## Basic information

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| **1997/2173(COS)**<br>COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)<br>Slovakia: membership application and partnership, 27 June 1995<br>**Subject**<br>8.20.02 Enlargement 2004: new Member States<br>**Geographical area**<br>Slovakia | Procedure completed |

## Key players

European Parliament

| Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense | WIERSMA Jan Marinus (PSE) | 07/11/2000 |

| Former committee responsible | Former rapporteur | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy | WIERSMA Jan Marinus (PSE) | 23/06/1997 |
| AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy | WIERSMA Jan Marinus (PSE) | 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)<br>BERGER Maria (PSE) | 29/05/2001<br>29/05/2001 |
| ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy | GLANTE Norbert (PSE) | 21/03/2001 |
| EMPL Employment and Social Affairs | ETTL Harald (PSE) | 12/04/2000 |

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|---|---|---|---|
| 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 | SCHMIDT Olle (ELDR) | 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)2004 | 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 | A4-0427/1998 | |
| 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 | A5-0244/2000 | |
| 03/10/2000 | Debate in Parliament | | |
| 04/10/2000 | Decision by Parliament | T5-0423/2000 | Summary |
| 09/07/2001 | Vote in committee | | Summary |
| 09/07/2001 | Committee interim report tabled for plenary | A5-0256/2001 | |
| 04/09/2001 | Debate in Parliament | | |
| 05/09/2001 | Decision by Parliament | T5-0432/2001 | Summary |
| 05/09/2001 | End of procedure in Parliament | | |
| 21/03/2002 | Final act published in Official Journal | | |

| Technical information | |
|---|---|
| **Procedure reference** | 1997/2173(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/5/13767<br>AFET/4/10603<br>AFET/4/09122 |

## Documentation gateway

**European Parliament**

| Document type | Committee | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Committee interim report tabled for plenary | | A4-0427/1998<br>OJ C 398 21.12.1998, p. 0003 | 18/11/1998 | |
| Interim resolution adopted by Parliament | | T4-0713/1998<br>OJ C 398 21.12.1998, p. 0019-0052 | 03/12/1998 | Summary |
| Committee interim report tabled for plenary | | A5-0244/2000<br>OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0007 | 14/09/2000 | |
| Interim resolution adopted by Parliament | | T5-0423/2000<br>OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0071-0143 | 04/10/2000 | Summary |
| Committee interim report tabled for plenary | | A5-0256/2001 | 09/07/2001 | |
| Interim resolution adopted by Parliament | | T5-0432/2001<br>OJ C 072 21.03.2002, p. 0082-0185 E | 05/09/2001 | Summary |

**European Commission**

| Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| Non-legislative basic document | COM(1997)2004 | 15/07/1997 | Summary |
| Document attached to the procedure | COM(1998)0703 | 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)0511 | 13/10/1999 | Summary |
| | COM(2000)0700 | | |

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| Document attached to the procedure | | 08/11/2000 | Summary |
| Supplementary non-legislative basic document | COM(2000)0711 | 08/11/2000 | Summary |
| Document attached to the procedure | COM(2001)0661 | 13/11/2001 | Summary |
| Non-legislative basic document | COM(2001)0700 | 13/11/2001 | |
| Supplementary non-legislative basic document | SEC(2001)1754 | 13/11/2001 | Summary |
| Non-legislative basic document | COM(2002)0700 | 09/10/2002 | Summary |
| Document attached to the procedure | SEC(2002)1410 | 09/10/2002 | |

**Other institutions and bodies**

| Institution/body | Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU | Document attached to the procedure | 31999D0853<br>OJ L 335 28.12.1999, p. 0022 | 06/12/1999 | Summary |
| EU | Document attached to the procedure | 32002D0093<br>OJ L 044 14.02.2002, p. 0092-0100 | 28/01/2002 | |

