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Enlargement

# Enlargement

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## Enlargement Weekly

441.215 A

30 July 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. [\[Previous issues\]](#)

**NB: The Enlargement weekly newsletter is taking a summer break, and will be back on 2nd September.**

### Articles this week

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### PRESIDENCY TELLS FOREIGN MINISTERS ENLARGEMENT TIMETABLE CAN BE MET

European Union foreign affairs ministers heard a reaffirmation of the EU Presidency commitment to maintain the rhythm of the enlargement process when they met as the General Affairs Council in Brussels on July 22. The Presidency stated that it will "make every effort" to meet the target of concluding negotiations before the end of 2002 with up to ten candidate countries. To be able to do this it aims to settle all non-budgetary issues by September, and secure two key decisions at the Brussels European Council in October: agreement on which

countries will - in light of the Commission's autumn reports on the candidates - be ready; a resolution of the EU's internal debate on the financial aspects of enlargement. This will allow the EU to provide a complete package to the candidate countries in early November, leaving time for the discussions that will still have to take place if negotiations are to be finalised by the European Council in Copenhagen in December.

So as not to leave the other candidates excluded, the Presidency also stressed its intention to "lend full support to Bulgaria and Romania in their preparations for accession and to intensify their progress towards membership". They, and any among the other ten candidates currently deemed theoretically capable of closing negotiations this year, should receive an updated roadmap and a revised and enhanced pre-accession strategy at Copenhagen. On Turkey, the Presidency said its aim is to bring Turkey "closer to the European Union".

### STUDYING ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE IN THE ENLARGED EU

Commission President Romano Prodi has appointed a group of experts to check all the EU economic instruments to see whether they will work adequately in an EU of more than 15 members. The group is also to examine whether new policies are needed to ensure growth, stability and cohesion. Prodi has asked for a report by spring 2003.

On the brink of enlargement, all three facets of the European Union's economic system - the internal market, economic and monetary union, and the EU budget - need reviewing to ensure that the Union is equipped with the proper instruments of economic governance, says the Commission.

"Enlargement is certainly an important opportunity in Europe's quest towards more efficiency. At the same time, however, one must have the wisdom to recognise that a larger and more diverse European Union requires a rethinking of Community economic policies," according to Prodi's announcement. Even if enlargement were not imminent, there would be a need to rethink the EU's economic governance so as to improve the EU's performance in terms of growth and cohesion, and to preserve stability.

The group of experts includes Dariusz Rosati, professor of international economics at the Warsaw School of Economics, and a member of the monetary policy committee of the national bank of Poland, and Poland's foreign minister at the start of the accession process in the mid-1990s.

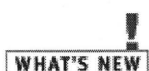
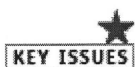
### CANDIDATES PLAY INCREASING ROLE IN EU PROGRAMMES

Bringing the candidate countries closer to the European Union by bringing them into EU programmes has been one of the key elements in the EU's pre-accession strategy since 1990. There are 45 programmes theoretically open to the candidate countries, ranging from research to training, environmental protection to electronic communications. But some are now in the final stages, and others are still being finalised by the EU itself - as is the case for the Sixth Framework Programme on Research, due to start in 2002, for instance. For a number of procedural reasons related to the fact that they do not benefit from the Phare programme, Cyprus, Malta, and Turkey do not yet participate.

So far, out of the 36 programmes actually open to the candidates, there are at least some candidates involved in all but four - and in most of the programmes, most of the candidates are either already participating fully, or are in the preparatory stage for doing so. The most popular programmes - with twelve out of the thirteen candidates participating in each of them - are the Fifth Framework Programme on R&D, and the training and education programme Leonardo, Socrates and Youth. There has been less interest so far shown in taking a full part in judicial co-operation in civil matters, in the anti-counterfeiting Pericles, in Customs 2002, or in safer use of the Internet. Programmes on solid fuel efficiency (Carnot), energy studies (ETAP), and nuclear energy (SURE) have also had less take-up.

The scale of the programmes varies widely: the EU research programme has had an average annual budget of 3.4 billion since 1998, and Socrates, Leonardo and Youth have all been funded with well over 100 million a year. By contrast, a programme to ensure safer use of the Internet receives 6 million a year, and Pericles just 1 million.

Latvia and Slovakia have been the most energetic candidates in achieving full participation



the programmes on offer - they are taking a full part in ten each. Hungary takes part in nine and Estonia, Romania and Slovenia take part in eight. The other candidates are currently full involved in four, five, six or seven programmes - except Turkey, which is still only at the stage of preparation for a handful of programmes.

