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Enlargement Weekly

25 June 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. [[Previous issues](#)]

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SUMMIT BACKS ENLARGEMENT FOR 2004

The European Council of Seville has reaffirmed the EU's commitment to the timetable for enlargement. Despite delays in finalising the full EU common position on the agricultural chapter, EU leaders said they were determined to do everything to conclude negotiations by the end of this year so that the first new members could join by 2004. "The European Council reaffirms that, if the present rate of progress in negotiations and reforms is maintained, the European Union is determined to conclude the negotiations with Cyprus, Malta, Hungary, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, the Czech Republic and Slovenia by the end of 2002, if those countries are ready", they agreed.

The President of the European Council, José-Maria Aznar, said at the close of the summit


"The objective of completing negotiations by the end of 2002 is attainable, for up to ten new members to take part in the European Parliament elections in 2004". European Commission President Romano Prodi said there was "no change to the timetable". And President of the Council of Ministers Josep Piqué said "All the conditions are now in place for keeping to the timetable, with the candidates formalising their accession at the beginning of March next year and being able to take part in the European elections in late spring 2004".

The formal conclusions from the summit state that "Decisive progress has been made in the accession negotiations during the first six months of the year. The negotiations are now entering their final phase". For the chapters on agriculture, regional policy and coordination of structural instruments, and financial and budgetary provisions and institutions, "financial and other questions which were not dealt with when common positions were finalised ... will need to be settled as soon as possible".

On timing, the summit conclusions say that to enable the autumn European Council to decide the candidate countries with which negotiations can be concluded at the end of 2002, "the Council will have to take the appropriate decisions in order to communicate all the items lacking in the financial package to the candidate countries in early November, and the Commission will have to draft appropriate recommendations in the light of the regular report (...). It would seem reasonable to expect that the Treaty of Accession could be signed in spring 2003".

Meanwhile, "it is important that the candidate countries should continue to make progress with the implementation and effective application of the *acquis communautaire*", say the conclusions. "The candidate countries must take all necessary measures to bring the administrative and judicial capacity up to the required level" - particularly in justice and home affairs and veterinary and plant health requirements. And the Council warned that the "common aim" of new members being admitted in 2004 "can be realised within the time frame envisaged only if each candidate country adopts a realistic and constructive approach."

Bulgaria and Romania were congratulated for "considerable progress over the last few months", and were encouraged to pursue their efforts. An updated road map and a revised and enhanced pre-accession strategy should be adopted in Copenhagen "for the candidate countries still engaged in negotiations", and additional financial help from the EU "could also be contemplated". The prospect was even held out that "if the current pace is maintained, a more precise timetable could be set for these countries' accession process by the end of the year".


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On Cyprus, "the European Union's preference continues to be for the accession of a reunited island", and it "calls upon the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities to intensify and expedite their talks in order to seize this unique window of opportunity for a comprehensive settlement (...), hopefully before conclusion of the negotiations". The European Union would then accommodate the terms of such a comprehensive settlement to the Treaty of Accession in line with the principles on which the European Union is founded: as a Member State, Cyprus will need to speak with a single voice and ensure proper application of European Union law. The EU would make also "a substantial financial contribution in support of the development of the northern part of a reunited island".

The Council also welcomed the reforms recently adopted in Turkey, stressing that the Copenhagen criteria apply to it as to other candidates: "The implementation of the required political and economic reforms will bring forward Turkey's prospects of accession in accordance with the same principles and criteria as are applied to the other candidate countries". New decisions could be taken in Copenhagen on the next stage of Turkey's candidature, it promised, in the light of developments in the situation between the Seville and Copenhagen European Councils, on the basis of the regular report to be submitted by the Commission in October 2002 and in accordance with the Helsinki and Laeken conclusions.

Ireland announced at the summit that it intended to organise a referendum in autumn 2002, to enable Ireland to ratify the Treaty of Nice. The Council welcomed the Irish government

determination to have the Treaty of Nice approved, "this being a condition for enlargement to take place within the scheduled timescale."

On Kaliningrad, the Council invited the Commission to submit, in time for the Brussels summit in the autumn, "an additional study on the possibilities for an effective and flexible solution to the question of the transit of persons and goods to and from" Kaliningrad, in compliance with the acquis and in agreement with Lithuania and Poland.

