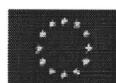


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Enlargement Weekly

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10 September 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 or candidate countries, and how the main challenges are being met. [[Previous issues](#)]

Articles this week

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EURO 2004 OFFERS CANDIDATES ANOTHER RANKING

"We came to Brussels to show that we can play football on a European level", said a delighted Bulgarian coach Plamen Markov fresh from his team's victory over EU founding member state Belgium 2-0 in one of the shocks of the opening matches of EURO 2004. The European Cup football tournament, which culminates in Portugal in 2004 offered EU candidate countries the weekend another way to see how far they match EU standards, and the results do credit to the candidate countries. Apart from the Bulgarian success, a feisty performance by Latvia held a larger Baltic neighbour Sweden to a goal-less draw and Cyprus scored first against France although the European Champions eventually came back to win 2-1. World Cup Finalists Germany were in good form to beat Lithuania 2-0, while some other games matched candidate against candidate: Slovenia and Turkey are at the top of their groups after both winning 3-

against Malta and Slovakia respectively. EU candidates also prevailed against some of the non-candidates: Poland beat San Marino 2-0, and Romania beat Bosnia-Herzegovina 3-0, but Estonia managed only a 0-0 draw with Croatia.

See <http://www.uefa.com/>

EU PRESIDENCY TALKS WITH THE NETHERLANDS ON ENLARGEMENT

Danish Minister for European Affairs Bertel Haarder held talks in the Netherlands last week with Dutch Foreign Minister Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and Dutch State Secretary for European Affairs Atzo Nicolaï - and enlargement was at the top of the agenda. The recent general election in the Netherlands generated some lively public discussion on the speed and scope of EU enlargement, and the new government there has also been in the forefront of the current EU discussions on reform of the EU's common agricultural policy - which the Danish Presidency is keen to keep separate from the talks about accession negotiations.

After the meeting, Haarder said: "I have had good and fruitful talks with the Dutch Minister for Foreign Affairs and my Dutch counterpart for European Affairs, whom I recently had the pleasure of meeting in Copenhagen. Our talks focused first and foremost on the Danish EU Presidency and the enlargement. I was reassured that the Netherlands supports the ambition of the Danish EU Presidency to enlarge the EU with up to ten new Member States at the Summit in December. It is an historic obligation, and we must not fail to deliver. We were agreed that much progress is to be made in the negotiations on EU agricultural reforms. I assured my Dutch hosts that the Danish EU Presidency will endeavour to take the negotiations forward as far as possible."

While he was in the Netherlands, Haarder also stressed the need for compromise and the desirability of co-operation when he addressed an audience at the Clingendael Institute for international affairs. "We need to show the will to compromise", he said, speaking of the impending end game of accession negotiations. "For more than a decade, we have witnessed how the candidate countries have implemented political and economic reforms, and thus transformed their societies in order to prepare for membership of the EU. Today up to ten candidate countries are close to fulfilling the Copenhagen criteria and to becoming members. Therefore it is time for the EU to take the decisions that will lead to conclusion of negotiations with the first countries at the summit in Copenhagen in December. It is time to deliver on the promises that the EU has given repeatedly."

"We have a timetable and a clear strategy for reaching our goal. When the foreign ministers met in Elsinore last week they expressed support for the Presidency's timetable. Decisions on the outstanding and difficult financial issues, including direct payments to farmers in the new member states, should be taken at the meeting of the European Council in Brussels. By doing so we will have the necessary time for real negotiations with the candidate countries. Without time for real negotiations, it will be seen as an unacceptable fait accompli", he went on.

He invoked the European Commission's assurances that enlargement can be achieved within the budgetary framework foreseen in Berlin in 1999 - even with ten instead of six new member states. But he insisted that enlargement was not only feasible, but must be fair and reasonable. "We need to find fair solutions. A solution on milk quotas that implies that a candidate country should slaughter a big proportion of all its cows is not a fair solution. A solution that implies that a new member state from the first day of accession becomes non-payer to the EU budget is not reasonable."

He confirmed that the Danish Presidency will do everything it can to find the necessary compromises. "We have no illusion that this will be an easy task - but at the same time we believe it to be possible if we all, both member states and candidate countries, contribute to the process with determination and flexibility. We must seize this historical opportunity."

