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# Enlargement

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## Enlargement Weekly

7 January 2002

Welcome to Enlargement Weekly. This weekly bulletin provides an overview of where European Union enlargement has got to, who's doing what in the EU, in the institutions and candidate countries, and how the main challenges are being met.

### Articles this week

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#### OUT WITH THE OLD ... BELGIAN PRESIDENCY WRAPS UP MORE CHAPTERS

The outgoing Belgian Presidency organised a last-minute negotiating session with most of the candidate countries at the end of 2001, which allowed the closure of another half-dozen outstanding chapters, and helped clear the way ahead for concentrating in early 2002 on the key chapters still to be discussed with the candidates.


The special session – the fourth round of negotiations during the Belgian Presidency – was held in Brussels on December 21, at only a few hours notice. One of the developments that made the session possible was that Austria lifted its objections to holding talks on transport after it had won reassurances from the other member states that it would be able to maintain some controls on transit traffic of heavy goods vehicles.

As a result, the transport chapter was closed with four candidates from Central and Eastern Europe (until now, only Cyprus and Malta had closed transport). Financial control was closer with two countries – Slovakia and Lithuania. Bulgaria closed industrial policy. Malta closed free movement of capital. And free movement of persons was at last closed with Poland - leaving it open now only with Estonia, Bulgaria and Romania.

In the transport chapter, Hungary, Latvia and Lithuania accepted the EU request for transitional provisions that will provide up to five years protection for the current EU member states from competition on some forms of road transport cabotage. What this implies is that (say) Hungarian lorry driver cannot pick up a load in Berlin and transport it to Bonn. In return the candidates obtained the right to apply reciprocal restrictions to member states - and some also won EU agreement to transitional provisions they were seeking to give them more time to adapt to EU rules. But Slovenia closed transport without having to accept any EU transitional provisions and without seeking any for itself - and it now has 26 chapters closed.

Slovakia and the Czech Republic declined the EU offer, seeking further clarifications or time to reflect. "We're missing a number of points", the Czech negotiator, Pavel Telicka, said. "We cannot accept the Belgian Presidency's reasoning that it would be good to close the chapter simply because it would mean meeting the schedule of the roadmap", he insisted. "I don't care whether we have 24 or 25 chapters closed at this point", he added, stressing that he was more concerned about the quality of the agreements reached - "particularly at this crucial phase of negotiations". And Estonia, in the throes of a domestic political crisis, declined the offer to attend this negotiating session to discuss transport.

On the issue of free movement of persons, Poland accepted the EU's request for a transitional period of up to seven years from accession before Poles can seek salaried employment in the current member states. But it was agreed that an EU declaration would be attached to the Accession Treaty, which "stresses the strong elements of differentiation and flexibility in the arrangement for the free movement of workers", and in which member states say they will "endeavour to grant increased labour market access to Polish nationals under national law". In consequence, it says, "the employment opportunities for Polish nationals should improve substantially upon Poland's accession". In addition, the member states "will make best use of the proposed arrangement to move as quickly as possible to the full application of the acquisition in the area of free movement of workers".




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Poland has now closed 20 chapters. Its negotiator, Jan Truszczyński, said he was no disappointed that more chapters had not been closed at this session. Poland had only days before delivered its own revised positions on transport and on free movement of capital. On the latter, the new Polish position still demands a general 12-year ban on non-Poles freely acquiring agricultural land and forestry (against the EU's offer of seven years), and a five-year ban on acquiring secondary residences. But Poland has dropped its earlier call for a five-year ban on acquiring land for investment. And it has eased its approach to allowing access to self-employed farmers: they can buy land if they have leased it since the time of accession - for half of Poland's 16 provinces, for a period of three years, and for the other, more sensitive half, for seven years. Poland is also offering some additional flexibility on secondary residences for EU citizens residing in Poland and for providers of tourism services.

### ...AND IN WITH THE NEW - SPANISH PRESIDENCY PLANS ON ENLARGEMENT

"Spain is looking forward to taking on the responsibility of guiding the Union's destiny at this crucial moment, with the entry into circulation of the new European currency coinciding with a decisive phase in the enlargement negotiations with the candidate countries, and when we need to press ahead with the European project in order to tackle the threat of terrorism." This is how Spanish Prime Minister José-Maria Aznar sees the challenge of the Spanish Presidency that began on January 1<sup>st</sup> and runs until the end of June.

