

Procedure file

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

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense		07/11/2000
		PPE-DE GAWRONSKI Jas	
	Former committee responsible		
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy		23/09/1999
		PPE-DE GAWRONSKI Jas	
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy		23/06/1997
		PSE HOFF Magdalene	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		24/04/2001
		PPE-DE BÖGE Reimer	
	CONT Budgetary Control		29/05/2001
		PSE BÖSCH Herbert	
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs		29/05/2001
		PPE-DE OOSTLANDER Arie M.	29/05/2001
		PSE BERGER Maria	
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs		21/03/2001	
	ELDR HUHNE Christopher		
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market		11/04/2001	
	PSE BERENQUER FUSTER Luis		
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		21/03/2001	
	PSE GLANTE Norbert		
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		12/04/2000	
	PPE-DE SMET Miet		
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development		27/03/2001	

PSE [GÖRLACH Willi](#)

RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism 06/02/2001

PSE [MASTORAKIS Emmanouil](#)

RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism 06/02/2001

PPE-DE [STENMARCK Per](#)

CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport 11/04/2001

ELDR [ANDREASEN Ole](#)

AFCO Constitutional Affairs 24/01/2001

PPE-DE [RACK Reinhard](#)

FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities 20/03/2001

GUE/NGL [FIGUEIREDO Ilda](#)

Council of the European Union

Council configuration

Meeting

Date

Culture

[2427](#)

23/05/2002

[General Affairs](#)

[2078](#)

30/03/1998

European Commission

Commission DG

Commissioner

[Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations](#)

Key events

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		
15/04/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0334/1999	Summary
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)
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/4/10904; AFET/5/13758; AFET/4/09130

Documentation gateway

Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)2002	15/07/1997	EC	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1998)0701	17/12/1998	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(1998)0712	17/12/1998	EC	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary	A4-0148/1999 OJ C 219 30.07.1999, p. 0006	24/03/1999	EP	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament	T4-0334/1999 OJ C 219 30.07.1999, p. 0370-0446	15/04/1999	EP	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0500	13/10/1999	EC	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0509	13/10/1999	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	31999D0851 OJ L 335 28.12.1999, p. 0008	06/12/1999	EU	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary	A5-0246/2000 OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0007	14/09/2000	EP	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament	T5-0421/2000 OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0071-0138	04/10/2000	EP	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0709	08/11/2000	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2000)0700	08/11/2000	EC	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary	A5-0254/2001	09/07/2001	EP	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament	T5-0430/2001 OJ C 072 21.03.2002, p. 0082-0177 E	05/09/2001	EP	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0700	13/11/2001	EC	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	SEC(2001)1752	13/11/2001	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2001)0659	13/11/2001	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	32002D0091 OJ L 044 14.02.2002, p.	28/01/2002	EU	

	0072-0081			
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0700	09/10/2002	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2002)1408	09/10/2002	EC	

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

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

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

The Committee has adopted the report on the progress made towards accession by Poland. Overall, while the report draws attention to the remaining problems, it welcomes the progress achieved. However, it also stresses that the reforms being made by these countries must be accompanied by measures to alleviate their social consequences. On Poland (rapporteur: Magdalene HOFF, PES, D), the committee welcomes the rapid progress made in the screening of the *acquis communautaire* and considers that the changes which have already come into force should enable Polish law to be brought into line with the *acquis*. Privatisation of large state-owned companies must continue and the Polish farming sector must be completely overhauled, above all to make it more environmentally-friendly. The report highlights Poland's backwardness in environmental legislation on air, water, noise and chemical pollution. It welcomes the government's planned information campaign on EU accession and urges the Polish Parliament to carry on promoting a favourable image of the EU despite the high social costs for many people of modernisation and the accession preparations. Lastly, it calls on the Polish Government to draw up a firm, practical timetable for conducting and completing the negotiations.?

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

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

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 Europe 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 fulfilled 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 assistance 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

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

On the proposal of the Chairman of the Committee for External Relations, Mr. Elmar BROK (EPP, D) and of Mr. Patrick COX (President of the ELDR group), the conference of the presidents of the political groups in the European Parliament decided to have annual debates on enlargement as of the first plenary session of October 2000. This decision was adopted against the view of the Socialist Group, which opposed the setting of a specific calendar laying down from the present the work allocation of the various parliament committees. The decision of the Conference of presidents grants an exclusive competence to the External Relations Committee to take responsibility for the preparation of the 13 reports that will be discussed in October 2000: one report for each of the 12 candidate countries and a general report that cover all the horizontal questions. This composite report will be prepared on the basis of contributions from the other parliamentary committees on: - convergence and stability in the candidate countries; - the rule of law in the candidate countries and their adaptation to the single market; - employment and social aspects; - the environmental aspects of enlargement; - health and consumer protection; - agricultural aspects; -

regional policy; - transport and tourism policy; - equal opportunities and enlargement. The other annual debates would also involve 12 reports drawn up on the basis of the regular reports of the European Commission on the progress of the candidate countries towards enlargement. As the next set of regular reports will be published by the Commission in November 2000, the second annual debate may take place before the end of the first semester of 2001.?

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

The committee adopted the report by Jas GAWRONSKI (EPP-ED, I) on Poland's application for membership of the EU and the state of the negotiations. The committee stressed the importance of Poland becoming an EU member as soon as possible. While it applauded much of Poland's progress towards implementing the "acquis communautaire", it urged the country to speed up the process even more. The report also underlined the need for a radical restructuring of the agricultural sector in a country where agricultural employment was estimated at 27.4% compared with an EU average of 5%, and called for greater investment in rural areas in order to mitigate the social costs of restructuring. The committee pointed out that Poland's borders would become the external frontiers of the EU and that efforts to ensure an efficient customs service needed to be continued and stepped up. Lastly, it urged the Commission and the Polish Government to take action to combat the problems of sex tourism, child prostitution and trafficking in women in the border area between Germany and Poland. ?

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

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. Moreover, 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

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

The committee adopted the report by Jas GAWRONSKI (EPP-ED, I) which took the view that Poland was well on the way to joining the EU, perhaps in time for the 2004 European elections. The committee recognised that Polish farmers were the only ones in communist central Europe who had managed to keep privately-owned agriculture and this had led to structural difficulties such as farm fragmentation and over-employment. The Polish authorities and the Commission were urged to reach a compromise agreement on participation in the common agricultural policy on the basis of Commissioner Fischler's proposals for a "phasing-in" of direct payments that would gradually integrate the sector into the Community system. The report noted that unemployment at an official rate of 16% remained high, although it welcomed the proposals currently being drawn up to amend the labour laws to combat the problem. It said that the macroeconomic situation was generally encouraging and inflation and exports were showing clear signs of improvement. The committee also welcomed the "remarkable efforts" made by the Polish parliament to adapt national legislation to the EU "acquis" as quickly as possible. There was applause as well for the 2001 budget law which included provision for spending increases in sectors which were extremely important for accession, such as agriculture. Finally the committee stressed the importance of the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad and Council was urged to come forward with more concrete measures, especially with regard to movement of goods and people, environmental protection and energy supplies. ?

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

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 to speed up effective and verifiable implementation of the 'acquis' so that it can meet the commitments 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

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 SAPARD, and between EUR 312 and 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 required 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 solid, 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 has 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) Administrative 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 capacities 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 be intensified.?

Poland: membership application and partnership, 8 April 1994

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 published 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.?