Basic information

1997/2181(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996 **Subject** 8.20.02 Enlargement 2004: new Member States **Geographical area** Slovenia	Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET	Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	VOLCIC Demetrio (PSE)	07/11/2000

Former committee responsible		Former rapporteur	Appointed
AFET	Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	MARTELLI Claudio (PSE)	23/09/1999
AFET	Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	SPECIALE Roberto (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
ITRE	Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	GLANTE Norbert (PSE)	21/03/2001
EMPL	Employment and Social Affairs	ETTL Harald (PSE)	12/04/2000
AGRI	Agriculture and Rural Development	GÖRLACH Willi (PSE)	27/03/2001

RETT	Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	MARKOV Helmuth (GUE/NGL)	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	SÖRENSEN Patsy (V/ALE)	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)0709	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	A4-0151/1999	
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	A5-0242/2000	
03/10/2000	Debate in Parliament		
04/10/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0427/2000	Summary
09/07/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
09/07/2001	Committee interim report tabled for plenary	A5-0260/2001	
04/09/2001	Debate in Parliament		
05/09/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0436/2001	Summary
05/09/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		

21/03/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2181(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/5/13762 AFET/4/10900 AFET/4/09132

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary		A4-0151/1999 OJ C 219 30.07.1999, p. 0006	24/03/1999	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament		T4-0332/1999 OJ C 219 30.07.1999, p. 0370-0441	15/04/1999	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary		A5-0242/2000 OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0007	14/09/2000	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament		T5-0427/2000 OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0073-0154	04/10/2000	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary		A5-0260/2001	09/07/2001	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament		T5-0436/2001 OJ C 072 21.03.2002, p. 0084-0205 E	05/09/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)2010	15/07/1997	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1998)0709	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)0512	13/10/1999	Summary

Document attached to the procedure	COM(2000)0700	08/11/2000	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0712	08/11/2000	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2001)0662	13/11/2001	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0700	13/11/2001	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	SEC(2001)1755	13/11/2001	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0700	09/10/2002	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2002)1411	09/10/2002	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EU	Document attached to the procedure	31999D0859 OJ L 335 28.12.1999, p. 0061	06/12/1999	Summary
EU	Document attached to the procedure	32002D0094 OJ L 044 14.02.2002, p. 0101-0108	28/01/2002	

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

1997/2181(COS) - 17/12/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to present the regular report from the Commission on Slovenia'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 Slovenia and the EU, particularly in the framework of the Cooperation and Interim Agreements; - the situation in respect of the political conditions set by the European Council (democracy, rule of law, human rights, protection of minorities); - Slovenia'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 Slovenia's capacity to adopt the obligations of membership, that is, the acquis of the Union as expressed in the Treaty, the secondary legislation and the policies of the Union. The Commission's analysis reveals that results in Slovenia are satisfactory in economic and political terms: Slovenian institutions continue to run smoothly and Slovenia can be regarded as a functioning market economy and should be able to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union in the medium term, provided that planned reforms are fully implemented. Priority should now be given to reform of the parliamentary and judicial system. As regards the Community acquis, however, transposition remains uneven and administrative capacity continues to display significant failings. The national programme for adoption of the acquis is currentlybeing revised in order to place even greater emphasis on the process of linkage to Community legislation. The Commission will communicate its position on that revision to the Council during the second semester of 1999, at the time of the re-examination of the Accession Partnership.

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

1997/2181(COS) - 13/11/2001

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.

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

1997/2181(COS) - 13/10/1999

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

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

1997/2181(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 June of 1997. These regular reports for each of the candidate countries concentrate on all aspects of the adoption of the Community acquis and establish a precise assessment of the capacity of each of the candidates to fulfil the political and economic criteria required for accession. Overall, the Commission in analysing the progress achieved by each of the candidate countries since June 1997 has not been persuaded 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.

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

1997/2181(COS) - 06/12/1999 - Document attached to the procedure

PURPOSE : presentation of the second 'accession partnership' for Slovenia. CONTENT : Like its previous version, this partnership for the accession of Slovenia 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 Slovenia (1999). The short-term priorities (end of 2000) concern economic criteria (restructuring of companies ; privatisation of banks and insurance companies, restructuring of the steel sector and public finances) ; the internal market (basically continuing the harmonisation process) ; agriculture, transport, environment, social affairs and employment,

justice and home affairs (implementation of the Schengen agreement) and the strengthening of administrative and judiciary capacity (in particular the management and control of EU funds). In the medium term, the measures will concern further efforts to solve border problems with Croatia that are in suspense. In the area of the single market, the complete liberalisation of goods and capital, the strengthening of competition rules (agreements) and consumer protection. Further measures are envisaged in the area of agriculture, fisheries, energy (in particular, the nuclear sector), transport and the environment (waste management, air pollution and industrial pollution) and the improvement of 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) inaccordance with the rules already foreseen. It should be noted that assistance is only granted if the country respects the provisions of the EC-Slovenia 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.

