


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1994/2205(INI)	Procedure completed
Malta's application for membership		
Subject 8.20.02 Enlargement 2004: new Member States		
Geographical area Malta		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy		20/12/1994
		PSE MALONE Bernie	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	RELA External Economic Relations		

Key events			
12/12/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/06/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
21/06/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0159/1995	
11/07/1995	Debate in Parliament		Summary
12/07/1995	Decision by Parliament	T4-0343/1995	Summary
12/07/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
25/09/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1994/2205(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A4-0159/1995 OJ C 249 25.09.1995, p. 0004	21/06/1995	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T4-0343/1995 OJ C 249 25.09.1995, p. 0031-0076	12/07/1995	EP	Summary

Malta's application for membership

The report by Mrs Bernie MALONE (PSE, IRL) stressed the geopolitical and strategic importance of the island, the geographical position of which was such that it had been coveted by every power in history with ambitions to dominate the seas in the region. The Committee on Foreign Affairs acknowledged that the Maltese government was committed to a series of reforms which would allow negotiations on the accession of Malta to the European Union to commence and found that Malta offered every guarantee that human rights and freedoms would be respected. The Malone report starts by welcoming the progress made between Malta and the Commission during the stage preceding accession negotiations, which should constitute the unquestionable basis for a pre-accession strategy prior to negotiations proper. This approach implies a structured dialogue between Malta and the Union. Hence the call on the Commission to help ensure that this dialogue commences during the year and before the Euro-Mediterranean conference scheduled for November 1995. On the subject of the legal and economic obstacles raised by the European Commission, the report considers that they can be easily surmounted, given the real political will on both sides. As for the new financial protocol, which is really a de facto pre-accession protocol, it should be applied without delay. As with Cyprus, the committee called for Malta to be given observer status with the right to speak at the 1996 intergovernmental conference.?

Malta's application for membership

Mrs MALONE(PSE, IRL) emphasised the advantages of Malta's accession: it would enhance the Union's strategy on the South and it did not present any economic obstacles. The Maltese Government was prepared to accept the provisions of the Treaty on European Union; it should therefore be kept informed of the progress of the IGC so that the negotiations could begin, as envisaged, six months after the end of the Conference. Mr MAMERE (Greens, F), speaking as Chairman of the EU-Malta Joint Parliamentary Committee, felt that Malta was ready for accession but the Union was not. Politically speaking, the question of the island's neutral status had yet to be settled. Malta, like Cyprus, should also participate in the IGC as an observer. Mr VAN DEN BROEK shared the EP's desire to revitalise relations between the Union and Malta. One of the most important elements in the report was participation by Cyprus and Malta in the IGC. In his view, all of the associated countries should be kept informed of the progress of European integration. In July, an IGC reflection group would meet with the representatives of all of the associated countries.

Malta's application for membership

Adopting the report by Mrs MALONE (PSE, IRL), the European Parliament stressed the geo-political and strategic importance of the island and the advantages of enlarging the Union to include more of the Mediterranean region and called on the Council and the Member States to commit themselves resolutely and unreservedly to ensuring that Malta joined the Union quickly. It welcomed the progress made during the stage preceding accession negotiations, which had consolidated relations between Malta and the European Union and constituted the unquestionable basis for pre-accession prior to negotiations proper. According to the European Parliament, the legal and economic obstacles raised by the Commission in its opinion could be easily surmounted given the political will of the parties to find a solution. It therefore considered that accession negotiations could commence in the near future and supported the Council decision to start negotiations six months after the close of the IGC. However, Parliament reiterated once again that enlargement needed to be accompanied by institutional changes at Community level. At the same time, Parliament pointed out that the new financial protocol, which was tantamount to a pre-accession protocol, should enter into force immediately in order to support Malta in its integration efforts. It considered that Malta's economic situation would not hamper its accession but that Malta should endeavour to subscribe to the spirit of the TEU, including on common foreign and security policy. Parliament called on the Member States to give Malta observer status with the right to speak at the 1996 IGC. Finally, it stated that the Euro-Mediterranean conference should clearly highlight the status of Malta as a candidate country.?