Basic information

2002/2023(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
2004 enlargement: state of the negotiations, progress towards accession by the candidate countries. Report **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	VAN ORDEN Geoffrey (PPE-DE) BROK Elmar (PPE-DE) GAWRONSKI Jas (PPE-DE) SCHRÖDER Jürgen (PPE-DE) STENZEL Ursula (PPE-DE) CARLSSON Gunilla (PPE-DE) SOULADAKIS Ioannis (PSE) WIERSMA Jan Marinus (PSE) POOS Jacques F. (PSE) VOLCIC Demetrio (PSE) NICHOLSON OF WINTERBOURNE Baroness null (ELDR) SCHROEDTER Elisabeth (V/ALE) QUEIRÓ Luís (UEN)	12/12/2001 12/12/2001 12/12/2001 12/12/2001 12/12/2001 12/12/2001 12/12/2001 12/12/2001 12/12/2001 12/12/2001 12/12/2001 12/12/2001 12/12/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	SCARBONCHI Michel-Ange (PSE)	21/02/2002
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs		
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	ETTL Harald (PSE)	23/01/2002

JURI	Legal Affairs and Internal Market	WUERMELING Joachim (PPE-DE)	19/02/2002
ITRE	Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	GLANTE Norbert (PSE)	19/02/2002
EMPL	Employment and Social Affairs		
ENVI	Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	JACKSON Caroline (PPE-DE)	23/04/2002
AGRI	Agriculture and Rural Development	GÖRLACH Willi (PSE)	08/01/2002
PECH	Fisheries	LANGENHAGEN Brigitte (PPE-DE)	28/01/2002
RETT	Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	POHJAMO Samuli (ELDR)	21/02/2002
CULT	Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	BEAZLEY Christopher (PPE-DE)	23/01/2002
FEMM	Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	DYBKJÆR Lone (ELDR)	22/01/2002
PETI	Petitions	SBARBATI Luciana (ELDR)	22/11/2001

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2406	2002-01-28

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/11/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0700	Summary
04/02/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/05/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
22/05/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0190/2002	

12/06/2002	Debate in Parliament		
13/06/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0317/2002	Summary
13/06/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/10/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2023(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/5/15766

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0190/2002	22/05/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0317/2002 OJ C 261 30.10.2003, p. 0388-0534 E	13/06/2002	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0700	13/11/2001	Summary

2004 enlargement: state of the negotiations, progress towards accession by the candidate countries. Report

2002/2023(COS) - 13/06/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution by Elmar BROK (EPP-ED, Germany) on the state of the enlargement negotiations. (Please refer to the document dated 22/05/02.) Whilst Parliament confirmed that all negotiating countries fulfilled the political criteria, it emphasised the need to follow closely the situation of minorities, the phenomenon of racism and xenophobia and anti-Semitism, and other forms of discrimination. All candidate countries concerned should undertake more decisive action to overcome the problem of the Roma minorities, particularly with regard to the elimination of discriminatory practices of State institutions and public authorities. Each country is asked to submit a report to the European institutions before the end of the accession negotiations on how they plan to resolve the problems of the Roma before the end of the decade. The EU should support the planned measures. The European Parliament went on to emphasise the importance of a high level of nuclear safety in the candidate countries. The closure of reactors considered non-upgradeable at reasonable cost operating in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia must be in line with the Accession Partnership Agreements and the related Memoranda of Understanding. The importance of food safety for European consumers was also emphasised. On the chapter on agriculture, Parliament insisted not only on the transposition of the acquis but also on the fulfilment of measures relating to external border controls, protection rules regarding BSE, standards of food-processing establishments and animal welfare rules. It was noted with concern that

pre-accession funds and loans may be used for projects in the candidate countries that have the potential to destroy sites which would be granted protection under Community nature conservation legislation. Accordingly, Parliament wanted to ensure that all infrastructure development projects financed by pre-accession funds are consistent with Community environmental legislation. Parliament supported the Commission's strategy on increasing citizen's awareness of enlargement in both the Member States and the candidate countries, especially with regard to transparency and public access to documents. Parliament will open the first EP information offices in four candidate countries later this year and supported the efforts to decentralise the implementation of the communication strategy for each country. These information offices should primarily have the task of facilitating developments, which needs to be exercised with care. There are significant changes in public opinion in the candidate countries towards EU membership. Public approval of EU membership must not be taken for granted. The resolution contains specific paragraphs on all official candidate countries. With regard to Turkey, Parliament stated that the latter must proceed with the constitutional reforms which are fundamental to the process of democratisation and which have brought positive results since their launch. These and other reforms must achieve real progress in the area of human rights and freedoms so that the persistent gap between Turkey's commitment to fulfil the political Copenhagen criteria and their implementation may be eliminated. The pre-accession strategy for Turkey should be fully implemented and the EU must assist the acceleration of the preparations for Turkey's accession. Parliament encouraged Turkey to support the ongoing talks on the Cyprus problem.