In its July 1997 Communication "Agenda 2000", the European Commission proposed the progressive opening-up to the candidate countries of a broad range of EU programmes, as one of the intermediate objectives of accession, without waiting for the accession date, and as a way of helping them to prepare for adoption of the *acquis*. The European Council in Luxembourg in December 1997 endorsed the concept. These programmes are each an integrated set of actions adopted by the EU to promote medium-term co-operation between Member States in fields related to EU policies, and supported by an allocation from the EU budget. The EU thinking was that as these programmes encompass most EU policies, they would provide a useful preparation for accession by familiarising the candidate countries and their citizens with the EU's policies and working methods.

See the DG Enlargement web site for further details  
[http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/ocp/ocp\\_index.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/ocp/ocp_index.htm)

### OECD ASSESSES ROMANIA'S ECONOMY

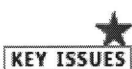
According to the 2002 OECD Economic Survey of Romania, released last week, the gradual approach of the early years of transition "was ill-designed and precious time was lost. Romania cannot really afford to continue without a comprehensive approach to reform, OECD goes on. Credibility, which is only slowly improving, could be badly affected, it warns. "The current window of opportunity is narrow, as the government is already in the middle of a political cycle". The report recognises that the macroeconomic framework has improved, and that it is difficult to make rapid progress in all areas. But it urges a comprehensive approach to policies, so as to go forward with the most relevant reforms. There are what the report describes as "key policy inter-dependencies" that the government should keep in mind, notably in designing and implementing new legislation. And it stresses - as the European Union has often has in its remarks on the reforms in the candidate countries - that while laws are important, "so is appropriate implementation".

In addition, the OECD says Romania has suffered for too long from over-involvement of the state in economic activity and that it is now time to push for a more market-based adjustment of the economy. Notably, economic restructuring should be conducted as much as possible via transparent market mechanisms, it recommends. "This requires strong political commitment on the part of the government, whose determination will be crucial to improve the image of the country in the international community". Clarity in policy objectives and timely implementation are crucial. The stakes seem too high to forego the present opportunity, believes the OECD "because slippage would severely compromise the chances of successfully pursuing the EU and NATO accession process, and further retard a sustained rise in the living standards of the Romanian people."

See the OECD web site at <http://www.oecd.org/EN/document/0,,EN-document-1-nodirectorate-no-3-32516-0,00.html>

### EU ESC REFLECTS WITH TURKISH OPPOSITE NUMBERS

A strongly worded joint declaration emerged from the meeting of the EU-Turkey joint consultative committee, in Erzurum on 12 July. It was authored by Bayram Meral and Kenneth Walker, the co-chairmen of this body that brings together the economic and social interest groups of Turkey, on the one hand, and of the EU civil society organisations represented in the European Economic and Social Committee on the other.



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The JCC welcomed Turkish government statements of readiness to introduce reforms, and it called upon the European Commission to give every assistance to the Turkish government, with a view to opening negotiations with Turkey as soon as possible. But it expressed concern about the lack of social dialogue and called for effective and constructive implementation of the law on the establishment of an Economic and Social Council. It also repeated an earlier call for the implementation of an action plan for the prevention of child labour.

The JCC said it was "deeply concerned by the state of crisis of the Turkish economy that threatens the long-term macro-economic stability of the country. The effects have been felt in every area of economic activity and the social consequences have been severe". It agreed that priority should be given to restructuring the public sector, further strengthening the financial sector, support for the development of smaller firms, training and life-long learning, improvement of the business climate, and implementing rules strictly in all aspects of public and corporate life.

"The JCC believes that building the conditions for sustainable development requires a policy framework that facilitates a development strategy based on achieving a stable economy with a high rate of growth, new and decent employment opportunities for the millions of unemployed it said. It also underlined that the recovery programme should "command a broad measure of support amongst the Turkish people to avoid unbearable social tensions. The active involvement of the social partners would go a long way to ensuring the necessary social consensus", it concluded.

## Enlargement news in brief

### Solana argues for "spectacular" EU enlargement

The EU enlargement process "is perhaps the most spectacular achievement of the EU in terms of projecting stability outside its borders", Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, said in Rome on 24 July. "Already, in advance of accession, political, economic and administrative structures of the applicant countries are undergoing an extraordinary transformation. Most of these countries' energies and political resources are focussed on the EU perspective. And their foreign policies take gradually the shape of like-minded partnerships with Brussels", he predicted. "For the first time in our history we can look forward to the unification and stabilisation of our continent not on the basis of conquest, nor on the basis of an armed balance of power, but on the voluntary acceptance and commitment to a set of values that inspires our civilisation." Solana had a message to "for all those who still regard enlargement as a worrisome and costly development, or a leap forward into uncharted territory". He said they would find it helpful "to stand back and reflect how much safer a place Europe will be" after enlargement. "And what a miracle that represents, for populations that lived for decades through the nightmare of the Iron Curtain."