The Spanish programme for its Presidency gives "resolute and unreserved backing" to the enlargement process, which it describes as "both an historic challenge and a priority joint political undertaking". It speaks of "the unanimous stance of Spain's political establishment"

and says it is "firmly supported by public opinion". It cites the 58% support revealed by the spring Eurobarometer as "much more positive than in most other EU Member states".

It adds, "Spain's positive stance on enlargement is also based on objective interest". Bringing the candidate countries into the European Union "will stimulate full development of economic trading and cultural relations, which for historical reasons have until now been limited", it says "In future, we will, as partners, share many points of view with these countries and will be able to act jointly to the mutual benefit of all concerned".

Spain says it is fully behind the "road map" for the accession negotiations, and supports the principle of differentiation "and the possibility for each candidate to 'catch up' in terms of its actual state of readiness." It agrees that "the formal setting of target dates constitutes a valuable political signal, and has given firm support to the clarification of the timeframe for enlargement agreed in Gothenburg. The aim is to be able to conclude the negotiations with the best-prepared candidates during 2002".

On the major challenge of opening negotiations during the first half of 2002 on agriculture regional policy and budgets, Spain says it "is prepared to do all it can to achieve common positions, (...) always respecting the present framework and the current financial perspective". It commits itself to "endeavour to move forward, depending on how advanced the respective positions are, with those chapters whose budgetary implications are bound to make them particularly complex and sensitive". In this way, it says, "We will avoid rushed negotiations under pressure of time and the unwanted delays or false closures that might cause."

**COMMISSION DETERMINATION ON ENLARGEMENT**







The European Commission has welcomed the Spanish attachment to the priority of enlargement. But it also acknowledges that it will be a challenging half-year. The Commission remarks that the enlargement "road-map (the schedule for negotiations) imposes a heavy and tight timetable for agreeing EU common positions and for negotiations". It says the first half of 2002 will be "a crucial period" in meeting the EU objective that candidate countries sufficiently prepared should be able to join in time to take part in the European Parliament elections in 2004.

The Commission says that early this year it will present a common framework for the key chapters with a significant financial component: the agriculture questions still outstanding regional policy and structural instruments, and financial and budgetary provisions. With the focus during the Presidency on agreeing common positions and opening negotiations on the three chapters, the Commission says it aims to help the development of common positions that respect the already-agreed financial perspectives for 2000-2006. Anticipating the complications that will arise in the light of upcoming French and German elections during the year, the Commission says: "The negotiation of this package of provisions will be all the more difficult since they represent some 80% of the EU budget and since the EU's political situation will be marked by elections in certain member states".

In parallel, "two important subjects will receive particular attention", the Commission says: the specific framework for continuing negotiations with Romania and Bulgaria - which will need a schedule and a modified "road-map", and the report the Commission will present to the Seville Council in June on its action plan for reinforcing administrative capacity. The Spanish Presidency "will also have to start the work on drafting accession treaties", it says. The Commission also observes that the Barcelona summit on March 16 will be the first European Council to include a specific working meeting with the candidate countries on how to involve them more closely in European economic and social reform.

**THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS at the beginning of 2002**

Chapter	CR	EE	HU	PL	SL	CY	RO	SK	LT	LV	BU	MT
1. Free movement of goods	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	O	X

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2. Free movement for persons	X	O	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	O	X
3. Freedom to provide services	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X
4. Free movement of capital	X	X	X	O	X	X	O	X	X	X	X	X
5. Company law	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
6. Competition policy	O	X	O	O	X	O	O	O	X	X	O	O
7. Agriculture	O	O	O	O	O	O	-	O	O	O	-	O
8. Fisheries	X	X	X	O	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	O
9. Transport policy	O	O	X	O	X	X	O	O	X	X	O	X
10. Taxation	X	O	X	O	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
11. Economic & monetary union	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	-	X
12. Statistics	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
13. Social	X	X	X	X	X	X	O	X	X	X	O	X
14. Energy	X	O	X	X	X	X	-	X	O	X	O	X
15. Industrial policy	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X
16. Small & medium-sized undertakings	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
17. Science and research	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
18. Education & training	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
19. Telecomm & IT	X	X	X	X	X	X	O	X	X	O	X	X
20. Culture & audio-visual policy	X	X	O	X	X	X	O	X	X	X	X	X
21. Regional policy & co-ordination of structural instruments	O	O	O	O	O	O	-	O	O	O	O	O
22. Environment	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	O	O
23. Consumers and health protection	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
24. Cooperation in justice & home affairs	X	O	X	O	X	X	-	O	O	O	O	O
25. Customs union	X	O	X	X	X	X	O	X	X	X	O	O
26. External relations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
27. Common foreign and security policy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
28. Financial control	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	O	X
29. Financial and budgetary provisions	O	O	O	O	O	O	-	O	O	O	O	O
30. Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31. Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Yet to be opened (-),</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Still in discussion (O)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Closed (X)</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>