# Slovakia: membership application and partnership, 27 June 1995

1997/2173(COS) - 17/12/1998

OBJECTIVE: to present the 1998 regular report on the progress made by Slovakia 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 Slovakia 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); - Slovakia'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 Slovakia's capacity to adopt the obligations of membership (in particular, the Community acquis). In the conclusions of its report, the Commission considers Slovakia's results relatively poor in political terms but nevertheless encouraging: between July 1997 and September 1998, the Slovak institutions lacked stability, as proven by their inability to elect a president. However, the parliamentary elections of September 1998 show that a new spirit is surfacing and that the country has greater democratic maturity. The new Slovak political climate should enable the new majority to remedy previous shortcomings. The Commission should, in this context, evaluate the results of the new government, as well as its capacity to respond to the Copenhagen political criteria. On the economic front, the assessment is mixed: the pattern of structural reforms continues to be weak and the country is far from having stabilized its macroeconomic imbalances. The privatization plan is sketchy, especially as regards the lack of transparency of the process engaged by the Slovak authorities. However, the Commission considers that this country should be in a position in the medium term to cope with competitive pressure and market forces in the Union. As far as legislative alignment is concerned, the pattern of transposition has slowed down and progress in the strengthening of implementing structures remains limited (e.g. internal market, environment and justice and home affairs). Apart from the adoption of legislation on intellectual and industrial property, the achievement of the short term priorities of the pre-accession partnership have been meagre. 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.

# Slovakia: membership application and partnership, 27 June 1995

1997/2173(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 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 the point of view of the application of the competition regime and internal market rules should be reviewed, as well as that ofthe liberalisation of trade in agricultural products.

# Slovakia: membership application and partnership, 27 June 1995

1997/2173(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. This Report takes into consideration progress since the 2000 Regular Report. It looks at whether intended reforms referred to in the 2000 Regular Report have been carried out, and examines new initiatives. The Report contains a separate section examining the extent to which Slovakia has addressed the Accession Partnership priorities. As regards the pre-accession instruments (Phare, SAPARD and ISPA), for the years 2000-2002 total financial assistance amounting annually to around EUR 78 million from Phare, EUR 18 million from SAPARD and between 3.5 and 5.5% of the overall ISPA budget was provided to Slovakia. With regard to the three main Copenhagen criteria for membership: 1) Political Criteria : Slovakia continues to fulfil the Copenhagen political criteria. Significant progress was achieved with regard to the structure and functioning of the administration. The legal framework for the decentralisation of public administration was adopted, and so was the civil service law. Due implementation of the legislation is now required to ensure that the public administration adequately fulfils the key role it has to play in a functioning democracy based on the rule of law and in support of the accession process. Important steps were taken to strengthen the independence of judiciary. In particular, the constitutional amendment abolished the four-year probationary period for judges and provided for by setting up a Judicial Court. This amendment now needs to be implemented by primary legislation and at a practical level to guarantee the judiciary's professional impartiality and political neutrality. Further progress can be noticed in the fight against corruption, notably in translating and implementing the government policy into concrete actions and transporting international obligations. Corruption, however, remains a serious cause for concern. In order to continue improving the fight against corruption Slovakia should rigorously carry on the implementation of the action plans, strictly enforce existing legislation and complete planned legislation as well as strengthen administrative capacities and coordination among the bodies involved. The constitutional reform also created the basis for strengthening of Slovakia's institutional structure in the field of human right. However, there is a need to address police behaviour, notably with regard to reported cases of ill-treatment. The short term priorities of the 1999 Accession Partnership related to the modernisation and decentralisation of the public administration were fulfilled. Important steps were taken in strengthening the independence of the judiciary, which constituted a short term priority, as well. Despite further positive measures, tangible improvement of the situation of the Roma minority, another short term priority, was achieved only to a limited extent. So were the medium term priorities for the political criteria of the 1999 Accession Partnership, calling for continued implementation of minority language legislation and strengthening policies and budgetary means towards the Roma minority. 2) Economic Criteria : Slovakia is a functioning market economy.Provided that it makes further substantial efforts in medium term fiscal consolidation and in developing and fully implementing the announced structural reform programme, it should be able to cope with the competitive pressure and market forces within the Union in the near term. Overall, macroeconomic stability has been maintained. There has been further good progress in bank privatisation, which is nearing completion. Further progress was also made in restructuring and towards privatisation of the remaining state-owned utilities and transport enterprises. Further progress was made in setting the framework for private sector development. However, the substantial widening in the current account deficit will require a more prudent fiscal policy stance. Unemployment is high and rising. Some parts of the legal and institutional framework for enterprise development are in need of further improvements and effective implementation. Financial sector supervision has to be further strengthened. Steps must be taken to ensure the medium-term substainability of public finances. The authorities need to comply with their fiscal targets, by implementing medium-term public expenditure reforms, in particular in the health, pension and subsidy areas. Macroeconomic stabilisation will need to be consolidated by a continued prudent combination of fiscal and monetary policy. Further progress in privatisation, in the administrative and legal framework and in financial sector reforms will set the stage for future private sector development. Growth in employment will further require fundamental reforms of the labour market. 3) Legislative Alignment with the acquis : Slovakia has continued to make good progress in legislative alignment with the acquis. Significant progress has been achieved in areas such as free movement of goods, company law, social policy and employment as well as customs union. Structural weaknesses have persisted in a number of sectors, namely in agriculture as well as regional policy and co-ordination of structural instruments. While further progress in strengthening administrative capacities was made, reinforced and sustained efforts are needed across all sectors. - concerning internal market legislation : further progress has been achieved, notably in free movement of goods and free movement of services. In the area of free movement of persons, progress continues to the limited. In company law, with exception of trademarks, significant legislative progress has been made, especially through further alignment with the company directive and adoption of a new patent law. Appropriate strengthening of administrative and judicial bodies involved in all areas of intellectual property rights should be continued. In