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

1997/2181(COS) - 08/11/2000 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

This Regular Report for 2000 on Slovenia is largely similar to that of the Commission's 1997 Opinion and of the subsequent reports; however, it differs from that used in previous years on three minor points. Firstly, the part of the present report assessing Slovenia'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 Slovenia'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 Slovenia in translating the acquis into its official language. With regard to the relations between the EU and Slovenia, Slovenia has continued to implement the Europe Agreement correctly and contributed to a smooth functioning of the various joint institutions. In March 1999 the Council mandated the Commission to open negotiations with the associated countries with a view to new reciprocal concessions for agricultural products. The negotiations with Slovenia were in fact concluded between negotiators in May 2000. As a consequence, approximately 73% of EC imports and 17% of EC exports of agricultural products will be liberalised. Moreover, the negotiations on an agreement on wine and spirits were concluded in September 2000. As regards Community aid, in the years 2000-2002 the basic total financial assistance to Slovenia will amount annually to: EUR 25 million from Phare, EUR 10.8-21.7 million from ISPA and EUR 6.4 million from SAPARD. In addition, the programming exercise for Phare 2000 includes a further 129 twinning projects compared with 107 in 1999. Statistics show that a considerable range of Member States are involved. The Member States' involved in twinning allows Slovenia to benefit from the variety of administrative models and cultures in the European Union. It should be noted that Slovenia continues to fulfil the Copenhagen political criteria. Progress has been made in judicial reform, which is medium term priority in the Accession Partnership. However, it is still too early to assess the effectiveness of the new measures aimed at reducing the backlog of pending court cases. Public administration is another area requiring attention. Little progress has been achieved in this respect since the last Regular Report as important pieces of legislation which are to provide the basis for reform have not yet been adopted. The denationalisation process remains slow and further efforts are needed to speed it up. On the other hand, the country can be seen as a functioning market economy and should be able to cope with competitive market pressures and forces. The legal and institutional framework for a market economy is largely in place. However, the state still has considerable influence in certain areas of the economy, for instance state-owned banks which holds back development and competition and also the slow progress of privatisation and rigid business conditions are keeping foreign direct investment inflows at a low level. Other areas in which progress has been made include: transport;environment; agriculture; free movement of goods; freedom to provide services; justice and home affairs and energy. Whereas, in the area such as telecommunications and the audio-visual sector only limited progress has been made so far. In general, Slovenia's administrative capacity for implementation of the acquis has been enhanced. Since the last Regular Report, significant progress has been made with the establishment of the supervisory and implementing institutions in the area of state aids, energy and agriculture, and separation of the institutions for standardisation, accreditation and certification.

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

1997/2181(COS) - 15/07/1997 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: AGENDA 2000: presentation of the Commission's opinion on Slovenia's request for membership (10 June 1996). 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 stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, human rights and respect for minorities, - economic criteria: these countries must have a functioning market economy, as well as the ability to cope with competitive pressures and market forces within the Union, - criteria relating to the ability of the countries to take on the obligations of membership (in particular integration of the acquis, to a greater or lesser extent, and respect for the criteria concerning economic and monetary union). With regard to these criteria, it is emerges that: 1) in political terms, Slovenia 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, Slovenia can be regarded as a functioning market economy and it should be able to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union. Slovenia has advanced considerably in liberalisation and privatisation and achieved a successful stabilisation of the economy after having falling GDP between 1993 and 1996. However, there is a lack of competition in some sectors, in particular the financial sector; 3) with regard to its capacity to take on the obligations of membership, Slovenia must continue its efforts concerning the transposition and practical implementation of the acquis, in particular on the single market. Substantial work is still needed in the fields of public procurement, competition, insurance, freedom of capital movements, product conformity and standardisation. Introduction of VAT is a top priority. Very important efforts will be required for the environment (investment -administration) and, in the case of energy, efforts are still needed on monopoly operations, price fixing, access to networks and state intervention in the solid fuel sector. In general further administrative reform will be indispensable if the country is to have the structures to apply and enforce the acquis effectively. In conclusion, the Commission considers that negotiations for membership could be opened with Slovenia as soon as this country has ratified the European Union-Slovenia Europe Agreement (a precondition for any accession negotiations).