### Students review non-formal education in Estonia

European students have completed discussions in Tartu, in Estonia, as part of the year-long European Education Campaign being run by the European Students' Forum. The meeting, which also featured Mailis Rand, the Estonian minister of education, examined co-operation between educational institutions, public sector and youth non-governmental organisations in Europe, and focused on how to win recognition for non-formal education, such as that obtained by working in NGOs. In Brussels in December the students will present a proposal for a new European education programme.

### Discussions continue on Kaliningrad

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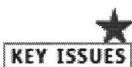
More high-level talks took place in Brussels on July 24 on Kaliningrad. Danish foreign minister's permanent secretary Friis Arne Petersen reassured Russian deputy minister for foreign affairs Sergey Razov that Russia's concerns - particularly over Russian citizens' movements in and out of the enclave after enlargement - were recognised. "An effective and flexible solution must be found in compliance with the Schengen acquis and in agreement with the candidate countries concerned", said an EU Presidency statement after the meeting. "The EU is ready to engage in discussions on all practical issues", it said, including flexible implementation of visa regime, and the use of long term multiple entry visas at low cost.

But the EU also underlined the need to create a system that does not infringe the sovereignty of the candidate countries and will not create obstacles for their accession to Schengen at a later stage. The Presidency also emphasised again the advantages to Russia of an enlarged Europe, and promised EU willingness to consider ways to more effectively support Kaliningrad through development and modernisation of borders and support for the issuance of passports as well as in terms of wider economic development.

### **EPP-ED-Group opens new representative office in Hungary**

The European Parliament's European People's Party and European Democrats (the EPP-ED) has opened an office in Budapest. The "EPP-ED centre for political-parliamentary further education and training" is the first such office it has opened in any of the candidate countries. Hans-Gert Poettering, EPP-ED chairman, says the objective is to transfer information about the European Union and the accession process, and to help the candidate countries prepare for their entry into the European Parliament - whether as Members, parliamentary assistants or staff. The centre will have a director, a training manager and a secretary. It will be supported financially by the Robert Schuman Institute, founded in 1995 to help the countries of central and Eastern Europe in the development of democracy and in their future role as members of the European Union. Budapest has been chosen for its central geographical location and because - says Poettering - Hungary will definitely be in the first round of countries to join the European Union. The EPP-ED Group is determined to improve contact with the accession countries as early as possible and to create possibilities of exchange between member states and the candidates, it says.

The centre can be contacted at [cet@axelero.hu](mailto:cet@axelero.hu).



### **Descartes Prize is building links with candidates**

The European Union's Descartes Prize is showing that it can strengthen scientific links between the EU and the candidate countries. Launched in 2000, the 1 million award is intended to promote European research resulting from transnational co-operation. For the 2002 prize, nearly a third of the 108 projects submitted include partners from the candidate countries of central and eastern Europe, up from only 10% in 2000. Last year, one of the winning projects was a Belgian-led team that had made significant breakthroughs in the fight against AIDS, in collaboration with teams from five countries, including the Czech Republic. Now there is a growing interest from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The prize is open to all fields of science, but life sciences, chemistry, physics and engineering are particularly well represented among this year's entrants. The winner will be announced on 5 December.

### **Number of EU supporters grows in Latvia**

If the referendum on Latvia's accession to the European Union had been held in June, 45.5% of the population would have voted in favour, up from 41.5% in May, according to a poll conducted by the European Integration Bureau. But the "no" vote was also slightly up, to 38.5%, against 38.4% in May. According to the poll, more people have now made up their minds: 20.1% of those polled could not say in May whether they supported Latvia's entry into the EU, but this figure dropped to 16.0% in June. People within the 18-39 age bracket are more in favour of Latvia's accession, with those of 55-64 years of age most negative.

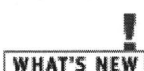
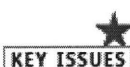


Accession is most strongly supported by people with high incomes, university education, employed, males, urban residents, citizens of Latvia, and ethnic Latvians. EU membership also appeals more to residents of Riga, Zemgale, Latgale and Vidzeme - while the majority of citizens of Kurzeme said they would vote against. The "quite positive" or "positive" score of attitudes towards the EU was slightly up in June, too, to more than 50%, while the "negative" rose slightly to 42.7%. "Don't know" fell to 6.9%, from 9.3% in May.

