Basic information

2003/0901A(AVC) AVC - Assent procedure (historic)	Procedure completed
Republic of Estonia: application for accession to the European Union **Subject** 8.20.02 Enlargement 2004: new Member States **Geographical area** Estonia	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	GAHLER Michael (PPE-DE)	21/01/2003

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2501	2003-04-14

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
19/03/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
19/03/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0090/2003	
04/04/2003	Legislative proposal published	000AA/2003	
07/04/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/04/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0170/2003	Summary
14/04/2003	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
14/04/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
23/09/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/0901A(AVC)
Procedure type	AVC - Assent procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legal basis	Treaty on European Union (after Amsterdam) M 049
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/5/19258

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0090/2003	19/03/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0170/2003 OJ C 064 12.03.2004, p. 0280-0364 E	09/04/2003	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	000AA/2003	04/04/2003	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2003)0079 OJ L 236 23.09.2003, p. 0001-0002	19/02/2003	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EU	Implementing legislative act	12003T/TXT OJ L 236 23.09.2003, p. 0017-0930	14/04/2003	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2003/0923(01)
OJ L 236 23.09.2003, p. 0015-0015 Summary

Republic of Estonia: application for accession to the European Union

2003/0901A(AVC) - 09/04/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution, by 520 votes for, 22 against and 24 abstentions, drafted by Michael GAHLER (EPP-ED, Germany) and gave its assent to the application by the Republic of Estonia to become a member of the EU. Parliament stated that this assent would not determine its position on the adjustment of the financial perspectives to cater for enlargement according to point 25 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999.

Republic of Estonia: application for accession to the European Union

2003/0901A(AVC) - 14/04/2003

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Treaty of Accession of Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Slovenia to the European Union. CONTENT : The Treaty of Accession extends the European Union to ten new Member States from 1 May 2004. The new Member States are the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic. The conditions of admission and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the Union is founded, entailed by such admission, are set out in the Act annexed to the Treaty. The provisions of that Act shall form an integral part of the Treaty. The Treaty must be ratified by the existing Member States and the ten new Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. ENTRY INTO FORCE : the Accession Treaty enters into force on 1 May 2004. From that date, the European Union will have 25 Member States.

Republic of Estonia: application for accession to the European Union

2003/0901A(AVC) - 19/02/2003

PURPOSE : to present the Commission's opinion on the applications for accession to the European Union by the 10 candidate countries. CONTENT : the European Commission adopted a favourable opinion on the accession of the ten candidate countries, that is Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia. Taken in accordance with Article 49 of the Treaty, this decision follows the conclusions of the accession negotiations at the European Council meeting in Copenhagen on 13 December 2002 and the finalisation of the Treaty of Accession in the first half of February 2003. The Commission's work started with the Opinions on the applications of the ten countries which were adopted on 30 June 1993 for Cyprus and Malta (updated for Malta on 17 February 1999) and on 15 July 1997 for the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia. The Commission has played a crucial role in the accession negotiations, up to the final moments in Copenhagen on 13 December 2002. The Commission has also provided the present and future Member States, and the citizens of these countries, with an in-depth analysis in its yearly Regular Reports (please refer to the procedure documents for each referernces for the candidate countrues) on the progress made by each of the candidate countries towards accession. The most recent ones, adopted on the 9 October 2002 (refer to INI/2002 /2160), concluded that the Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Slovakia fulfil the political criteria for membership and that they will have also fulfilled the economic and acquis criteria to be ready for membership from the beginning of 2004. On this basis, the Commission recommended to conclude the accession negotiations with these countries by the end of 2002 with the aim of signing the Treaty of Accession in Spring 2003. The Commission is confident that the acceding states will pursue the reforms that need to be carried out in view of their accession, in line with the commitments they made during the negotiations. The Commission will continue to monitor the fulfilment of these commitments and obligations until accession, and will assist them with the available instruments. Procedure : in accordance with Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, the decision to admit an applicant State to the European Union is taken by the Council, after consultations with the Commission and after having received the decision on assent of the European Parliament. The adoption of the Commission Opinion is the first step in this procedure. In accordance with the timetable established by the Greek Presidency, in agreement with the European Parliament and with the Commission, to enable the signature of the Treaty of Accession to take place in Athens on 16 April 2003, the decision on assent of the European Parliament is planned to be taken on 9 April 2003 and the Council decision is to follow on 14 April 2003. Lastly, the Accession Treaty needs to be ratified by the 25 present and future Member States and will enter into force on 1 May 2004. Referendums are planned to be held on the question of accession in most of the applicant countries.

Republic of Estonia: application for accession to the European Union

2003/0901A(AVC) - 14/04/2003

PURPOSE : to accept the applications from the ten candidate countries to become Member States of the European Union. LEGISLATIVE ACT : Decision 2003/0923(01) of the Council of the European Union on the admission of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union. CONTENT : the Council of the European Union has decided to accept the applications of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic for admission to the European Union. The conditions of

admission and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the European Union is founded, entailed by such admission, are the subject of a separate treaty, which is annexed to this Decision. The treaty was the subject of an agreement between the existing Member States and the ten new Member States and was approved in Athens on 16 April 2003. It enters into force on 1 May 2003.