competition policy, the amendment on the Act of State Aid has brought the legislative framework largely in line with the acquis. In contrast to the anti-trust area, however, the enforcement record in line with the field of state aid remains rather sketchy and non-transparent. Administrative capacities in the internal market domain need reinforcing, in particular as regards the supervision of financial services. - as regards agriculture : overall steps both in aligning and implementing the acquis have been limited with the exception of veterinary issues, where significant progress was made. - in the energy sector : further positive steps have been taken in the energy sector with the decision to substantially open the domestic electricity market and the launching of theprivatisation of major energy companies; - in the field of social policy : considerable progress has been made in the field of social policy and employment; - concerning the environment : legislative alignment - with the exception of water quality, nature protection and industrial pollution and risk management has well advanced although substantial alignment is still lying ahead. - in the field of justice and home affairs : further progress in terms of alignment has been achieved notably with regard to the external border control by inter alia, adopting a Schengen Action Plan. 4) Administrative Capacities : while good progress was made in a limited number of domains in strengthening the relevant institutions, overall progress in this area has been limited. The measures to strengthen the administrative capacities should be rigorously pursued. It should be noted that the Government has started to implement the result of the state audit approved last year. Its aim is to enhance the quality, reduce the costs and promote the transparency of the central state administration. In July 2001, the Government approved a plan to increase the number of staff dealing with EU integration by approximately 1200 in 2001 and 2002. 5) Accession Partnership : the short term priorities of the 1999 Accession Partnership have been met to a large extent in the field of internal market and social policy and employment; they have been partially met in the field of energy as well as co-operation in the fields of justice and home affairs and only to a limited extent in agriculture and environment. All medium term priorities have been partially met, with the exception of transport policy, regional policy and co-ordination of structural instruments as well as the environment, where priorities were fulfilled only to a limited extent.

# Slovakia: membership application and partnership, 27 June 1995

1997/2173(COS) - 04/10/2000 - Interim resolution adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Jan Marinus WIERSMA (PES, NI) on Slovakia's membership application to the EU and the state of the negotiations. This resolution congratulates the progress made by Slovakia in the fields of constitutional and adminstrative reform. However, there is still need for improvement in its national minorities policy, particularly in the fields of language, education and culture. The Parliament trusts that the provisions of the Law on the Use of Minority Languages of 1999 will be implemented. Moreover, the Commission and the Council are called upon to make sufficient funds under Phare available to assist Slovakia in tackling these problems. Finally, the Parliament supports the agreement reached with the Commission to shut down the two reactor units of the Bohunice nuclear power plant in 2006 and 2008 respectively.

# Slovakia: membership application and partnership, 27 June 1995

1997/2173(COS) - 08/11/2000 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