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While the results of the last round of negotiations at the level of deputies need to be confirmed at the next Ministerial Conference in June, the above table gives the following global state of play as we begin the New Year:

- Of the total 372 chapters (12 countries, 31 chapters each), only 38 are yet to be opened for negotiation. Of these 38, the majority (24) consists of the 2 chapters, numbers 30 ("Institutions") and 31 ("Other"), that are yet to be opened with any candidate.
- Nearly 90 % of the total chapters, i.e. 334 chapters have been opened for negotiations with the candidate countries, of which 85 remain in discussion. The remaining 249 or 67% of the total have now been provisionally closed.

**LANGUAGES IN AN ENLARGED EUROPE**

The Commission took another step at the end of December towards preparing for enlargement, when it adopted two consultative documents and an action plan on the way languages will be used in the enlarged Europe. The dual aims the Commission has in mind are to safeguard multi-lingualism, and to keep the costs under control even when up to ten new languages start to be used as of 2004.


Better planning and co-ordination among services, permanent dialogue between the language services and their clients, better use of support staff, new technologies and external resources and the reduction of translation work on draft documents are the main elements in what the Commission is recommending. Commission President Romano Prodi said: "The ability for EU citizens to interact with the European institutions in a language of their own country is a fundamental prerequisite of a democratic Europe. The Commission aims to ensure that it is ready to take on the added translation and interpretation work which enlargement will bring with it".

The introduction with the next enlargement of many new languages will make it necessary to simplify some of the Commission's working methods with an impact on use of languages. Examples include some translators moving on from translating solely into their mother tongue to translating into the "relay languages" of English, French and German; focusing on the real needs of the delegates in interpretation of meetings, to allow for optimal use of limited human resources (for example asymmetrical interpretation where many languages are interpreted into only a few); an increase in use of external translators to work on documents not considered related to core activities; or rationalisation and harmonisation of decision-making procedure: (so that the Commission's internal current practice of examining documents on the basis of three language versions - the so-called "oral procedure" - or more whenever it is legally compulsory will be extended to the "written" decision procedure used for documents of a more technical nature, although all documents of a general legislative or regulatory nature will continue to be translated into all official languages before being sent to the other institutions).

With such measures in place, it is estimated that some 110 extra staff (both internal and external) will be needed for each new language in the field of translation, instead of 165 were no efficiency measures to be taken. In the field of interpretation, the analysis concludes that there is a need for 40 new interpreters per language, of which 20 should be permanent officials, plus 40 administrative staff for the interpretation service as a whole to provide organisational back-up.

The cost of operating in the 11 current official languages, taking all the EU institutions together, approached € 800 million in 1999.

## Enlargement news in brief

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### Latvia and France agreement on administrative capacity

Latvian minister for public administration reform Janis Kruminis and French public administration and reform minister Michel Sapin agreed on further co-operation in areas related to Latvia's European integration efforts, at a meeting in Riga in late December. Latvia and France have been co-operating on culture, education, science and technology since 1997 but they will now also focus on training of high-ranking Latvian officials on European Union issues. France says it is ready to assist Latvia in strengthening its state administration abilities via bilateral co-operation and also by co-operating on international projects.

### Prodi links enlargement and the future of Europe

Speaking to the European Parliament on December 17 on the outcome of the Laeken summit – with its agreement on a Convention for discussing the future of Europe, European Commission President Romano Prodi said: "The enlargement of the European Union is an irreversible process, and a process that is well advanced. We should not forget that it is a major motivation for the Convention. Without institutional change, the enlarged Union will simply grind to a halt. Without open discussion, we risk losing the support of our citizens, and the citizens of the candidate countries, in this endeavour. We should not underestimate the significance of the candidate countries being involved for the first time in an institutional process that has constitutional implications. It is their future, as much as the future of the existing fifteen member states, that is being decided here".