AN AGRICULTURE CHAPTER STILL WITHOUT DIRECT PAYMENTS

The European Union reached an agreement on a compromise text on the issue of agriculture when foreign affairs ministers met at the General Affairs Council in Luxembourg on June 1. This was the last of the negotiation chapters on which EU agreement had still been lacking, the Spanish Presidency said, indicating that this breakthrough signalled that it had kept to the timetable for the negotiations.

But, it admitted, there had still been no substantive agreement on the question of direct payments to farmers in the new member states - the issue that had held up agreement on the chapter, because of divergent views among the EU member states. This issue has been deferred until later, and instead the Council agreed what the Presidency termed "a framework for handling the issue of direct payments", which "will be incorporated in the EU common positions on agriculture".

The wording agreed by ministers notes that the EU's financial perspectives for 2000-2006, as agreed at the Berlin summit in 1999, did not cover direct payments in agriculture to the new member states. But, the text goes on, direct support schemes for farmers "are part of the acquis", and since the acquis must be applied to all member states (albeit with transition provisions still to be finalised with the candidates in the Treaty of Accession), "a decision on the issue of direct payments must still be taken in order to complete the common position on agriculture."

The timeframe for making the decision is defined as follows: "In accordance with the timeframe agreed in Göteborg and Laeken, this decision will be taken in due time to comply with the steps and timetable to be agreed in the Seville European Council in relation with the final phase of the enlargement negotiations, and without prejudging the forthcoming internal discussions on Community policies."

An accompanying European Commission declaration says: "The Commission recalls that its proposal for the progressive phasing-in of direct payments remains valid and the Commission will reintroduce this approach in the draft common positions it intends to put forward in the autumn."

European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen greeted the outcome as "a very important and successful day". Technically the EU now has a common position and can start to negotiate the chapter with the candidates, on everything except the "three or four per cent that direct payments represent. Work can start on the difficult questions such as quotas and reference periods, he indicated. And politically the EU was giving a strong signal to the candidates of its commitment to stick to the envisaged timetable. "The Presidency did not allow member states to avoid a decision", the Commissioner said. He admitted that "without a decision today we would have lost time and credibility". Now, with this decision, there is a good possibility to keep to the timetable".

WHAT THE PUBLIC THINKS ABOUT ENLARGEMENT - EUROBAROMETER FINDING FOR SEVILLE

Eurobarometer published on June 20 a background note for Seville that included a section on attitudes, opinions and level of information about EU enlargement. This acknowledged that there are still fears of enlargement creating a dysfunctional EU, and that eight out of ten E

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citizens feel they do not know much about enlargement. In addition, and while only four out of ten want to know anything more at all about the candidate countries, the issues of culture and tourism do mobilise a certain interest among EU citizens.

There is concern that the EU should open itself up to new member states only if they have met tough criteria, Eurobarometer reports. Human rights and democracy come at the top of the list of priorities, followed by economic strength, and readiness to follow EU rules. More than four out of ten think the EU should allow in only certain candidates, and only two out of ten believe it should be open to all that wish to join. Almost as many people think the process should be slowed down as speeded up. And 14% of EU citizens think it should not enlarge at all.

Only 11% of EU citizens think the situation after enlargement will be better than now, while 12% think it will deteriorate. 48% admit to anxieties over immigration, with as a possible consequence, increased unemployment or crime. Portuguese and Italian respondents are among the most optimistic, and the German, Dutch and Austrian respondents the least. However, 64% are of the opinion that the change in the EU's size will have no impact on the lives - and 13% have no opinion at all. Nevertheless, among all the specific changes expected as a result of enlarging the EU, more people expect positive changes than negative ones.

See http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/notes/seville_fr.pdf

COMPETITION FOR ENLARGEMENT

"The moment is crucial, and it will need the determination of everybody involved to achieve successful enlargement with up to ten new member states in less than two years." This was the central message from European Competition Commissioner Mario Monti, when he addressed the Commission's competition conference in Vilnius on June 17. He outlined to the candidate countries some of their current deficiencies in EU competition law compliance. Although there have been improvements over the last year, he said, in at least half-a-dozen candidate countries there is still a lot of work to be done to bring their competition rules in line with the EU. But, he added: "I am confident that it is still possible over the summer to solve several outstanding issues".

