

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(79) 22 final.

Brussels, 5 February 1979.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE ACCESSION OF GREECE

Communication from the Commission to the Council

concerning

THE PREPARATION OF GREEK-LANGUAGE VERSIONS OF
COMMUNITY LEGAL ACTS

COM(79) 22 final.

1. The accession of Greece to the Communities entails the preparation of an authentic Greek version of Community primary legislation (the original Treaties establishing the EEC and the EAEC¹, the subsequent Treaties amending or supplementing them, the Treaty and Act concerning the accession of the three new Member States, and other decisions in the nature of agreements between Member States) and of all the acts of Community secondary legislation (acts adopted by the institutions of the Communities) that will be in force at the time of accession.

The Greek-language texts of primary legislation (Treaties, etc.) should be drawn up so that they can be annexed to the instruments of accession and authenticated by the Negotiating Conference when the instruments are signed². The Greek version of the acts of Community secondary legislation should be drawn up for publication (in a special edition of the Official Journal of the European Communities) at the latest on the day on which accession takes place, after authentication by the institution responsible for each act with the agreement of the Greek Delegation.

It is obviously essential for the Community to ensure that the Greek texts of Community legislation are in complete conformity - not only from the linguistic point of view but especially as regards their legal effect - with the versions in the other languages, since they will be authentic under the same conditions as these other versions and to a large extent directly applicable in Greece.

2. At the time of the previous enlargement of the Community, the Conference formally instructed the Commission to draw up the texts of Community legislation in the Danish, English, Irish and Norwegian languages in conjunction with each of the applicant States. The Commission submitted the texts drawn up in this way to the Conference, which authenticated them after they had been checked by Council working parties of legal/linguistic experts.

¹In the case of the Treaty establishing the ECSC, only the French text is authentic; the versions in the other languages are translations.

²See Article 160 of the 1972 Act of Accession.

On the basis of this precedent and because of the technical nature of the task, the Commission should be given similar instructions, in the context of the negotiations for the accession of Greece, to draw up the texts of Community legislation in the Greek language.

It would seem necessary for this purpose to ask the Negotiating Conference to give the Commission formal instructions to undertake the relevant liaison work with the Greek Delegation, as was done at the time of the previous enlargement of the Communities.