Basic information

1997/2174(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994 **Subject** 8.20.02 Enlargement 2004: new Member States **Geographical area** Poland	Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	GAWRONSKI Jas (PPE-DE)	07/11/2000

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	GAWRONSKI Jas (PPE-DE)	23/09/1999
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	HOFF Magdalene (PSE)	23/06/1997

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
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	HUHNE Christopher (ELDR)	21/03/2001
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	BERENGUER FUSTER Luis (PSE)	11/04/2001

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
RETT	Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	MASTORAKIS Emmanouil (PSE)	06/02/2001
RETT	Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	STENMARCK Per (PPE-DE)	06/02/2001
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	FIGUEIREDO Ilda (GUE/NGL)	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
17/12/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1998)0701	Summary
08/03/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/03/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
24/03/1999	Committee interim report tabled for plenary	A4-0148/1999	
14/04/1999	Debate in Parliament		
23/05/2000	Additional information		Summary

14/09/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
14/09/2000	Committee interim report tabled for plenary	A5-0246/2000	
03/10/2000	Debate in Parliament		
04/10/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0421/2000	Summary
09/07/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
09/07/2001	Committee interim report tabled for plenary	A5-0254/2001	
04/09/2001	Debate in Parliament		
05/09/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0430/2001	Summary
05/09/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/03/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/2174(COS)
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Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
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Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/5/13758 AFET/4/10904 AFET/4/09130

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary		A4-0148/1999 OJ C 219 30.07.1999, p. 0006	24/03/1999	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament		T4-0334/1999 OJ C 219 30.07.1999, p. 0370-0446	15/04/1999	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary		A5-0246/2000 OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0007	14/09/2000	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament		T5-0421/2000 OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0071-0138	04/10/2000	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary		A5-0254/2001	09/07/2001	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament		T5-0430/2001 OJ C 072 21.03.2002, p. 0082-0177 E	05/09/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)2002	15/07/1997	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1998)0701	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)0509	13/10/1999	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2000)0700	08/11/2000	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0709	08/11/2000	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2001)0659	13/11/2001	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0700	13/11/2001	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	SEC(2001)1752	13/11/2001	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0700	09/10/2002	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2002)1408	09/10/2002	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EU	Document attached to the procedure	31999D0851 OJ L 335 28.12.1999, p. 0008	06/12/1999	Summary
EU	Document attached to the procedure	32002D0091 OJ L 044 14.02.2002, p. 0072-0081	28/01/2002	

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

1997/2174(COS) - 15/07/1997 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: AGENDA 2000: presentation of the Commission's opinion on Poland's request for membership (5 April 1994). 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 all these criteria, it emerges that: 1) in political terms, Poland presents the characteristics of a democracy, with stable institutions guaranteeing the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities; 2) in economic terms, Poland can be regarded as a functioning market economy and should

be able to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union; 3) with regard to the capacity to take on the obligations of membership, Poland must continue the transposition and implementation of the acquis. Poland should be able to implement the acquis in particular as regards the single market. Nevertheless, particular efforts are needed in investment and in sectors such as agriculture, environment and transport. In social terms, the pension and social security systems require substantial reform, financial services are under-developed and the banking sector needs further reform. The large state-owned companies must continue to restructure. Poland must also continue its work on public procurement, data protection, competition, liberalization of capital movements and legislative adaptation of technical rules and standards. Considerable effort is also needed with regard to telecommunications, fisheries, consumer protection and frontier checks (problems of drugs and organized crime). In general, continuing administrative reform is indispensable if the country is to have the structures to apply and enforce the acquis effectively. In conclusion: the Commission considers that negotiations for accession can be opened with Poland. The pre-accession strategy will help this country to prepare rapidly for the obligations of membership by concentrating on dealing with the shortcomings.

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

1997/2174(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.

