

Procedure file

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

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	PSE VOLCIC Demetrio	07/11/2000
	Former committee responsible		
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	PSE MARTELLI Claudio	23/09/1999
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	PSE SPECIALE Roberto	23/06/1997
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets	PPE-DE BÖGE Reimer	24/04/2001
	CONT Budgetary Control	PSE BÖSCH Herbert	29/05/2001
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	PPE-DE OOSTLANDER Arie M.	29/05/2001
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	PSE BERGER Maria	21/03/2001
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	PSE GLANTE Norbert	12/04/2000
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	PSE ETTL Harald	27/03/2001
	RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	PSE GÖRLACH Willi	06/02/2001
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	GUE/NGL MARKOV Helmut	11/04/2001

AFCO Constitutional Affairs

24/01/2001

PPE-DE [RACK Reinhard](#)

FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities

20/03/2001

V/ALE [SÖRENSEN Patsy](#)

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)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		
15/04/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0332/1999	Summary
23/05/2000	Additional information		Summary
14/09/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
14/09/2000	Committee interim report tabled for plenary	A5-0242/2000	
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 142
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/4/10900; AFET/5/13762; AFET/4/09132

Documentation gateway

Supplementary non-legislative basic document		COM(1997)2010	15/07/1997	EC	Summary
Non-legislative basic document		COM(1998)0709	17/12/1998	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		COM(1998)0712	17/12/1998	EC	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary		A4-0151/1999 OJ C 219 30.07.1999, p. 0006	24/03/1999	EP	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament		T4-0332/1999 OJ C 219 30.07.1999, p. 0370-0441	15/04/1999	EP	Summary
Non-legislative basic document		COM(1999)0500	13/10/1999	EC	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		COM(1999)0512	13/10/1999	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		31999D0859 OJ L 335 28.12.1999, p. 0061	06/12/1999	EU	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary		A5-0242/2000 OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0007	14/09/2000	EP	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament		T5-0427/2000 OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0073-0154	04/10/2000	EP	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		COM(2000)0712	08/11/2000	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		COM(2000)0700	08/11/2000	EC	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary		A5-0260/2001	09/07/2001	EP	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament		T5-0436/2001 OJ C 072 21.03.2002, p. 0084-0205 E	05/09/2001	EP	Summary
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2001)0700	13/11/2001	EC	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		SEC(2001)1755	13/11/2001	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		COM(2001)0662	13/11/2001	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		32002D0094 OJ L 044 14.02.2002, p. 0101-0108	28/01/2002	EU	
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2002)0700	09/10/2002	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2002)1411	09/10/2002	EC	

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

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 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

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

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 currently being 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

The Committee has adopted a report on the progress made towards accession by Slovenia. Overall, while the report draw attention to the remaining problems, it welcomes the progress achieved. However, it also stresses that the reforms being made must be accompanied by measures to alleviate social consequences. The rapporteur on Slovenia, Roberto SPECIALE (PES, I), acknowledges the continued commitment of the Slovene authorities to strengthening ties with the EU but deplores the lack of progress on adopting the acquis communautaire in particularly sensitive areas.?

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

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.?

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

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

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) 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-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

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.?

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

The committee adopted the report by Claudio MARTELLI (Non-attached, I) on Slovenia's application for membership of the EU and the state of the negotiations. The committee welcomed the progress that Slovenia had made in many areas such as its economic reform and the transposition of the "acquis communautaire". In particular it noted with approval that Slovenia had agreed to close its duty free shops by the end of the year, thus overcoming a significant obstacle to membership. The report underlined the constructive role that Slovenia had played in the recent conflicts in the region and felt that EU membership for Slovenia could be an important stabilising factor. The report concluded that Slovenia was "one of the best prepared countries for accession". ?

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

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

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

The committee adopted the report by Demetrio VOLCIC (PES, I) expressing a broadly upbeat view of Slovenia's progress towards membership. The committee noted that Slovenia planned to be ready for accession on 1 January 2003 and that it had taken significant political and economic steps to align itself with the "acquis communautaire". Points still to be addressed included the need to inject transparency into the rules governing foreign investment flows and to reach cross-party agreement on the division of Slovenia into regions. ?

Slovenia: membership application and partnership, 10 June 1996

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

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 internal market *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 preparations in 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.?