2004 enlargement: state of the negotiations, progress towards accession by the candidate countries. Report

2002/2023(COS) - 13/11/2001 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present a strategy paper and report of the European Commission on the progress towards accession by each of the candidate countries. CONTENT: the forthcoming enlargement of the European Union is being thoroughly prepared by means of the strategy set out in this document. It is founded on clear principles, which have been enunciated by successive European Councils, and on a transparent and objective method set out by the Commission in Agenda 2000 and applied each year in its Progress Reports. The present document, and the accompanying Reports, provide an analysis of the stage reached in the enlargement process in Autumn 2001 and point the way to ensuring that the next and decisive phase of the process is successful. The Regular Report shows that all negotiating countries have made substantial progress over the last year in implementing the accession criteria (acquis communautaire), which, together with the road map, has permitted considerable advances in the accession negotiations. However, particular attention is now being given to the candidates' administrative and judicial capacity. By means of an action plan, the Commission will increase support for institution building and monitor closely the fulfilment of undertakings made in the negotiations and the achievement of priorities set out in the Accession Partnerships. The principles for this process remain unchanged. The Berlin European Council has set out a clear framework for the financial aspects of enlargement. This framework provides a sufficient basis for the accession of up to ten new Member States in 2004. The European Council of Nice has defined the framework for the institutional reform necessary for enlargement. Negotiations are conducted on the basis of the existing acquis and will be concluded with those candidates that fulfil all the criteria for membership, applying the principles of own merits and catching-up. These are the necessary and sufficient conditions defined at the outset for accomplishing the first accessions. To this end, the road map should be followed as foreseen. The EU will now have to determine common positions for the remaining chapters. The Commission will ensure that the Council can debate financial issues in a common framework early in 2002 and will present proposals to the Council the fields of agriculture, regional policy and budget on the basis of the existing acquis and the principles inherent in the Berlin agreement. The accession negotiations can be concluded independently of decisions for financing the EU after 2006. It should also be noted that the joining the European Union is not identical with joining the euro. Whereas participation in the single currency is part of the acquis, candidate countries will have to conform to the convergence criteria for participation in the euro. This will be decided at a later stage, after accession, following assessment of the achievement of a high degree of sustainable convergence, as was the case for the initial participants in the euro zone. The first priority for each candidate must, however, now be to comply with the Copenhagen economic criteria. In addition, this year's Regular Reports and the present stage of the accession negotiations do not yet allow the Commission to conclude that the conditions for accession are fulfilled by anyof the candidate countries. 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. Among the twelve negotiating countries, ten have target dates of accession compatible with the Goteborg timeframe. The Union should therefore be prepared to conclude accession negotiations by the end of the Danish Presidency in 2002, in view of accession in 2004, with all countries meeting the necessary conditions. Necessary administrative preparations inside the Institutions are already under way and should be continued. In the framework of an action plan, the Commission will analyse by early 2002 with each of the candidate countries their on-going efforts for institution building and, if necessary, their intentions to reinforce them, using a supplementary institution building facility. The Commission will inform the Council on monitoring actions including peer reviews by Spring 2002, so that they can be taken up in the single framework of the accession negotiations. The Commission will, by the time of the Seville European Council in June 2002, report on its action plan including on the monitoring of commitments made by the candidate countries during the accession negotiations. The 2002 Regular Reports will examine whether the candidate countries will have, by accession, adequate administrative capacity to implement and enforce the acquis. The Commission will give its evaluation of the readiness of each candidate to assume the rights and obligations of membership in next year's progress reports. Provided their efforts are sustained, it should be possible to conclude the accession negotiations by the end of 2002 with those countries which fulfil the accession criteria. On this basis these countries would be ready to become members of the EU in 2004, in accordance with the objective set out by the European Parliament and by the European Council in Nice. The pace of the negotiations with each candidate reflects, above all, the pace of its own preparations for membership. The application of the principle of differentiation based on each candidate country's own merit, together with the vigorous pursuit of preparations for membership backed up by the EU's pre-accession instruments, is also enabling candidates which began negotiations at a later stage to catch up. The enlargement strategy now in place provides a sound basis for completing the negotiations, on schedule, with the candidates that are sufficiently prepared. Lastly, the European Union will continue to lend its full support to the preparations for membership by candidates that are not in a position to complete negotiations within the timetable indicated above. Negotiations will be pursued with them, on the basis of the principles that have guided the accession process from the beginning. In its 2002 Enlargement Strategy Paper, the Commission will set out an updated road map, and, if necessary, a revised pre-accession strategy, for such candidates.