"At the same time", he said, "we will do our utmost to drive forward the reform process of the Common Agricultural Policy during our Presidency". And looking ahead to the shape of the future EU, he said: "Internally, the European Union will be characterised by many small and medium sized member states after enlargement. Right and not might, will continue to be the

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guiding principle of European integration. The power of reason must prevail. Increasing European co-operation will be shaped by flexible coalitions between member states based either on similar interest in particular policy areas or a shared regional outlook. Not by a directoire composed of an exclusive circle of a few large member states."

Denmark has, for instance, worked closely and successfully with the other member states in the Baltic Sea region, and initiatives have extended far abroad: "The Arctic window constitutes a very important element to the Northern Dimension of the external co-operation of the EU. Last week I chaired a conference on these issues in Ilulissat, Greenland. The progress made in Greenland represents a defining moment for the future of the Northern Dimension."

Reflecting on how an enlarged EU might function, and how coalitions might emerge between the current and new member states, he remarked: "It is neither likely nor desirable that European co-operation should confine itself exclusively to regional blocs of countries. Flexibility and the ability to work closely with member states across the entire European spectrum will also be the key to success - a very important way of finding common solutions to common problems". He said he could easily envisage increased Danish-Dutch co-operation, for instance, the measures which need to be taken to achieve the goals of the so-called "Lisbon process", of making the European economy the most competitive and knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010. "Opportunities to create flexible coalitions - regionally or between several like-minded countries - will naturally widen as more member states join the EU. This will be an interesting challenge for our European policies in the years to come", he said.

MORE DISCUSSION ON FLOODS

At its plenary session in Strasbourg last week, the European Parliament voted heavily in favour of a resolution expressing solidarity with the populations of central Europe affected by the recent catastrophic floodings. The resolution pays tribute to the courage of the numerous volunteers and members of the emergency services who contributed to limiting material and human damage. And it backed the rapid creation of an EU emergency fund in case of natural disasters in the member states. MEPs insisted on the need to provide immediate financial assistance of 1 billion, to come from the 'budgetary margin' during the course of 2002.

The Parliament welcomed the use of the pre-accession structural instrument, ISPA, as well as Phare money, in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. And they underlined that extra financial aid must be provided from the EU emergency fund so as to demonstrate solidarity. But the Parliament also called on the member states and candidate countries to re-examine the legislation on water management, to prevent further catastrophes - which are likely to take place more frequently due to climate change, it warned.

During the debate, the Parliament's President Pat Cox thanked the Commission for acting speedily to take measures to deal with the dramatic flooding, and emphasised the support of MEPs for EU action here. Danish European Affairs Minister Bertel Haarder, on behalf of the Council, noted that the disaster affected both candidate countries and EU member states - a symbolic reminder that all the countries involved shared the same problems, he said. Joint European action was therefore important as the new countries prepare for membership, he insisted. He looked forward to the General Affairs Council taking concrete decisions at its meeting on 30 September and 1 October.

European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen said he was struck by the overwhelming human reaction to the flooding, and stated that despite the natural disaster in countries such as the Czech Republic, a more positive mindset and a tangible change of attitude could be felt. European Regional Affairs Commissioner Michel Barnier sent his deepest sympathies on behalf of the Commission to the families of the victims and expressed his gratitude to the emergency services and volunteers. He too emphasised the need for prevention: putting in place measures which could prevent flooding or other natural disasters would lead to lower overall costs than simply paying for repairs, he said, indicating that after 2006, the prevention of natural disasters through improvements to infrastructure would be

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priority of Structural Fund policy.

Hans-Gert Poettering of Germany, the leader of the majority EPP/ED group in the Parliament expressed his sympathy to the families of the victims and noted that, while this kind of disaster would normally be handled at a national or regional level, the scale of the flooding was so vast that it was only natural for those suffering to look for European support. He expressed his thanks to Commission President Romano Prodi for personally visiting the affected areas and for expressing solidarity - a move, which he felt, had raised the profile of the Commission.

FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT SYSTEMS IMPROVING IN CANDIDATES

In recent years, extensive restructuring work has been undertaken in payment and securities settlement systems in the accession countries. In many countries further work is being carried out in order to ensure their smooth entry to the EU and the smooth functioning of the payment and settlement systems within the EU. That is the principal conclusion of a new report from the European Central Bank: "Payment and securities settlement systems in accession countries", prepared in co-operation with the central banks of the twelve countries conducting EU accession negotiations.

It provides comprehensive information on the major payment and securities settlement systems operating in the accession countries and includes statistical data. It is structured in the same way as the so-called "Blue Book" for EU countries, also published by the ECB: each country chapter provides an overview of institutional aspects and the major parties involved. This is followed by extensive descriptions of the payment media used by non-banks as well as recent developments in the areas of retail payments, inter-bank transfer and settlement systems, and securities trading, clearing and settlement systems. The statistical tables (country-specific tables and comparative tables covering all 12 countries) provide data for the years 1996 to 2001.

See <http://www.ecb.int/pub/pdf/bluebookaccess2002.pdf>

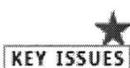
VODKA HANGOVER IN POLAND

French drinks manufacturer Pernod Ricard has written to European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen seeking his assistance in resolving a dispute with Poland over rights to its vodka trademark there. It claims to be the rightful owner of the trademark Vodka Wyborowa, a Polish Vodka purchased by Pernod Ricard from the Polish government in September 1999. Pernod Ricard subsequently also acquired Polmos Poznan, the state-owned distillery producing this beverage, in July 2001, for 82 million.

According to Pernod Ricard's vice-president and director for EU affairs, Jean Rodesch, the Polish Parliament is attempting to deprive Pernod Ricard of these trademark rights. A parliamentary committee last week adopted an amendment to a general statute on the definition and designation of spirits, which would make Vodka Wyborowa a generic category of Polish vodka - so anyone in Poland could produce a spirit and call it Vodka Wyborowa. "This denies the basic protection offered by a trademark registration, i.e. the exclusive rights to a given name", says Rodesch. This is also in conflict with the relevant EU rules, he adds.

Pernod Ricard alleges that "only political reasons are behind this move", but that the amendment "would pose serious legal problems" if it is adopted. Recalling that Commissioner Verheugen successfully intervened to prevent an earlier attempt to renationalise the trademark rights to Wyborowa in June 2000, Rodesch says: "To avoid that Poland appears publicly to neglect the task of aligning its legislation on the acquis, we urge you to take the appropriate steps, so that the Polish legislative process does not lead to such a regrettable outcome."

Enlargement news in brief



"No added expenditure needed for enlargement", says EU Presidency

The EU budgetary arrangements adopted in Berlin in 1999 for 2000- 2006 take full account of the enlargement of the EU, says Danish Minister for Finance Thor Pedersen, who chairs the meetings of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) during the Danish EU Presidency. "The enlargement holds the highest priority for the Danish EU Presidency," he says, "and this is reflected also in the economic priorities of the Danish EU Presidency. We have a great responsibility for the enlargement to fall into place. I am to see to it that it will not constitute an economic problem ", Pedersen insists. He says he is confident about the economics of the enlargement. "In Berlin in 1999, we agreed on a budget ceiling up until 2006 and this budget line is fully adequate for meeting the needs. The member states will not have to make additional contributions for the enlargement because the money is there.

Something that is not a problem should not be made to look like a problem. The agricultural and fisheries policies were to be reformed anyway", according to the minister. But above and beyond the economic and practical discussions, there are grand ideals at stake in the enlargement of the EU into an "open, united and free Europe", as Pedersen puts it. "I much wonder at the speed with which the Wall came down. I recall when I was a student that we always had to keep right when we drove south to avoid colliding with the East Block. The events we see now have never been seen before throughout history. There is no precedent. This is the grandest of it, and eventually we shall all come out as winners," he predicts.

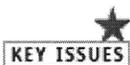
How closely will candidates co-ordinate accession referenda?