Five of the so-called "Laeken ten" candidates have yet to close the competition chapter, thus presenting them with a continuing obstacle to completing negotiations by the envisaged deadline of the end of 2002, said the Commissioner. In the area of anti-trust, he noted improvements in the legislative framework, including in relation to the recent EU block exemptions on vertical and horizontal restraints. But there have been more merger cases affecting candidate countries, suggesting that economic operators are increasingly confident that EU enlargement will go ahead successfully as planned: in consequence, the most important distortions of competition, and in particular hard-core cartels, still need plenty of attention, he said.

And for state aid, "progress is only gradual", said Monti. He said it was "unacceptable" that some countries still operate incompatible fiscal aid schemes that remain open for new entrants: "I find it very disturbing to see that some countries continue, to this day, to accept new entrants for incompatible fiscal aid schemes. This is problematic for the full implementation of the principles of the Internal Market", he warned. Candidate countries have already been invited to convert their incompatible fiscal aid benefits into compatible ones usually regional aid, since high regional aid intensities are permissible in most of the candidates' regions - but this has yet to happen fully. The EU has set out the intended mechanism for dealing with existing aid measures that candidates would like to maintain in force after accession. Only compatible aid measures that have been approved by national authorities, and to which the Commission has not objected, will become eligible as existing aid. All other aid measures will have to be re-notified after accession as new aid, and incompatible aid that continues to be granted after accession might have to be recovered from the beneficiary, the Commissioner reminded the candidates. One of the key obstacles to the provisional closure of the competition negotiations remains the situation in the sensitive sectors, and notably the steel sector, he added.

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And, as conference co-chairman Rimantas Stanikunas, chairman of the Lithuania Competition Council, said: "Although Lithuania and some other countries have already provisionally closed the competition chapter, the task ahead remains complex in the light of the EU's current drive to modernise its anti-trust, merger and state aid rules". Alexander Schaul, director general for competition at the European Commission, the other co-chairman, said he was encouraged by the active participation and the contributions from colleagues in the applicant countries: "The competition culture which we have progressively built up in the current member states is taking root also in all candidate countries", he said.

CANDIDATES AND THE CONVENTION

The EU candidates are making their own contributions to the work of the Convention on the future of Europe. In addition to vigorous national activity in many of the candidate countries themselves, the candidates' own official representatives on the Convention have been offering their thoughts on how the Europe Union should be configured after enlargement.

Poland's senior official representative at the Convention, minister of European affairs Danuta Hubner, was a joint signatory (along with Peter Glotz, Peter Hain, Ray McSharry and Pierrel Moscovici) to a recent paper on the division of competence. This argued for a firm response to the general unease among Europe's citizens about the process of European integration and their difficulties in understanding who does what in the EU. "A clear and sensible division of labour between the Union and the member states" is what they recommended. A catalogue of competencies is not enough: "Attempting to make rigid distinctions between the respective competencies of the Union and the member states is not the right approach. Flexibility has allowed the Union and its members to respond rapidly and pragmatically to new challenges. Instead, Hubner and her co-authors urged "a new principle that explicitly states the current position - that the Union has no competencies other than those conferred on it by the Member States through the treaties and that any matter for which the Union has no competence remains the exclusive preserve of the member states".

Much will depend, they claim, on making the existing system clearer and easier to understand. "A procedural strengthening of control" should be "one aspect of the discussion" at the Convention, as should "democratic legitimacy", possibly with more scrutiny of EU policy by national parliamentarians acting collectively. And serious thought should be given to the possibility of formally restoring competencies to member states in cases where action by the Union is no longer necessary.

Meanwhile, Rytis Martikonis, Lithuania's deputy foreign minister, and senior representative of the Lithuanian government on the convention, told one of the Convention's plenary sessions this month that the "achievements of the European integration, values of the European Union and its citizens have to be promoted and protected". There are new challenges, he said, that are beyond capacities of an individual state. "It is the wider Union - the Union of 2004 - and not only the Union of today that we must keep in mind. It is 25 or perhaps more states that should participate in all the stages of these projections."

He pointed out that the creation of a European area of security and justice is "special for my country" - because of Lithuania's geography, with its capital only thirty kilometres from the future eastern border of the European Union. "Living on this doorstep, we feel double responsibility - for my country and for Europe. It also seems natural to expect that responsibilities like this are shouldered by all beneficiaries. Therefore, the right balance between the Community and national capacities will have to be found." He particularly welcomed the recent initiatives of the Commission on common border management.

