Basic information

2000/2171(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
2004 enlargement of the European Union: progress towards accession by the candidate countries in 1999 **Subject** 8.20.02 Enlargement 2004: new Member States	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	BROK Elmar (PPE-DE)	12/07/2000

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	STENMARCK Per (PPE-DE)	19/04/2000
CONT Budgetary Control	FERREIRA Anne (PSE)	24/05/2000
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	CEYHUN Ozan (V/ALE)	06/06/2000
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	LIPIETZ Alain (V/ALE)	03/04/2000
PECH Fisheries	LANGENHAGEN Brigitte (PPE-DE)	04/04/2000
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	PACK Doris (PPE-DE)	03/05/2000

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/10/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0500	Summary
03/07/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
14/09/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
14/09/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0250/2000	
03/10/2000	Debate in Parliament		
04/10/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0417/2000	Summary
04/10/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
22/06/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2171(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/5/12146

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0250/2000 OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0008	14/09/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0417/2000 OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0068-0112	04/10/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0500	13/10/1999	Summary

2004 enlargement of the European Union: progress towards accession by the candidate countries in 1999

2000/2171(COS) - 04/10/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report drafted by Mr Elmar BROK (EPP/ED, D) on enlargement of the EU, the European Parliament welcomes the progress made in the accession negotiations with all the candidate countries and calls on the Commission and the Council to ensure that the principle of differentiation is fully implemented so that each country is judged on its own merits in its application for membership. The candidate countries in their turn are urged to make further efforts to strengthen their administrative capacities for the implementation of the "acquis communautaire" and also continue building up their financial control and audit procedures to ensure that pre-accession aid is properly controlled. They should also maintain the fight against corruption. In addition, the resolution calls on the Commission to make sufficient PHARE funds available to help the candidate countries to tackle Roma-related and child protection problems by enhancing national PHARE-funded programmes with a multi-country programme which should be administered in close association with the Roma communities and local authorities. Moreover, candidate countries are called upon to afford full rights to minorities. The European Parliament insists that after the conclusion of the Intergovernmental Conference, a clear accession scenario should be established. Candidate countries are urged to seek more actively to cooperate among themselves and set up regional cooperation machinery. The Commission should provide resources and fund it. It should be pointed out that the adoption of the EC acquis in the area of equality is a sine qua non for accession since it is a question essentially of human rights and that the necessary institutional building in this area is a vital pre-requisite to full implementation of the acquis. Moreover, the Dublin Convention should be reformed as it is an important element of the EU's internal preparations for enlargement because it is needed in order to prevent a disproportionately high number of applications for asylum being made in the future Member States on account of their geographical location. The European Parliament considers that the independence of the Court of Auditors or its equivalent in each candidate country must be safeguarded and that applicant countries should become fully involved in combating fraud and corruption affecting the financial interests of the EU. With regard to the budget commitments, the Parliament considers that the existing budget commitments will prove insufficient to ensure success in the long term of this historical enlargement unless there is a radical reform of the existing expenditure policies. The Commission is urged to examine the economic and budgetary implications beyond the period of the financial framework in 2006 - which was based on the assumption of only six joining. Finally, the Parliament insists that the EU institutions, the Member States and the candidate countries do everything in their power to ensure that the European Parliament can give its assent to the first accession treaties before the European Parliament elections in 2004 in order that these countries might have the prospect of participating in those elections.

2004 enlargement of the European Union: progress towards accession by the candidate countries in 1999

2000/2171(COS) - 13/10/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

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. In addition to 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 as 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 that 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 closing of certain chapters will also depend on the extent to which the candidate country has honoured 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.