

Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	1997/0351(CNS)	Procedure completed
CCEEs applicant for membership : assistance in the framework of the pre-accession strategy		
Subject 6.40.02 Relations with central and eastern Europe 8.20.04 Pre-accession and partnership		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy		06/01/1998
		PPE OOSTLANDER Arie M.	
European Parliament	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		19/01/1998
		PPE CHRISTODOULOU Eftymios	
	CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2073	16/03/1998
	General Affairs	2066	26/01/1998
European Commission	Commission DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations	Commissioner	

Key events			
10/12/1997	Legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0634	Summary
12/01/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/01/1998	Debate in Council	2066	
26/02/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
26/02/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0081/1998	
11/03/1998	Debate in Parliament		
11/03/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0131/1998	Summary

16/03/1998	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
16/03/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/03/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/0351(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 050; EC before Amsterdam E 235; Euratom Treaty A 203
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/4/09662

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(1997)0634 OJ C 048 13.02.1998, p. 0018	10/12/1997	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0081/1998 OJ C 104 06.04.1998, p. 0006	26/02/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0131/1998 OJ C 104 06.04.1998, p. 0098-0112	11/03/1998	EP	Summary
Implementing legislative act		32003D0396 OJ L 145 12.06.2003, p. 0001-0020	19/05/2003	EU	
Implementing legislative act		32003D0397 OJ L 145 12.06.2003, p. 0021-0039	19/05/2003	EU	

Additional information	
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act
Regulation 1998/622 OJ L 085 20.03.1998, p. 0001 Summary

CCEEs applicant for membership : assistance in the framework of the pre-accession strategy

OBJECTIVE: to provide a new form of assistance to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in the framework of the pre-accession strategy. **SUBSTANCE:** the Commission proposes providing Community assistance in implementing the pre-accession strategy being undertaken in the context of the partnership with each of the applicant countries. The assistance will concentrate on the priorities stated in the Commission's opinions on the various applicant countries (see COS0590, "AGENDA 2000"). The Community financial assistance will be administered by the Commission and will respect the priorities stated in the above opinions. The Phare programme will be the main source of Community assistance. The Council is to take a qualified-majority decision by 15.03.1998, on the basis of a proposal from the Commission, on the principles, priorities and general conditions of the accession partnerships so that the Commission can take account of its views in connection with the partnerships. The financial assistance will be programmed in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Regulations on the financial instruments or programmes concerned. The same procedures will be adhered to when making any adjustments to the partnerships. The granting of pre-accession aid will be subject to respect for the principles of democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the rights of minorities. The proposal lays down the procedures to be followed in the event of any violation of these principles.?

CCEEs applicant for membership : assistance in the framework of the pre-accession strategy

In its resolution of 4th December 1997 Parliament gave the go-ahead for the EU's enlargement process. With a view to the official opening of this process at the European Conference in London on 12th March 1998, the Commission put forward a proposal for assistance to the applicant countries in central and eastern Europe as part of the pre-accession strategy. The Committee, adopted a report by Arie OOSTLANDER (EPP, NL) making a number of amendments to the Commission proposal. The committee argued that continued progress on the political criteria of the system of accession partnerships was essential for the continuation of the accession process. In addition, obligations with regard to adoption of the *acquis communautaire* and in particular social and environmental issues should be part of the system. In line with Parliament's resolution of 4th December, the committee called for the EP to be consulted before the Council decides on the principles, priorities and general conditions for each accession partnership. The report also emphasised that the Commission should keep Parliament regularly informed of the progress made in implementing each accession partnership. In Mr Oostlander's view, EU aid should be subject to the condition that applicant countries comply with their obligations under the Europe Agreements. Lastly, should the principles of democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights or the protection of minorities be violated, the committee called for Parliament to be consulted before the Council takes the appropriate steps. Such steps could, according to the report, involve financial, economic or budgetary control measures.?

CCEEs applicant for membership : assistance in the framework of the pre-accession strategy

In adopting the report by Mr Arie OOSTLANDER (PPE, NL), Parliament made certain amendments to the Commission proposal on assistance to the applicant countries in central and eastern Europe (CEECs) in the framework of the pre-accession strategy. In particular, Parliament wished other criteria to be respected in connection with accession partnerships: -political criteria, on which continued progress was essential for the continuation of the accession process, -obligations as to the adoption of the *acquis communautaire*, specifically as to its social and environmental aspects, -economic obligations incumbent upon a future Member State. The funds for assistance to each applicant country must be geared to supporting sustainable development. As regards procedure, Parliament asked to be consulted before the Council decided on the principles, priorities and general conditions of each accession partnership. It also wished the Commission to inform Parliament regularly about the implementation of each such partnership. In the event of any violation of democratic principles, the rule of law, human rights, or respect for and protection of minorities, Parliament wished to have the opportunity to deliver its opinion before the Council took the appropriate measures. Parliament specified that these measures could include measures of a financial, economic and budgetary control nature.?

CCEEs applicant for membership : assistance in the framework of the pre-accession strategy

OBJECTIVE: to establish, pursuant to the European Council in Luxembourg, a single framework within which all forms of Community assistance to applicant countries are mobilized, as the key feature of pre-accession strategy. **COMMUNITY MEASURE:** Council Regulation (EC)622/98 on assistance to the applicant states in the framework of the pre-accession strategy, and in particular on the establishment of Accession Partnerships. **SUBSTANCE:** This regulation forms the basic framework for each of the Accession Partnerships of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and is the key feature of the pre-accession strategy. These partnerships, established individually with each applicant, covers the priorities on which preparation for accession must concentrate and the financial resources to implement these priorities (see COS0684). The regulation has no financial impact, as Community assistance is provided for in the specific programmes and regulations (principally PHARE and the Europe agreements). The Council, on a proposal by the Commission, shall decide by qualified majority on the principles, priorities and intermediate objectives of the Accession Partnerships and on subsequent significant adjustments. The grant of pre-accession assistance will be subject to respect for democratic principles, the rule of law, human rights and minority rights. Where an element that is essential for continuing to grant pre-accession assistance is lacking or if the commitments contained in the Europe Agreement or progress towards fulfilment of the Copenhagen criteria are insufficient, the Council, acting by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission, may take appropriate steps with regard to such assistance. **ENTRY INTO FORCE:** 23.03.1998 ?