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

1997/2174(COS) - 08/11/2000 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

This Regular Report on Poland for 2000 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, part of the present report assessing Poland'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 Poland'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 Poland in translating the acquis into its official language. This report takes into consideration progress since the 1999 regular report. It covers the period until 30th September 2000. In some particular cases, however, measures taken after that date are mentioned. It looks at whether intended reforms referred to in the 1999 regular report have been carried out, and examines new initiatives. Furthermore, complementing the assessment of new developments since the last regular report, complemented with a view of the global situation for each of the aspects discussed. The economic assessment, for its part, is based on a forward-looking evaluation of Poland's economic performance. This report also contains a separate section examining the extent to which Poland has addressed the short-term Accession Partnership priorities, and has started to address the medium-term priorities set out in this framework. It should be noted that Poland has continued to implement the Europe Agreement and contributed to the smooth functioning of the various joint institutions. On the other hand, a range of difficulties in the implementation of the Europe Agreement by Poland remain, from complex long standing issues such as steel restructuring and Special Economic Zones to product specific trade issues. As regards Community aid, in the years 2000-2002 total financial

assistance to Poland will amount annually to EUR 398 million from Phare, EUR 168.6 million from SAPARD and between EUR 312 and 385 million from ISPA. The 2000 Phare Programme for Poland consists of a national allocation of EUR 428 million. In general, Poland has made moderate progress in the following areas: macroeconomic stability; privatisation; standards; certificates and state aid; agriculture sector; regional policy; justice and home affairs. On the other hand, further progress is needed in the following areas: financial institutions; strengthening the administrative capacity; public procurement and the movement of persons; fisheries; environment; and the social field.

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

1997/2174(COS) - 15/04/1999 - Interim resolution adopted by Parliament

The Parliament adopted its resolution, drafted by Ms. Magdalena HOFF (PES, Germany), concerning Poland's progress towards EU accession. The resolution welcomes the rapid progress made on meeting the acquis communautaire, while noting that privatisation of large state-owned companies and overhaul of the farming sector must continue apace. The environment is a particular concern and Poland's legislation on air, water, noise and chemical pollution must be tightened up. Some amendments call for the extension of the Phare programme to the social field and stress the importance of anti-corruption measures. Poland's progress in the economic sphere, on the new penal code, the nomination of a commissioner on the rights of citizens was praised, although some concern was expressed concerning progress in the environmental field.

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

1997/2174(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.

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

1997/2174(COS) - 06/12/1999 - Document attached to the procedure

PURPOSE: presentation of the second accession partnership for Poland. CONTENT : Like its previous version, this partnership for the accession of Poland 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 Poland (1999). The short-term priorities (end of 2000) concern economic criteria (following up on progress made regarding budgetary and macroeconomic stability, serious restructuring of the steel industry); the internal market (adoption by June 2000 of a programme seeking to eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers to access to the Polish market, following up the alignment in the area of free movement of goods and capital and taxation); agriculture; transport; environment (implementation of legislation); social affairs and employment; justice and home affairs (improved border management) and the strengthening of administrative and judicial capacity (in particular in the management and control of EU funds). In the medium term, the measures will concern the creation of an annual budgetary control procedure in the economic area. In the area of the single market, the elimination by the end of 2002 of the national preference clause in the field of public procurement; progress in legislative alignment in the area of free movement of goods, taxation and customs. Other measures are awaited in the area of agriculture, fisheries, energy, transport and environment and the improvement in the operation of the customs services and asylum policy. 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-Poland 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.