And Nelly Kutsikova of Bulgaria recently told the Convention of the need to guarantee security of EU citizens and to combat terrorism, organised crime, illegal migration and other threats to EU security. In her view this would require three principles: equal standing between the organs responsible for law enforcement among the member states, harmonisation of criminal law and crime-fighting, and mutual acceptance of decisions of member states' judicial systems.



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See <http://european-convention.eu.int/default.asp?lang=EN>

Enlargement news in brief

Luxembourg signs up to enlargement information campaign

The Luxembourg government, the European Commission and the European Parliament are collaborating in providing information about enlargement and its consequences. A memorandum to this effect was signed on 19 June by Lydie Polfer, deputy Prime Minister and foreign affairs minister, European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen and Justice and Home Affairs Commissioner Antonio Vitorino. The European Parliament will sign it subsequently. The programme, to be launched this year, will be co-financed by Luxembourg and the Commission and will aim principally at informing citizens. Similar agreements have already been reached with Austria, France, the Netherlands and in Germany, as part of the EU's enlargement information strategy.

...and then there were 23: Malta secures language request

During its ministerial accession conference with the EU in Luxembourg on 10 June, Malta provisionally closed negotiations on the institutions chapter - and won agreement that the Maltese language will become an official EU language when Malta joins. The other candidate either have, or are likely to, secure a similar agreement, which will mean the current 11 official languages of the EU could be boosted to 23 when this round of enlargement is complete. Other candidates will be bringing a new language in: Polish, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, Estonian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Slovenian, Bulgarian, Romanian and Turkish. Malta's institutional deal will also give it one Maltese national on the European Commission, five members in the European Parliament, and three votes in the European Council, as well as representation in other institutions as agreed to at the Nice summit in December 2000. Malta also wants a sixth seat in Parliament and a fourth vote in Council during the interregnum before all twelve candidates currently negotiating accession join the EU: the agreement with the EU provides for further discussions on this point at the end of the negotiating process.

UNICE points to work ahead on enlargement

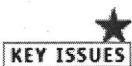
Ahead of the EU summit in Seville, another warning over enlargement came from the European business community, when the presidents of 34 industrial and employer confederations of Europe met as the Council of Presidents of the European employers' group UNICE. "Substantial progress has been made but additional efforts are necessary to find satisfactory and balanced solutions to the still open questions, and tackle the remaining shortcomings regarding implementation and enforcement of the *acquis communautaire* in the candidate countries. Decisions in Copenhagen should be based on each country's merit and not only on political considerations", UNICE said.

Press freedom concerns in Slovenia

Pointing to what he called "serious threats to press freedom" in Slovenia, Alexander Sarr, general secretary of the Swiss Federation of Journalists, presented a report conducted on behalf of the International Federation of Journalists into the case of an attack on Slovenian journalist Miro Petek almost a year and a half ago, and which has still not led to an arrest. "The country has made good progress in establishing a vibrant democracy, however the attack on Miro Petek throws a shadow over the future of press freedom", said Aidan White, IFJ secretary general, in a letter to the President of the Republic of Slovenia, and which was copied to the European Commission.

See <http://www.ifj.org/publications/press/pr/366.html>

Young Polish farmers do it on two wheels



A cycle rally of nearly 50 young Polish farmers came to Brussels last week, as one of the most energetic examples of current attempts by the EU and the candidate countries to raise awareness of what is at stake in EU enlargement. The participants, selected through a month-long series of local EU-related events in rural Polish regions, had left Warsaw on 11 June, and their journey across Europe included meetings with young farmers in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, as well as with international cycling stars. Their arrival at the Cinquantenaire park in Brussels on 20 June was greeted by European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen and Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler, who were not put off by the steady mid-summer rain. The aim of the project was to reach the rural population, which is often suspicious about EU integration, through young dynamic farmers, and to acquaint young farmers with EU issues and with the diverse traditions, culture, and institutions of the EU in a more informal manner than the customary official exchanges. While in Brussels the group also attended meetings at the European Parliament and at the European Council of Young Farmers, and were given briefings on common agricultural policy issues at the Commission agriculture directorate general. They also delivered a declaration of their own, bringing greetings to all farmers and inhabitants of EU rural areas. "We want to encourage co-operation and partnership to help solve the problems of rural society", they said - and they pointed out that the stereotypes about backward Polish farming are not valid: "Farmers can be young and dynamic people willing to change and ready to integrate with the EU", they insisted.

