

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2003/2014(INI)	Procedure completed
Outcome of Copenhagen 2004 enlargement negotiations		
Subject 8.20.02 Enlargement 2004: new Member States		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	PPE-DE BROK Elmar	21/01/2003
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets	PPE-DE BÖGE Reimer	19/02/2003
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	PPE-DE HERNÁNDEZ MOLLAR Jorge Salvador	18/02/2003
	JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	PPE-DE SCHAFFNER Anne-Marie	03/12/2002
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	PPE-DE RACK Reinhard	24/01/2001	

Key events			
30/01/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/03/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
19/03/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0081/2003	
09/04/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0168/2003	Summary
09/04/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
12/03/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2014(INI)

Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP P.F.; Rules of Procedure EP 089o
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/5/19150

Documentation gateway

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A5-0081/2003	19/03/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T5-0168/2003 OJ C 064 12.03.2004, p. 0279-0357 E	09/04/2003	EP	Summary

Outcome of Copenhagen 2004 enlargement negotiations

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by its chairman, Elmar BROK (EPP-ED, D) on the outcome of the Copenhagen enlargement negotiations. It welcomed the arrival of ten new Member States "as an important step in building an even stronger and more effective European Union (·) consolidating democracy and peace, strengthening its economy and sustainable development (·) based upon the shared values of liberty, respect for fundamental rights, good governance and the rule of law". MEPs also believed that the new Member States would have a positive impact on the development and cohesion of the EU. The committee welcomed the statement made at the Copenhagen European Council that the EU should aim to admit Bulgaria and Romania by 2007 provided these countries continued with modernisation and reform and complied with the Copenhagen criteria. On Turkey, the committee welcomed the Copenhagen decision to offer further assistance and to decide in autumn 2004 whether accession negotiations could be opened. Turkey was reminded, however, that the political criteria were a precondition for EU membership and also that it would have to make progress on the adoption of the 'acquis communautaire'. Regarding Cyprus, MEPs said they expected agreement to be reached on unification. The committee also said that the enlargement process "offers the prospect of membership to all European countries which fulfil the political criteria". It confirmed that the countries of the Western Balkans were potential candidates and called for closer cooperation with them. It particularly welcomed the application for membership by Croatia and hoped this country would take concrete steps to comply with the Copenhagen criteria. The committee also called on the Croatian authorities to cooperate fully with the Hague tribunal. Turning to world affairs, MEPs insisted that an enlarged EU should speak with a common voice on the international stage. The EU's new geo-political position as a result of the accession of ten new countries should not weaken its internal cohesion. The current and future Member States should therefore even now cooperate actively in formulating a common foreign and security policy. At the same time, MEPs said the EU now had "special responsibilities..... to strengthen transatlantic ties, and relations between the EU and NATO in particular", so as not to disappoint the legitimate expectations of the peoples of the new Member States. Going into more detail, MEPs recognised that progress had been made on the protection of human and minority rights, but they pointed out that in many candidate countries abuse and discrimination persisted. The committee welcomed the reports by the countries concerned as to how they were addressing the problems of the Roma minority and their full social integration but it stressed it would pay special attention to this issue under the monitoring procedure. In an implicit reference to problems which had arisen over the Czech "Benes decrees", MEPs said they assumed that after enlargement all citizens of the EU would have the same rights under the Treaty in all countries and not be subject to any discrimination through laws, judicial decisions or administrative measures. They added that the judicial capacity in the new countries needed to be further increased so that individual citizens, companies and associations could benefit from the legal framework of the EU. It was essential that judicial independence be maintained, and the report called on the candidate countries to "strive to achieve a high level of transparency, a politically neutral civil service and fully independent media". Lastly, referring to the Council's inclusion of budgetary figures for the 10 new countries in the draft Accession Treaty (see also factsheet INI032050), the committee issued a reminder to the Council to respect the budgetary provisions under the Treaty and the 1999 Interinstitutional Agreement, which stipulate that "where the Union is enlarged to include new Member States..... the European Parliament and the Council..... will jointly adjust the financial perspective to take account of the expenditure requirements resulting from this enlargement". It warned that any unilateral establishment by Council of the ceilings of the EU budgets for 2004 to 2006 would contradict the provisions of the Treaty.?

Outcome of Copenhagen 2004 enlargement negotiations

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Elmar BROK (EPP-ED, Germany) welcoming the historical decision of the European Council of Copenhagen to close accession negotiations with the ten candidate countries. These countries will become Members of the EU on 1 May 2004, provided that the ratification procedures are complete. Parliament pointed to the Council's unilateral establishment of the EU budget ceilings for 2004-2006 and stated that Parliament would do its utmost to ensure that its powers are fully respected and the new Member States are treated in the same way as the current Member States. (Please see INI/2003/2050). The Council breached the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999. Parliament regretted the irresponsibility of the Council in committing this unlawful act in view of the historic significance of enlargement. Moving on, the European Parliament insisted that an enlarged Union should speak with a common voice in world politics and should add to the weight of the EU to the international scene, as the only way to assure influence for the citizens of Europe. Mechanisms must be strengthened that will gradually lead to the establishment of a common European diplomatic service within the Commission, including staff and officials from the institutions of the Union and its Member States, so as to develop a common strategic and administrative culture within the framework of the Union's external relations. The accession of ten new countries will influence the geo-political position of the Union, but it must not weaken its internal cohesion or the interest of the Union as a whole. Parliament called for active cooperation to formulate and implement a common foreign and security policy. On more domestic matters, Parliament cautioned all EU Member States that additional efforts are needed to ensure that the whole of society in each acceding country will

be able to reap the benefits of the different dimensions of EU membership. Future Member States must deal with the regional disparities in income and strengthen the social dialogue. Parliament went on to remind new Member States that they will also need to make progress in building up administrative capacity, strengthening civil society, increasing judicial capacity and the proper implementation and enforcement of case law. Parliament stressed the importance of combating fraud and corruption in all candidate countries and of implementing EU anti-discrimination acquis. It recognised that certain progress has been made with regard to the protection of human and minority rights, including linguistic rights. It felt, however, that in many candidate countries situations of abuse and discrimination persist due to shortcomings in the judicial and law enforcement systems. Particular efforts need to be made to end human rights abuses of disabled persons living in institutions in candidate countries. Parliament also urged all candidate countries concerned to cooperate with the representatives of the Roma minorities. Parliament stated that it rejected attempts by candidate countries' governments to weaken European values in relation to the equality of women and men and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, in particular the prohibition of discrimination, by inserting morality clauses in the Annex to the Accession Treaty. It also felt that the "safeguard clauses" should be understood as instruments designed to limit the possible risk of disruption of the internal market and not as a sign of mistrust in relation to future members. The European Parliament must be fully associated in the procedure for the application of the "safeguard clauses", which should be applied following a qualified majority decision in the Council and the assent of Parliament. Moving on to current and future candidates Parliament regretted the failure of the UN-led talks in Cyprus which almost brought an end to the division of the island and urges the UN Secretary-General to maintain the momentum. It welcomed the Presidency Conclusions of the European Council of Copenhagen establishing that the EU should aim to admit Bulgaria and Romania by the year 2007 provided they comply with the Copenhagen criteria. Whilst Parliament welcomed the decision of the European Council of Copenhagen to offer further assistance to Turkey, so that in 2004, it can be judged whether conditions for opening negotiations have been achieved, Turkey is reminded that the political criteria are the sine qua non for membership. Finally, Parliament welcomed the application for EU membership put forward by Croatia, and hoped that Croatia will take concrete steps in order to comply with the Copenhagen criteria. It called on the Croatian authorities to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague.?