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

1997/2174(COS) - 13/10/1999 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present the Commission's regular report for 1999 on Poland's progress towards accession. CONTENT : this Regular Report for 1999 on Poland follows the same structure as the Commission's 1997 Opinion. The Commission is still continuing to follow the method adopted by Agenda 2000 in evaluating candidate States' ability to meet the economic criteria and fulfil the obligations deriving from accession. In addition, the report takes into consideration progress since the 1998 Regular Report and whether intended reforms have been carried out. It also examines new initiatives, including those directly related to addressing Accession Partnership priorities. The report contains a separate section which examines the extent to which Poland has addressed the short term priorities and started to address the medium term priorities set out in the Accession Partnership. Furthermore, this report draws on numerous sources of information. The candidate countries were invited to provide information on progress made in preparations for membership since the publication of the last Regular Report. Their presentations at the meetings held under the auspices of the European Agreement, their National Programmes for the adoption of the Acquis, the information provided in context of the analytical examination of the acquis (screening) and in the negotiations were additional sources of information. It should be noted that a range of difficulties in the implementation of the Europe Agreement by Poland remain, from complex long-standing issues, such as steel restructuring and certification, to more recent issues such as trade in agriculture. However, some issues have been resolved through the operation of the various joint institutions such as the elimination of tariffs on steel products by 2000. Although the Europe Agreement provides for entry into its second stage since February 1999, a number of legal requirements have yet to be fulilled to permit this transition. With regards the Phare programme, 1999 was the main instrument providing financial assistance to support Poland's pre-accession strategy. The Phare programme allocated EUR 2,050 million to Poland during the period 1990-1999. An additional EUR 32 million have been allocated for cross-border co-operation (CBC) programme with Germany, EUR 3 million for the co-operation with the Czech Republic, and EUR 3 million for co-operation within the Baltic Sea region. Poland also participates in and benefits from Phare funded multi-country and horizontal programmes such as TAIEX, the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises programme and the Large scale infrastructure Facility. More importantly, during the period 2000-2006, pre-accession aid to the candidate countries will be more than doubled. Alongside the Phare programme, it will, as from the year 2000, comprise aid for agricultural and rural development (SAPARD) and a structural instrument (ISPA), which will give priority to measures similar to those of the Cohesion Fund in environment and transport. In the years 2000-2002, total financial assisatnce available will amount annually EUR 398 million for Phare, EUR 168 million for SAPARD and between EUR300 and EUR 370 million for ISPA. In conclusion, Poland has to accelerate its transposition of the environmental acquis. It has made moderate progress on issues such as employment law transport, SMEs, energy, agriculture, taxation, etc. Poland needs to introduce or extend its capacities in terms of intellectual property protection, certification, state aids, agricultural and regional policy, customs, justice and home affairs and in the social area.

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

1997/2174(COS) - 13/11/2001 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