This Regular Report for 2000 on Slovakia is largely similar to that of the Commission's 1997 Opinion and of the subsequent regualr reports; however, it differs from that used in previous years on three minor points. Firstly, the part of the present report assessing Slovakia'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 Slovakia'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 Slovakia in trnaslating the acquis into its official language. This Regular report takes into consideration progress since the 1999 regular report and looks at whether intended reforms referred to in the 1999 regular report have been carried and it also examines new initiatives. With regard to the relations between the EU and Slovakia, Slovakia has continued to implement the Europe Agreement correctly and contributed to the smooth functioning of the various joint institutions. Moreover, Slovakia's trade with the EC has remained high and continued to grow in 1999, while it has not shown any significant changes in the first six months of 2000. The Council decided to terminate without the imposition of measures the proceeding concerning imports of solutions of urea and ammonium nitrate originating in the Slovak Republic, since it was found that Slovak exports had no material impact on the injury caused to the industry. The safeguard measures on the imports of pigmeat that had been introduced in April 1999 were discontinued according to schedule. In April 2000 Slovakia introduced quotas on expôrts of corn (till the end of October) and barley (till the end of July). in late July it was decided, on the grounds of a severe drought, to prolong the quotas till the end of 2000, while extending them, for the August-December period, to other products. With regard to Community aid, in the years 2000-2002, total annual financial assistance to Slovakia will amount to EUR 49 million for Phare, EUR 18.3 million for SAPARD and between EUR 36.4 million and EUR 57.2 million for ISPA, per year. It should be noted that Slovakia continues to meet the political criteria for accession which the last report had recognised, for the first time, as having being fulfilled. Slovakia has further advanced in the consolidation of its democratic system and in the normal functioning its institutions. However, the speed of the reform process has lost some momentum due, in part, to dissension within the ruling coalition. Certain legal steps were taken to strengthen the independence of the judiciary. However, key parts of the reform have not been adopted. Progress was also achieved in the fight against crime and corruption and in developing approaches to tackle the problems of minorities, but there still remains a gap between policy formulation and implementation on the ground. Tangible improvement of the situation of the Roma minority in particular by implementing specific measures. Slovakia has also made progress in the following areas: marketeconomy, macroeconomic stability; legislative alignment; statistics; industrial sector; telecommunications and the audiovisual sector and justice and home affairs. Whereas further progress is needed in areas such as: the adoption of the civil service law; public administration reform; health, pension and social security; agriculture, transport, regional policy, company law; the environment and financial control.

# Slovakia: membership application and partnership, 27 June 1995

1997/2173(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.

# Slovakia: membership application and partnership, 27 June 1995

1997/2173(COS) - 06/12/1999 - Document attached to the procedure

PURPOSE: presentation of the second accession partnership for Slovakia. CONTENT : Like its previous version, this partnership for the accession of Slovakia 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 Slovakia (1999). The short-term priorities (end of 2000) concern political criteria (improvement of the situation of the Roma) and economic criteria (re-establishment of budgetary stability, improvement in competitiveness of companies); the internal market (principally progress in the alignment process); agriculture; transport; energy (drawing up of a decommissioning plan for the Bohunice nuclear plant and re-establishing the safety of the Mochovke plant); environment (overall realistic plan for alignment with EU legislation); social affairs and employment; justice and home affairs (implementation of the Schengen agreement) and the strengthening of administrative and judicial capacity (in particular the management and control of European Union Funds). In the medium term, the measures concern the follow up of the implementation of legislation regarding minority languages. On the economic front, the reforms concern the privatisation process and the introduction of a budget monitoring process. With regard to the internal market, data protection legislation is priority, as well as alignment and the strengthening of the customs administration. Other measures are awaited which will deal with agriculture, fishing, energy (in particular, in the nuclear sector), transport, environment and improvement in the operation of the legal system. 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-Slovakia 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.

# Slovakia: membership application and partnership, 27 June 1995

1997/2173(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.

# Slovakia: membership application and partnership, 27 June 1995

1997/2173(COS) - 03/12/1998 - Interim resolution adopted by Parliament

In adopting the report by Mr Jan Marinus WIERSMA (PSE, NL) on Slovakia'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. Considering, in general terms, that the integration of the candidate countries into the Union would substantially contribute to security in Europe, Parliament hoped that Slovakia would be able as soon as possible to join the group of countries with which the Council had decided to open accession negotiations. Considering that the political development of Slovakia was proceeding satisfactorily, it called on the European Council to adopt a flexible approach by reconsidering Slovakia's application. It therefore called on the Commission to reassess the situation in that country so that the negotiations could start at the latest before the end of the German Presidency. Parliament considered that the Council should give its decision to start negotiations during the first half of 1999. Nonetheless, the positive political developments in Slovakia must be maintained. Parliament thus expected that this country would manifest the will to undertake the political reforms required to make it a state subject to the rule of law and respecting democratic principles, human rights and the rights of minorities. Slovakia should also speed up the process of preparing for accession, in particular speeding up the adoption of the Community acquis and taking the measures required to restore its macro-economic balance. The country was also asked to envisage closing its technologically outdated nuclear power stations as soon as possible. Slovakia was asked in general terms to speed up the process of preparing for accession with a view to reducing the length of future negotiations. Lastly, the two sides were called on to make full use of the Europe Agreement and the Accession Partnership to develop their cooperation with a view to the future accession.

