

Procedure file

Basic information	
CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	1999/0199(CNS) Procedure completed
Cyprus and Malta: pre-accession strategy, implementation of operations Amended by 2001/0097(CNS) Amended by 2003/0306(CNS)	
Subject 8.20.04 Pre-accession and partnership	
Geographical area Malta Cyprus	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	PPE-DE BROK Elmar	11/01/2000
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		07/12/1999
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2246	13/03/2000

Key events			
09/11/1999	Legislative proposal published	COM(1999)0535	Summary
13/12/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
01/02/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
01/02/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0029/2000	
16/02/2000	Debate in Parliament		
17/02/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0058/2000	Summary
13/03/2000	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
13/03/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		

16/03/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		
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Technical information	
Procedure reference	1999/0199(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Amended by 2001/0097(CNS) Amended by 2003/0306(CNS)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 163; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 308
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/5/12297

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(1999)0535 OJ C 056 29.02.2000, p. 0056 E	09/11/1999	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0029/2000 OJ C 339 29.11.2000, p. 0005	01/02/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0058/2000 OJ C 339 29.11.2000, p. 0162-0232	17/02/2000	EP	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2003)0497	11/08/2003	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		SEC(2003)0910	11/08/2003	EC	

Additional information	
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act
Regulation 2000/555 OJ L 068 16.03.2000, p. 0003 Summary

Cyprus and Malta: pre-accession strategy, implementation of operations

PURPOSE : to implement operations in the framework of the pre-accession strategy for Cyprus and Malta for the period 2000-2004.

CONTENT : as for all the other candidate countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commission is forwarding to the Council this proposal for a Regulation on the implementation of operations in the framework of the pre-accession strategy for Cyprus and Malta from the year 2000 (the date on which the last financial protocols expire). The principles of this strategy are the same as those which apply to the Central and Eastern European countries : 1) the establishment of accession partnerships with Cyprus and Malta acting on a proposal from the Commission, with the Council deciding by qualified majority, 2) support for priority operations to prepare for accession partnerships with Cyprus and Malta on the basis of analyses of their economic situations, taking account of the political and economic criteria and the obligations incumbent upon a Member State of the European Union (as defined by the Copenhagen European Council); 3) participation in certain Community programmes and agencies. There are specific objectives which are foreseen for the two islands : technical and financial support for the transposition of the *acquis communautaire* and the reinforcement of the administrative and judicial capacity of these States (training and other services, provision of work) and the financing of the control and evaluation tasks. However, one specific objective is provided for Cyprus, for which it is foreseen to finance operations facilitating the reconciliation of the two Cypriot communities. As in the case of the CEECs, Community funding would cover investment expenses but not the purchase of buildings and other recurring expenses. In any case, the financial contribution of the partners will be sought. The Commission will be responsible for appraising, approving and administering projects according to strict criteria defined in the proposal along the same main lines as for the CEECs (effectiveness and viability of the projects, respect for the environment, etc.,...). The Commission will be assisted in its task by a Committee created by the proposed Regulation.

A decentralised procedure for the administration of assistance is provided for by way of a derogation as a function of the capacity of the partners to manage the assistance and to apply the minimal conditions of launching invitations to tender (an Annex sets out these criteria and minimal conditions). Provision is made to regularly evaluate the actions financed by the Community with a view to establishing whether the objectives are reached. Three years after this Regulation enters into force, the Commission will present an evaluation of all the operations financed by the Community under the Regulation to the European Parliament and the Council, and, if appropriate, proposals on how to follow up the initiatives. This Regulation shall replace the financial protocols for Cyprus and Malta from 2000 for a period of 5 years. It should be noted that the financial statement of the proposal provides for a budget of EUR 15 million for 2000 (allocations for subsequent years will be established every year by the budgetary authority in the framework of the budgetary procedure).?

Cyprus and Malta: pre-accession strategy, implementation of operations

The committee adopted a report (under the consultation procedure) by Elmar BROK (EPP/ED, D) approving the Commission proposals seeking to prepare Cyprus and Malta for EU membership subject to a number of amendments. One of these sought to ensure that Parliament was consulted on the priorities and conditions contained in the individual Accession Partnership for each applicant state in order to increase democratic control over the regulation. The committee also adopted an amendment seeking to substitute an advisory committee to assist the Commission, rather than a more powerful management committee (which would give a greater role to the member states). A further amendment set a financial reference point of EURO 130m for the whole five year period of the pre-accession operations. ?

Cyprus and Malta: pre-accession strategy, implementation of operations

The European Parliament approved the report by Mr. Elmar Brok (EPP/ED, D) on the proposals on the pre-accession strategy for Cyprus and Malta. Among the amendments that were adopted was one stating that the Financial Frame of Reference for the period for the implementation of the regulation (2000-2004) which Council proposes should be EUR 95 million "seems to be inadequate" and should be reviewed. The annual appropriations shall be approved by the relevant budgetary authority within the limits of the Financial Perspective. Other amendments would move the funding covered in this report from Category 4 (external actions) to Category 7 (pre-accession aid) of the Financial Perspective as this would be a financially neutral move. A further amendment would substitute the management committee that is being proposed with a less powerful advisory committee. Finally, the Commission shall submit annually, in good time, the necessary budgetary and financial information to enable the legislature and the budgetary authority to assess and justify the financial intervention of the Community. This is to ensure the smooth attainment of the political aim so that this accession process may prove successful, adequate and transparent.?

Cyprus and Malta: pre-accession strategy, implementation of operations

PURPOSE : to set out the implementation of the pre-accession strategy for Malta and Cyprus. **COMMUNITY MEASURE :** Council Regulation 555/2000/EC on the implementation of operations in the framework of the pre-accession strategy for the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Malta. **CONTENT :** The Regulation states that the Union's pre-accession strategy for Cyprus and Malta shall be based in particular on: -the establishment of Accession Partnerships with Cyprus and Malta. -support for priority operations to prepare for accession, as defined within the accession partnerships with Cyprus and Malta on the basis of analyses of their economic situations, taking account of the Copenhagen criteria. -participation in certain Community programmes and agencies. Acting on a proposal from the Commission the Council shall decide by qualified majority on the principles, priorities, intermediate objectives and conditions contained in the individual Accession Partnerships to be submitted by Cyprus and Malta, as well as on subsequent significant adjustments to them. The financial reference amount for the implementation of the Regulation shall be EUR 95 million for the period expiring on 31 December 2004. The annual appropriations will be authorised by the budgetary authority within the limits of the financial perspective. Cooperation projects and operations will be in the form of grants and may be financed in the following indicative areas: -technical assistance, training or other services, supplies and works, audits and evaluations. -any operations to contribute to the reconciliation of the two Cypriot communities. Community financing may cover investment, with the exception of the purchase of buildings, and recurring costs including administrative, maintenance and operating costs, taking into account that projects must aim to have recurring costs taken over by beneficiaries. If the commitments contained in the Association Agreements are not respected and/or progress towards the fulfilment of the Copenhagen criteria is insufficient, the Council, acting by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission, may take appropriate steps with regard to any pre-accession assistance granted to Cyprus or Malta. The Commission will regularly assess operations financed by the Community to establish whether the objectives have been achieved and to provide guidelines for improving the effectiveness of future operations. Assessment reports shall be sent to any Member States requesting them and to the European Parliament. The Commission will submit to Parliament and Council an annual overall assessment of operations financed by the Community under this Regulation, together with suggestions regarding the future of this Regulation and, where necessary, proposals for amendment. **ENTRY INTO FORCE :** 19.03.2000.?