The Commission has prepared this fourth series of Regular Reports with the view to the Laeken European Council in December 2001. The structure followed for this Report is the same as that used for the 2000 Regular Report. The Report takes into consideration progress since the 2000 Regular Report. It looks at whether intended reforms referred to in the 2000 Report have been carried out, and examines new initiatives. The Report contains a separate section examining the extent to which Poland has addressed the Accession Partnership priorities. With regard to the pre-accession instruments (Phare, SAPARD and ISPA), for the years 2000-2002, the total financial assistance to Poland amounts annually to EUR 398 million from Phare, EUR 186.6 million from SAPRD, and between EUR 312 an EUR 385 million from ISPA. As far as the main Copenhagen criteria for membership are concerned, an overall evaluation presents sector by sector account of the progress Poland has made in the accession negotiations: 1) Political Criteria : Poland continues to fulfil the Copenhagen political criteria. In the area of public administration progress in the implementation of the 1999 Civil Service Law continues. Further efforts are requried to speed up the pace of implementation and ensure that an independent, well trained and motivated civil service is in place by the time of accession. Poland has continued to make good progress in reforming the judiciary and in reducing the most pressing bottlenecks. The pace of reform needs to be accelerated and issues relating to judicial immunity further addressed. Additional steps have been taken, in the fight against corruption, which remains a source of serious concern. There has been some progress in establishing the legal framework for equal opportunities and further work needs to be undertaken in this regard. A new element which has come to light, and needs to be addressed, has been the abuse of custody, which has been reported in certain cases. The reinforcement of administrative and judicial capacity, improving the operation of the judiciary and its training in EC law were Association Partnership priorities. Work is underway but further efforts are needed. 2) Economic Criteria : Poland is a functioning market economy. Provided that it continues and intensifies its present reform efforts in a consistent policy environment, it should be able to cope with the competitive pressure and market forces within the Union, in the near term. In the first part of the reporting period, it maintained adequate macroeconomic stability and its growth performance was again sold, before growth experiences a significant slowdown starting in the second half of last year. Privatisation continued and there has been further restructuring in sensitive sectors such as the coal and power industries. The legal framework for business has been strengthened with the adoption of the new bankruptcy law and the new Commercial Code. 3) Legislative alignment with the acquis : the reporting period has seen intensive work on the adoption of legislation. In some areas there ahs been notable breakthroughs with regard to the adoption of primary legislation. In others, there has been a steady consolidation of the achievements of 2000 through the adoption of secondary legislation on the basis of framework laws adopted the previous years. - with regard to the internal market, efforts in a number of areas have, following the earlier adoption of the framework legislation, focused on the secondary legislation necessary to implement the acquis in these areas, in particular standards and certification and state aid. Both of these are areas in which Poland's existing obligations necessitate implementation prior to the date of accession, and where there has been limited progress. With regard to competition, the capacity exists but the implementation has been limited. There has been progress in the elements of food safety which relate to the internal market through the adoption of the developing the administrative capacity. The industrial property law has been adopted although short term difficulties remain with regard to data exclusivity arising out of the new pharmaceuticals law. While there has been some improvement in the administrative structures, efforts need to be intensified with an emphasis on enforcement. Poland's track record in the free movement of services and capital continues to be good and further work has been undertaken to strengthen the administrative capacity in these domains. There has been limited progress in further aligning rates of indirect taxation and further work is required to ensure that the systems are in place to allow for the exchange of computerised data between the EC and Poland; - in the agriculture sector, a coherent strategy for the sector is still lacking. The substantial transformation which is needed, in terms of policy, legislation and structures has not yet taken place in either the agriculture or fisheries sectors. In both sectors there has been some progress with regard to primary legislation for agriculture. The administrative capacity remains extremely weak for fisheries and weaknesses have become apparent in agriculture in particular with regard to the Integrated Administration and Control Systems (IACS) and border inspection, both in the veterinary and phyto-sanitary fields. - environment sector : significant progress has been made in terms of primary legislation. - the energy and in

particular the transport sectors have seen some progress. - justice and home affairs. Efforts have been made to improve the situation with regard to the law enforcement bodies dealing with the fight against organised crime, in particular the police services. These need to be intensified. Further efforts are required in the customs area to align with the the acquis and to ensure the establishment of an effective implementation capacity. 4) Adminsitrative Capacity : the disparity between progress in the adoption of legislation and the reinforcement of administrative capacity is reflected in the extent to which the short-term priorities of the accession partnership have been addressed. There has been further progress in meeting the acquis based elements. Continued efforts are needed to set up or strengthen administrative capacites across the board notably on certification, agriculture, fisheries and regional policy, the social field, customs and justice and home affairs. 5) Accession Partnership : Poland has started to make progress in meeting all medium-term priorities. Progress has been varied, with the most obvious developments relating to the legislative elements of the priorities. This will provide the basis for the development of the necessary administrative capacity to ensure implementation. Efforts commenced in this regard will need to beintensified.

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

1997/2174(COS) - 17/12/1998

This composite paper presents an outline of the progress made towards accession by all of the candidate countries in relation to the Copenhagen criteria since the publication of the Commission's opinions in June 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 June 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.

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

1997/2174(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.

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

1997/2174(COS) - 05/09/2001 - Interim resolution adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Jas GAWRONSKI (EPP-ED, I) on Poland's application for membership of the European Union. More specifically, Poland has been applauded for the 'remarkable efforts of its parliament' to swiftly adapt legislation to the EU 'acquis'. It is urged o speed up effective and verifiable implementation of the 'acquis' so that it can meet the committments it has given. The resolution also notes that the Polish Government anticipates being ready to join the EU by the start of 2003. (Please refer to the previous text). In addition, among the amendments adopted was one which considers that the Commission contribution to EU information campaigns has been inadequate and calls for more funds to be allocated for this purpose.