Opening the way to Kaliningrad solutions?

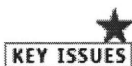
Differences of opinion still remain between Russia and the EU about how Russian citizens may travel to and from Kaliningrad across what will be EU territory after Poland and Lithuania join the EU. The EU says anyone entering and leaving the Schengen area (the passport- and border-control-free area comprising most EU member states, and which all new EU member states are obliged to join) must comply with Schengen rules. This would mean visas for Russians en route between the Baltic enclave and the rest of Russia. Russia says it "unacceptable" that its citizens should be subject to a foreign visa regime to move from one part of Russia to another. Russian suggestions of creating a visa-free corridor have been turned down flat by the EU, but some pragmatic suggestions have emerged from the EU since over recent days as to how the deadlock might be resolved. One concept is to allow for some exemption under Schengen for citizens of a country whose territory is divided by part of the Schengen area. Another is to create a specific situation for Kaliningrad, with a travel document other than a visa, perhaps issued at the border itself. But some EU member states are still opposed in principle to offering a range of solutions to Russia at this stage. And the EU remains formally opposed to any negotiations with Russia on the principles either of enlargement or of Schengen.

Education and enlargement

The EU Conference of European Education Ministers in Bratislava last week, under the banner "Education in the new millennium", looked at some of the practical problems of education in wider Europe, as well as focusing on European political co-operation in relation to education and training systems. Ministers agreed on the need to assess the quality of education systems through results, and on the goal of ensuring everyone has access to education. And they agreed that creating accessible and attractive learning should involve the social partners, families, civil society and citizens themselves. The quality of lifelong learning needs to be established at national level, with exchange of experience and good practice at European level. The conference - following earlier meetings in Warsaw, Prague, Budapest, Bucharest and Riga - is part of the EU pre-accession strategy. Three objectives have been set for education and training systems: improving quality, providing universal access, and opening up systems to the world. The agenda covers such aspects as basic abilities, foreign language and the new technologies in education, mobility, and teacher training.

Exchanging administrative data across the wider Europe

The Czech Republic, Latvia, Poland, Romania and Slovenia should be able to plug more closely into the way the EU works following a 20 June decision by the European Commission



to let them take part in the EU's Interchange of Data between Administrations (IDA). Administrations in these countries will be able to exchange data with EU Member States' back offices on how best to apply EU law, enforce single market rules, and supply e-Government services across borders to citizens and enterprises. Current IDA projects are focusing on health and consumer protection, access to the internal market for products, and environment policies. The idea is that stepping up data exchange will accelerate the candidate assumption of the EU legislation before they formally join the Union.

The € 23.6 million IDA work programme for 2002, approved by the Commission on 4 June and which the candidates were involved in preparing, includes actions to promote electron interaction among citizens, enterprises and governments. It marks the start of large-scale involvement of EU candidate countries in IDA projects. The precise participation rules for the candidates will be set out in memoranda of understanding soon to be signed with these countries. Similar memoranda should also be signed with Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania and Turkey, as soon as remaining national constitutional and procedural difficulties with the memoranda texts have been ironed out. Malta and Slovakia are expected to follow them in a matter of months.

EIB loan for upgrading Latvian power

The European Investment Bank is lending € 80 million for upgrading power generation and distribution in Latvia. The loan to Latvia's power company SJSC Latvenergo will help upgrade a combined heat and power plant in Riga and the transmission and distribution network throughout the country. The investments will allow Latvenergo to improve reliability of power supply by installing a modern combined-cycle gas turbine and by renewing some 300 substations and 4000 km of overhead lines. EIB Vice-President Wolfgang Roth said: "Reliable energy supply is important for proper economic development. The substitution of heavy fuel oil by gas will also have significant environmental effects as it will help reduce pollution in Riga and this should be seen as a further advantage in addition to better supplies of heat and power in the capital. But business and household consumers throughout Latvia will benefit from the growing reliability of power supplies following the completion of investments in generation and distribution capacity."

See <http://www.eib.eu.int/pub/press/2002/2002-040.htm>


Agenda

See also the new "Enlargement events calendar" on the DG Enlargement web site <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/events/calendar.htm>. This gives a run-down of public events related to the enlargement of the EU taking place in all current and future member states.

