria and Romania on their way to EU membership. CONTENT : as it had proposed on 9 October in its Strategy Paper and as requested by the European Council in Brussels on 24-25 October, the European Commission today presented roadmaps for Bulgaria and Romania to support the efforts of these two candidate countries to achieve their objective of joining the European Union in 2007. The purpose of the roadmaps is to indicate the main steps that they need to take to be ready for membership. They identify in detail the tasks ahead, with a particular emphasis on administrative and judicial capacity necessary to implement the acquis and on economic reform. To support these efforts, the Commission is also proposing a considerable progressive increase in the European Union's financial assistance. The roadmaps will be submitted to

the Council of Ministers and to the European Council in Copenhagen on 12-13 December. In the Strategy Paper 'Towards the Enlarged Union', of 9 October 2002, the Commission announced that it would propose, on the basis of the analysis in the 2002 Regular Reports, detailed roadmaps for Bulgaria and Romania before the Copenhagen European Council. In the Conclusions of the Brussels European Council of 24-25 October 2002, the Member States agreed with the Commission's evaluation of the progress achieved by Bulgaria and Romania. In the light of the inclusive and irreversible nature of the enlargement process, the Council and the Commission were invited to prepare, in close consultations with Bulgaria and Romania, the necessary decisions at the European Council in Copenhagen concerning detailed roadmaps and increased pre-accession assistance in order to advance the accession process with these countries. The European Council expressed its support for Bulgaria and Romania in their efforts to achieve the objective of membership in 2007. - A useful guide on the way to accession : The roadmaps for Bulgaria and Romania cover the period up to accession. Their purpose is to indicate in detail the main steps that they need to take to be ready for membership. They are based on the commitments made in the negotiations and on what needs to be done to fulfil the criteria for membership. They also follow the of principles that have guided the accession process from the outset, namely equality of treatment, own merits and differentiation, without introducing any new criteria or conditions. The roadmaps put a particular emphasis on administrative and judicial capacity necessary to implement the acquis and on economic reform. Short and medium term issues are identified in the roadmaps and will be further developed next year. The roadmaps will be updated periodically in view of developments in the countries and progress in negotiations. - Financial assistance : The Commission proposes a considerable and progressive increase in financial assistance for Bulgaria and Romania from the date of the first round of accessions. This increase will amount to an additional 20% in 2004, 30% in 2005 and 40% in 2006 compared to the average assistance received by the two countries in the period 2001-2003. Additional assistance will be conditional onmaking progress in line with the roadmaps and on improving significantly capacity to manage and use funds effectively. Bulgaria and Romania have begun to develop capacities to make improved use of existing funds. If preparations are continued and intensified they should be ready to receive and use additional funds effectively from 2004 onwards. - Observer status : Bulgaria and Romania already participate in a number of Community committees and agencies. As regards the situation after the signature of the Accession Treaty, the Commission proposes the same treatment for Bulgaria and Romania as for the other negotiating states. After the signature of the Accession Treaty, Bulgaria and Romania should therefore be given the possibility to further participate, wherever legally possible, as observers in all committees set up by the comitology procedure and all other committees. They should also be able to participate at least as observers in the relevant structures of all Community agencies. The general principles and details of this participation will be defined at a later stage. - Monitoring : Bulgaria and Romania have provisionally closed a considerable number of chapters on the basis of their own indicative date for membership of 1 January 2007. It is particularly important for the candidate countries and the EU to monitor closely the implementation of these commitments. The Europe Agreement structures, which are used to review progress on all priorities and on the Action Plans on administrative and judicial capacity, should be used systematically for this purpose. Peer reviews have proved a useful mechanism in some areas and could be further developed. The Commission will continue to issue Regular Reports, until Bulgaria and Romania have fulfilled the criteria for accession. Future Regular Reports will include an assessment of the implementation of the roadmaps.