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

1997/2181(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.

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

1997/2181(COS) - 13/11/2001 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

The Commission has prepared this fourth series of Regular Reports with a view to the Laeken European Council in December 2001. The structure followed by this Regular Report is the same as that used for the 2000 Regular Report. It takes into consideration progress since the 2000 Report. It looks at whether intended reforms referred to in the 2000 Regular Report have been carried out, and examines new initiatives. In addition, this Report provides an overall assessment of the global situation for each of the aspects under consideration, setting out for each of them the main steps which remain to be taken by Slovenia in preparing for accession. In accordance with this approach, the assessment of progress in meeting the political and acquis criteria focuses on what has been accomplished since the last Regular Report. The Report contains a separate section examining the extent to which Slovenia has addressed the Accession Partnership priorities. Firstly, with regard to the pre-accession instruments, for the years 2000-2002 total indicative financial allocations to Slovenia amount annually to EUR 25 million from Phare with EUR 3.3 million added in the course of 2001), EUR 6.5 million from SAPARD and between EUR 10.8 and EUR 21.7 million from ISPA. With regard to the Copenhagen criteria for membership: 1) Political Criteria : Slovenia continues to fulfil the Copenhagen political criteria. Progress has been made in judicial reform, which is a medium term priority in Accession Partnership. However, it is still too early to assess the effectiveness of the new measures aimed at reducing the backlog of pending court cases. Concerns have been expressed over an increase in police brutality. These relate to cases of excessive use of force against people in custody. There are also indications that Slovenia has increasingly become a transit country for trafficking in human beings. Public administrations reform is another area requiring attention. Little progress has been achieved in this respect since the last Regular Report. 2) Economic Criteria : Slovenia is a market economy. Provided that it implements the remaining reforms to increase competition in domestic markets, it should be able to cope with the competitive pressure and market forces within the Union in the near term. Macroeconomic developments have continued to be generally favourable with a steady GDP growth, low unemployment and a reduction in the current account deficit. Remaining restrictions to capital movements are progressively being removed, in the context of a policy of managed exchange rates. Labour markets are not sufficiently flexible. The functioning of the markets could be improved by decreasing the state's influence in certain areas of the economy. The authorities should now progress with the implementation of the announced structural reforms and privatisation in a number of essential sectors such as banking and insurance. This should help to attract more foreign investors and provide a better macroeconomic basis for sustained growth performance in the medium term. 3) Legislative alignment of the acquis : Slovenia has made good overall progress in adopting and implementing legislation in key areas of the internal market acquis. - internal Market : Slovenia has made good progress in adoption and implementing legislation in the key areas of the internalmarket acquis. Substantial legislative progress has been made in company law and the legislative framework is now nearly complete. Slovenia should now focus on implementing the new provisions on intellectual and industrial property rights adequately. Good progress has also been made in completing the legislative framework for the free movement of goods, and attention should now be given to strengthen the institutional set-up. It also made good progress in removing restrictions to free movement of capital, but this process remains to be completed according to the timetable set by the government; - agriculture : very good progress has been made in this area, notably by the adoption of the new veterinary, plant health and plant protection acts. Priorities should now include strengthening of the administrative capacity, completion of CAP management mechanisms and setting up of adequate phyto-sanitary and veterinary inspections; - energy : Slovenia has continued to make progress for preparing for accession in the energy market, especially by opening up the domestic energy market; - transport : Slovenia has made significant progress in legislative alignment in transport through adoption of the key aviation, maritime and road transport laws; - employment and social affairs : progress has been limited in the reporting period in this area where adoption of the Employment Relations act has been delayed further; - environment : there is a high level of alignment here and efforts should now be focussed on adoption of the remaining key legislation in the areas of water quality, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and radiation protection. - justice and home affairs : some progress has been made in this area, notably through the adoption of the Schengen Action Plan and reinforcement of staff for processing asylum applications. Slovenia should continue its efforts to improve its capacity and infrastructure for border control. 4) Administrative Capacity : Slovenia's capacity for the implementation of the acquis has been enhanced. Significant progress has been made with the establishment of the implementing, supervisory, regulatory institutions in the areas of free movement of goods, telecommunications, culture and audiovisual. Most of the institutions necessary for the implementation are now in place and attention should now be focussed on providing them sufficient resources to carry out their work. Administrative capacity needs to be developed in the area of management of the structural funds. An independent supervisory agency still remains to be effectively established for data protection. Further efforts are also required in establishing the necessary administrative capacity to ensure sound, efficient and controllable management of EC funds. 5) Accession Partnership : Slovenia has met a large part of the short-term priorities in the areas of economic criteria, internal market, agriculture, transport, environment, employment and social affairs, and justice and home affairs. In the area of reinforcement of the administrative capacity (including the management and control of the EC funds) the priorities have been met partially. It should now focus especially on the remaining short term priorities, especially related to control of EC funds. Slovenia has also made good progress in implementing a number of the medium term priorities. It should speed up its preparationsin the area of economic and social cohesion and ensure fulfilment of priorities especially in the areas of the economic criteria, internal market, agriculture and employment and social affairs.