# Slovakia: membership application and partnership, 27 June 1995

1997/2173(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.

# Slovakia: membership application and partnership, 27 June 1995

1997/2173(COS) - 13/10/1999 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : To present the 1999 Regular Report on Slovakia's progress towards accession. CONTENT : The report looks at Slovakia's relations with the Union and analyses the situation in terms of both the political and economic criteria set by the Copenhagen European Council. It addresses the question of Slovakia's ability to take on the obligations of membership and looks at administrative and judicial capacity as requested by the Madrid European Council. Relations with the Union: Slovakia's trade with the EU has continued to grow. Several trade issues have been resolved, such as the resumption of automatic licensing for coniferous wood. The Commission has, however, initiated anti-dumping proceedings on certain imports. The impact of the Phare programme has been positive, with particular importance for civic education during the 1998 elections and development of the SME sector. In the years 2000-2002, total financial assistance available will be 49M EUR for Phare, 18.3M for SAPARD and between 35M and 55M EUR for ISPA, per year. Copenhagen political criteria: Slovakia now fulfils the Copenhagen political criteria thanks to the changes made since the parliamentary elections of September 1998. The process of consolidating democracy has regained momentum. With respect to the Parliament, the main weaknesses identified by the last Regular Report have been addressed. Problems on judicial independence, which the 1998 Composite Paper saw as one of the main challenges to democracy and the rule of law, have been remedied. The situation must be further improved, mainly through an amendment to the constitution eliminating the probation period for judges and modifying the nomination and removal procedures. The fight against crime and corruption needs to be intensified. Particular attention must be paid to continuing discrimination against Roma. In spite of some positive developments, further measures are needed, including at local administration level. Roma living conditions must be improved, and police and state attitudes need attention. Copenhagen economic criteria: Slovakia is close to being a functioning market economy thanks to the courageous policy decisions and the impressive reform agenda of the new government. Continued progress towards sustainable macroeconomic stability and the implementation of the structural reform programme should enable Slovakia to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union in the medium term. In the course of 1999, Slovakia has adopted measures to reduce external and internal imbalances. Plans for privatisation have been adopted. Particular efforts need to be put into the capacity of the banking sector to perform its financial intermediary function by completing privatisation in a transparent manner. Ability to assume the obligations of membership: Legislative alignment in internal market matters have progressed with legislation on public procurement and standards and certification. In other sectors of the acquis, there has been little concrete progress in terms of adopted legislation. Administrative capacity: Certain improvements have been made in internal market matters, but the civil service reform law has not been adopted. In other key areas such as regionaldevelopment, financial control and justice and home affairs, the establishment of relevant institutions has been delayed. Given the delays that Slovakia has experienced in preparing for membership, it is important that legislation be accompanied by the strengthening of related administrative capacities.

# Slovakia: membership application and partnership, 27 June 1995

1997/2173(COS) - 15/07/1997 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: AGENDA 2000: presentation of the Commission's opinion on Slovakia's request for membership (27 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). In the light of all these criteria it emerges that Slovakia does not fulfil in a satisfactory manner the political conditions set out by the Copenhagen European Council because of the instability of its institutions and the shortcomings in the functioning of its democracy (in particular, its disregard for the rights of the opposition, use made by the government of the secret services, corruption, etc.). There are also problems with regard to the respect for minorities (the Hungarian minority, in particular).This situation is all the more regrettable since Slovakia could satisfy the economic criteria in the medium term and is firmly committed to take on the acquis with regard to the internal market. Considerable progress is still required to ensure the effective application of the acquis. In conclusion, the Commission considers that accession negotiations can be opened with this country only when Slovakia has made significant progress in the political area and with the implementation of the acquis. The first objective will therefore be to strengthen the pre-accession strategy and to concentrate on dealing with these two key problems.

# Slovakia: membership application and partnership, 27 June 1995

1997/2173(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.

# Slovakia: membership application and partnership, 27 June 1995

1997/2173(COS) - 05/09/2001 - Interim resolution adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Jan Marinus WIERSMA (PES, NI) on Slovakia's application for membership to the European Union. (Please refer to the previous text).