Date	Event
June	
Tuesday 25th	Economic and Social Committee economic and social cohesion section discusses cohesion and enlargement, Brussels Chief negotiators of the six "Luxembourg Group" candidates - Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovenia and Cyprus - to review the work during the Spanish Presidency of the EU, and to examine prospects for the upcoming Danish Presidency and the financing of enlargement; Cyprus.
Tuesday 25th-	European Commission Vice President for Transport and Energy

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Wednesday 26th	Loyola de Palacio receives the Cypriot minister of transport, Averof Neophytou The prime ministers of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania meet in the framework of the Baltic Council of Ministers, to discuss EU and NATO enlargement; Visaginas, Lithuania.
Wednesday 26th	EU/European Economic Area (EEA) consultative committee will discuss the implications of EU enlargement for the future of the EEA at its annual meeting, Egilsstadir, Iceland European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations conference on innovation and enlargement, Bruges
Thursday 27th	Economic and Social Committee external relations section discusses accession progress of Romania and Slovenia, Brussels European Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström visits Cyprus
Thursday 27th-Friday 28th	European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen visits Iceland European Regional Affairs Commissioner Michel Barnier visits Poland, takes part in debate on the future of Europe with Polish members of the Convention. European Budget Commissioner Michael Schreyer visits Lithuania
Friday 28th	EU accession negotiations with candidate countries at deputy level, Brussels
July	
Monday 1st	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.
Thursday 4th-Friday 5th	European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen visits Lithuania
Friday 5th	European Commission conference on enlargement from a local and regional perspective, Brussels
Friday 5th- Saturday 6th	"Riga 2002: The Bridge to Prague" - summit of NATO candidate countries, Riga
Tuesday 9th	OECD investment promotion regional round table, Istanbul
Tuesday 9th- Wednesday 10th	European Commission Enlargement Director General Eneko Landaburu visits Slovenia

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Thursday 11th-Friday 12th	European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen visits Poland Economic and Social Committee Joint Consultative Committee with Turkey, Erzerum
Friday 12th	Publication of OECD Regulatory Reform in Poland: From Transition to New Regulatory Challenges.
Monday 15th-Tuesday 16th	European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen visits Hungary
Thursday 18th-Friday 19th	European Commission President Romano Prodi and Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen visit Turkey
Friday 27th-Saturday 28	European Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström visits Cyprus
August	
Friday 16th - Monday 19th	Pope John Paul II visits Poland
September	
Friday 20th - Saturday 21st	Parliamentary elections, Slovakia
Autumn	
Details tbc	Slovenia presidential and local elections
September/October	
Details tbc	Self-governmental elections, Poland
October	
Details tbc	Local governmental elections, Hungary
Details tbc	Parliament elections, Latvia
Details tbc	Partial Senate elections, Czech Republic
Wednesday 2nd-Thursday 3rd	Meeting of liaison officers from supreme audit institutions of the candidate countries and the European Court of Auditors, Luxembourg
Sunday 20 October	Estonian local elections

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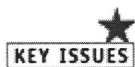
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24th and 25th	Brussels European Council: enlargement will be on the agenda and the Commission's regular reports on the candidate countries may be available.
November	
Details tbc	Local elections, Czech Republic (including first elections for the Prague region)
Details tbc	Local elections, Estonia
Details tbc	Presidential, Local, and National Council (Second Parliamentary Chamber) elections, Slovenia
Details tbc	Ecofin Council discusses the report on economic dialogue with the candidate countries
Details tbc	Lithuania presidential elections
Thursday 28th and Friday 29th	Meeting of the presidents of the supreme audit institutions of the member states and the candidate countries, Luxembourg
December	
Details tbc	Meeting of heads of supreme audit institutions of the candidate countries and the European Court of Auditors, Bucharest
Thursday 12th, Friday 13th	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.
Sunday 22nd	Presidential elections, Lithuania (second round on January 5, 2003)
January 2003	
Details tbc	Presidential elections, Czech Republic
February 2003	
9th and 16th	Presidential, elections, Cyprus
March 2003	
Details tbc	Parliamentary elections, Estonia
July/August 2003	
Details tbc	Presidential elections (elected by the parliament), Latvia





Archives

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