### Malta agreements with the EU on fish and framework programmes

On December 19, Malta and the EU signed agreements that will ease the entry of Maltese fish into the European market, and ease Malta's entry into EU programmes. One of the agreements is an additional protocol to the EU-Malta Association Agreement, under which the EU will remove its tariff on aquaculture fish over a period of two years, and its tariff on wild fish over a three-year period, from the beginning of 2002. The other is a framework agreement establishing general principles for Malta's participation in EU programmes on culture, industry environment, customs, health, social policy and energy (Malta already takes part in EU programmes in the education sector - Socrates, Leonardo, Youth For Europe and the Fifth Framework Programme for Science and Research). Both agreements are intended to assist Malta in its preparations for EU membership. Malta says they constitute "an essential part of Malta's accession process".

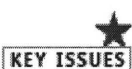
### Belgian recipe for a prosperous enlargement

Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt told the European Parliament on December 17 that the European Union has a homegrown "recipe for prosperity" that has successively been applied to Greece, Spain, Ireland and Portugal. "When combined with each other, free trade international co-operation and reciprocal financial support appear to create powerful impetus towards added prosperity", he said. "The grumbling and fears about the enlargement of the Union become highly relative in such a context. If we soon, say seven years from now, get the Romanians and Bulgarians into this Parliament, with their average income that is something like a seventh of what a German or Dutchman earns, will we not have undertaken the biggest social project of our generation? We will then be busily stabilising countries that might otherwise fall prey to a dictatorship or a society geared solely to generating profits, a situation that we have seen in Serbia and Albania.

"Everything is interlinked. If we can shortly make the accession of 10 new member states just as successful as the previous enlargement to incorporate southern Europe, then we will have established a model and method with which we can also bridge the North-South divide, the biggest conflict of our time."

## Agenda

Date	Event
<b>January</b>	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Start of Spanish Presidency of the EU: during the first half of the year, work will take place on the drafting of the accession treaty and on the remaining chapters of the accession negotiations, in accordance with the "road-map".  At the beginning of 2002 the Commission will propose common positions on the agriculture, regional policy and budgetary chapters.
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	European Parliament committee on employment and social affairs discusses the draft report from André Brie on the impact of enlargement on regions bordering candidate countries; Brussels
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	European Parliament committee on industry, external trade, research and energy discusses the EU-Hungary agreement on competition rules;



	Brussels
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Henrik Hololei, minister of economic affairs, speaks on Estonia, enlargement and economic development; CEPS, Brussels
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	CEPS working party on the Common Agricultural Policy in the 21st Century: Doha, mid-term review and enlargement, Brussels
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	General Affairs Council, Brussels
<b>February</b>	
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Informal foreign affairs ministers meeting, Caceres
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	CEPS working party on the Common Agricultural Policy in the 21st Century: Doha, mid-term review and enlargement, Brussels
<b>March</b>	
Details tbc	Negotiating session at the level of deputies (EU ambassadors and candidates' negotiators), Brussels.
Friday, Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup>	Barcelona European Council – including a special working meeting on economic and social integration for the candidate countries
<b>May</b>	
Details tbc	Second negotiating session at the level of deputies (EU ambassadors and candidates' negotiators), Brussels.
<b>June</b>	
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Ministerial negotiating session with foreign ministers of the EU and of the candidate countries, Brussels.
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> , Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Seville European Council: European Commission report on the implementation of the plan of action for strengthening the candidates' institutions.
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Informal meeting of education ministers from the EU and the candidate countries, Bratislava
<b>July</b>	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Start of Danish Presidency of the EU: the aim is to close negotiations before the end of the year with those countries that are ready. The Laeken summit noted that, if progress is maintained in the negotiations and in the reforms, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Slovenia could be ready.
<b>October</b>	
24 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup>	Brussels European Council: enlargement will be on the agenda and the Commission's regular reports



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	on the candidate countries may be available.
<b>December</b>	
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> , Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Copenhagen European Council - enlargement may be on the agenda again, taking account of the aim of concluding accession negotiations by the end of the year.

## Archives

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