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

1997/2181(COS) - 13/10/1999 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : To present the 1999 Regular Report on Slovenia's progress towards accession. CONTENT : The Report describes Slovenia's relations with the Union and analyses the situation in respect of the Copenhagen criteria. It also covers judicial and administrative capacity. Relations with the Union: Developments under the Europe Agreement are described, as is the implementation of the Accession Partnership and the presentation of the revised National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis. In the years 2000-2002, total financial assistance available will amount to the following: Phare 25M EUR per year, Sapard 6.6M EUR per year and Ispa between 10M to 20M EUR per year. Phare funding for twinning has so far focused primarily on the priority sectors of agriculture, environment, public finance, Justice and Home Affairs and preparatory measures for the Structural Funds. Copenhagen political criteria: the Commission judges that Slovenia fulfils the Copenhagen political criteria, although further attention needs to be given to the streamlining and speeding up of the judicial and parliamentary process. Copenhagen economic criteria: Slovenia can be regarded as a functioning market economy able to cope with competitive pressures and market forces within the Union in the medium term, provided further structural reforms are achieved more quickly. Priority should be given to privatisation, including the two state banks. Improved corporate governance is needed. Restructuring of the public utilities is necessary. Macroeconomic stability is well established. A major reform of the tax system has been made, through the introduction of value added tax. Agreement has been reached on pension reform. Ability to assume the obligations of membership: Slovenia significantly accelerated its overall legislative approximation effort and demonstrated impressive progress across most sectors of the acquis. It still needs to put in place the legal framework for state aids. The areas of border control and drugs require continued attention. It has met most of its short term Accession Partnership priorities. Administrative capacity to apply the acquis: this is still very weak in some sectors and overall public administration reform has not showed sufficient progress. The Slovene judiciary remains overburdened and the number of cases and the backlogs have increased. In many sectors, there is the need to strengthen capacity and recruit and train more staff. Continuing attention needs to be paid to the strengthening of the environment, taxation, state aids and justice and home affairs administrations.

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

1997/2181(COS) - 05/09/2001 - Interim resolution adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Demetrio VOLCIC (PES, I) on Slovenia's application for membership of the European Union. (Please refer to the previous text). In addition, amendments adopted call for legislation on mental health and for measures to prevent monopolies on the distribution of printed media. The Parliament calls on the Slovenia to put in place mechanisms necessary to link effectively to the Community's Rapid Alert System, both in terms of alerting the European Food Safety Authority of any serious perceived or identified risk in terms of action to be taken by the RAS as a result of an EFSA warning.

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

1997/2181(COS) - 04/10/2000 - Interim resolution adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted the report drafted by Mr Claudio MARTELLI (Non-attached, I) on Slovenia's progress towards accession. This resolution welcomes the progress made in Slovenia, especially in such areas as economic reform and the implementation of the acquis. However, further significant improvements are needed in administration to ensure effective application of Community legislation and that further progress is needed with regard to the legal system. In addition, the Parliament welcomes Slovenia's agreement to close duty-free shops by the end of year. Slovenia, however, must develop the privatisation process in the insurance sector and adopt legislation to reform the pension system. Lastly, it was highlighted that the Parliament wishes to see a rapid settlement of the border dispute with Croatia.

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

1997/2181(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.

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

1997/2181(COS) - 15/04/1999 - Interim resolution adopted by Parliament

The Parliament adopted its resolution, drafted by Mr. Roberto SPECIALE (PES, Italy). The resolution acknowledges the continued commitment of Slovenia to strengthening its ties with the EU but deplores the lack of progress made in adopting the acquis communautaire in sensitive areas. Amendments adopted refer to anti-corruption measures and the extension of the Phare programme to social programmes.