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

1997/2174(COS) - 04/10/2000 - Interim resolution adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Jas GAWRONSKI (EPP/ED, I) on Poland's application for membership to the EU. It stresses the importance of Poland becoming an EU member as soon as possible and wants new member states to draw up a timetable to this end. This resolution urges Poland to speed up privatisation and restructuring of the major State undertakings, above all in the steel, energy, chemical, armaments, sugar and distilleries sector and recommends that consideration be given to the possible effects of restructuring on the Polish and European labour markets. Moroever, it is highlighted that there is a need for a radical restructuring of the agricultural sector in a country where the rural dwellers make up 38% of the total population and 4.5% of GDP and where agricultural employment is estimated at 27.4% compared with an average of 5%. Finally, although Poland has made progress in preparing legislative measures in the environmental field, the Parliament notes that in order effectively to apply that legislation, the regional and local authorities will have to be strengthened as well as for the effective implementation of regional development programmes.

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

1997/2174(COS) - 17/12/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to present the regular 1998 report from the Commission on Poland's progress towards accession. CONTENT: in line with the timetable of Agenda 2000 and the direction given by the European Council in Cardiff, the Commission presents a report in the form of an appraisal of the progress made by this country with regard to accession. The report examines: - the relations between Poland and the EU, particularly in the framework of the Europe Agreement; - the situation in respect of the political conditions set by the European Council (democracy, rule of law, human rights, protection of minorities); - Poland'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 Poland's capacity to adopt the obligations of membership (in particular Community acquis). In concluding its report, the Commission considers Poland's results to be satisfactory in economic and political terms: Polish institutions operate smoothly and Poland can be considered as a viable market economy, capable of coping with market forces in the Union. However, the rate of economic restructuring needs to quicken and commercial policy should be strengthened. Priority now needs to be given to privatizing publicly owned companies, modernizing agriculture and developing public finances. In addition, the access of SMEs to financial markets needs to be improved. The pattern of transposition remains, on the other hand, quite uneven and there are considerable gaps in administrative capacity (environment, standardization and state aid controls). The process of adopting legislation relating to the internal market has not taken place satisfactorily and efforts still need to be made in the control of public aid. The policies which still have shortcomings are in environment, where progress is very limited, and agriculture, which is well behind European standards. Although Poland has in part responded to the short-term priorities laid down in the Accession Partnership in the economic and industrial area (radical reform of the coal and steel sectors) and regional development, insufficient account has been taken of the priorities set in the area of agriculture, environment and institutional and administrative capacity. In terms of administrative capacity to apply the acquis, Poland experienced difficulties in implementing the planned reforms. Poland's National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis is currently undergoing revision so as to place greater emphasis on the country's programme of alignment with Community legislation. In the second half of 1999, the Commission will present its position on the revised version of this programme to the Council at the time when the accession partnership is being re-examined.

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

1997/2174(COS) - 13/10/1999

This second composite document, like the first in the series, provides a resumé of the regular reports prepared for all accession candidate countries. Although the main areas covered, the methodology and the analysis of the progress made by all the candidate countries remain the same, the Commission's formal conclusions on a country by country basis differ from those in the 1998 report. Firstly, the Commission recalls that the enlargement process is a complex one which is not simply confined to pure and simple integration of new countries in the Union. Besides the difficulties associated with integration both for the Union and the countries themselves, the Commission considers that the new configuration of 25-30 countries will require not only internal but also external changes. In particular, it considers that the development of Europe has inevitable consequences with respect to the Eastern countries that are not yet on the 'candidate list' (ex-Yugoslavian countries, Albania, in the first instance), but also further East with Russia and the Ukraine, with which relations will have to be accorded a new dimension. The Commission considers that the new configuration envisaged also implies a modification in Europe's approach with respect to the South and in particular the countries of North Africa in respect of which new responsibilities are developing. On another level, the Commission considers that the enlargement negotiations should be started with all the candidate countries (thus abandoning the 'in'and 'non-in' idea) that satisfy the political Copenhagen criteria and can prove that they are ready to take the necessary measures to satisfy the economic criteria. 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.