Meanwhile, the Latvian government is already thinking about funding for the EU accession referendum from the 2003 national budget. At the government's request, the Central Election Commission has produced a cost estimate for the referendum - setting it at around the same as a general election costs, said the CEC chairman Arnis Cimdars. The finance ministry is not being asked to include the estimated referendum costs in the next year's national budget according to the European Integration Bureau.

### Baltic Region "the greatest significance for enlargement"

"The Baltic Sea region is the region where [ EU ] enlargement will have the greatest significance", according to Danish foreign minister Per Stig Møller, current President of the EU Council of Ministers. "The enlargement of the EU with Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland will mean a definitive end to the wars and conflicts that the Baltic region has suffered from for centuries," he said. He depicted the enlargement as ensuring "the framework for political and economic stability that may contribute to turning the Baltic Sea region into the most dynamic region in Europe." He was speaking at the departure ceremony of a 19th century Danish sailing ship, the Halmø, which is to visit 14 Danish ports over the coming days carrying a young crew who are keen to debate the future of Europe. "It is with Denmark at the helm that the EU over the next six months will endeavour to remove the last obstacles and, so doing, implement the historic task of enlarging the European Union." And he looked further ahead: "The enlargement of the EU will not stop with the accession of the first new Member States. More will come. It is not unlikely that several countries in the Balkans may apply for EU membership some day. Also in future, the aim will be to establish a united Europe. It implies that an increasing number of countries and populations become part of the European Community. This will ensure peace, stability and economic prosperity in Europe", he said.




## 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
<b>July</b>	
Monday 29th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU accession negotiations at deputy level with candidate countries, Brussels</li> <li>• EU Council of Ministers working group on the Accession Treaty meets, Brussels</li> <li>• Candidate countries take part in EU Presidency meeting on European medicines agencies cooperation on legal and legislation issues, at the Danish Medicines Agency</li> </ul>
<b>August</b>	
Friday 16th - Monday	Pope John Paul II visits Poland

19th	
<b>September</b>	
Details tbc	European Court of Auditors workshop with the supreme audit institutions of the candidate countries on audit of internal control systems
Thursday 12th - Friday 13th	Franz Fischler, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries visits Poland
Monday 16th - Tuesday 17th	Franz Fischler, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries visits Latvia
Tuesday 17th - Wednesday 18th	Franz Fischler, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries visits Estonia
Thursday 19th - Sunday 22nd	European Budget Commissioner Michael Schreyer visits Hungary
Friday 20th	European Enterprise Commissioner Erkki Liikanen visits Estonia
Friday 20th - Saturday 21st	Parliamentary elections, Slovakia
<b>Autumn</b>	
Details tbc	Slovenia presidential and local elections
<b>September/October</b>	
Details tbc	Self-governmental elections, Poland
<b>October</b>	
Details tbc	European Court of Auditors workshop with the supreme audit institutions of the candidate countries on audit quality control, Warsaw
Wednesday 2nd - Thursday 3rd	Meeting of liaison officers from supreme audit institutions of the candidate countries and the European Court of Auditors, Luxembourg
Saturday 5th	Parliament elections, Latvia
Details tbc	Partial Senate elections, Czech Republic
Details tbc	Local governmental elections, Hungary
Sunday 20 October	Estonian local elections

  
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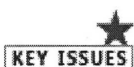
  
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24th and 25th	Brussels European Council: enlargement will be on the agenda and the Commission's regular reports on the candidate countries may be available.
<b>November</b>	
Details tbc	Local elections, Czech Republic (including first elections for 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
Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th	Meeting of the Presidents of the supreme audit institutions of the member states and the candidate countries in Luxembourg
Thursday 28th and Friday 29th	Meeting of the presidents of the supreme audit institutions of the member states and the candidate countries, Luxembourg
<b>December</b>	
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.
Thursday 12th, Friday 13th	European Court of Auditors meeting with heads of the supreme audit institutions of the candidate countries, Bucharest
Sunday 22nd	Presidential elections, Lithuania (second round on January 5 2003)
<b>January 2003</b>	
Details tbc	Presidential elections, Czech Republic
<b>February 2003</b>	
9th and 16th	Presidential elections, Cyprus







<b>March 2003</b>	
Details tbc	Parliamentary elections, Estonia
<b>July/August 2003</b>	
Details tbc	Presidential elections (elected by the parliament), Latvia

## Archives

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