With the conclusions of negotiations fast approaching, EU candidates are starting to look at the detail of how they plan the next stage of their accession campaign: their national referenda. There have already been informal talks among the three Baltic States of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia, where one of the options under review is holding all three polls on the same day. Now the so-called "Visegrad group" of candidate countries - Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary - are also looking at planning co-ordinated referenda. The idea floated at a meeting of the group's Presidents would be that the country with the highest support for EU membership would hold the referendum first, which could be a positive signal of support to the subsequent referenda in the other countries. This is the method used in the referenda in Austria, Finland, Sweden and Norway in 1994, when Austria voted first, followed by Finland, Sweden and Norway. On this occasion, however, the Yes-votes in the first three countries did not convince the Norwegians, who rejected membership for the second time in November 1994. In the Visegrad countries, such an approach would probably mean the first referendum would be held in Hungary, followed perhaps by Slovakia, Poland, and then the Czech Republic.

For more information on the latest opinion polls, see <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/opinion/index.htm>

"More women needed in Turkish politics"

The European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities has called for a greater percentage of women in the next elected Parliament in Turkey. Looking ahead to the elections that will take place in Turkey on 3 November, MEP Anna Karamanou, the Chair of the Committee, has written to the leaders of seven Turkish political parties to make her point. "The very low percentage of women's participation in the Turkish Parliament is a subject of concern to the whole Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities, whose Chair stresses that equality between women and men is a fundamental condition for achieving real democracy", says the Committee. Although it recognises the efforts by some political parties in Turkey, which have adopted quotas or specific measures to have more women candidates, the Committee highlights the fact that in the Turkish Grand National Assembly there are only just over 4% of women members. "This situation should be redressed, as political parties are not drawing up their electoral lists in view of the next legislative elections", it says. The letters were addressed to the leaders of the True Path Party, Justice and Development Party (AK Party), Motherland Party, National Movement Party, Republic People Party (CHP), Democratic Le



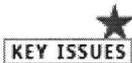
Party and New Turkey Party.

Czech check on gender equality

The promotion and enforcement of gender equality will be the focus of the latest EU Phare funded Twinning project in the Czech Republic. The programme, worth CzK 18 million, will use experts in gender equality issues from Sweden to help tackle the continuing problems of gender discrimination in the Czech Republic. The programme was formally launched last week by Zdenek Škromach, Minister for Labour and Social Affairs. Recent Czech efforts to promote gender equality have included the creation in 1998 of the Unit for Equal Opportunities Between Men and Women at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and the setting up in 2001 of the Governmental Council for Equality between Men and Women. Nevertheless, discrimination against women remains in areas such as access to employment, promotion and equal pay and the promotion of gender equality is also needed to strengthen the role of men as fathers the Czech government recognises. The project will run for 12 months until August 2003, and the main result will be a proposal for setting up an institutional structure for equality between women and men. It will also include training in gender equality for civil servant representatives from the regions, labour offices, trade unions and employers, journalists and politicians. Sweden is the Czech Republic's project partner, represented by Cecilia Asklof of the Swedish National Labour Market Board. Seminars and workshops will be organised by Swedish experts with experience in areas such as gender mainstreaming (which means ensuring that gender equality is taken into account in all decision-making), gender equality at local level, and gender statistics.

Committee of Regions looks at enlargement

Enlargement is one of the key agenda items for the meeting of the Bureau of the EU Committee of the Regions in Køge, Denmark, on 13 September. The Committee is organising a public hearing on employment and migration in the perspective of enlargement. The discussions will focus on employment and migration needs, expectations and viable solutions and the issue of how EU enlargement and EU co-operation in general will affect the Danish model of negotiations and consensus in the labour market and speakers. Speakers will include Jesper Due, Professor of Labour Market affairs and Benny C Hansen, Director of Danish Regions. The meeting will also review better governance and a more active role in the preparation of European rules and information strategies; the work of the European Convention on the Future of Europe; and the priorities of the Danish Presidency of the EU.



Candidates at EU informal agriculture Council

Agriculture ministers of the candidate countries will take part in the informal EU Agriculture Council, which is to take place on the Danish island of Funen on 8 to 10 September. Innovation in agriculture is the main theme of the meeting, which will be attended by the 15 EU agriculture ministers, as well as European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries Franz Fischler, and Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection David Byrne. "I am highly pleased that the candidate countries will participate in the Council discussions on innovation of the agricultural sector of Europe", said Danish Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Mariann Fischer Boel, who is hosting the meeting in her role as President of the Agriculture Council. "The EU is facing many changes, and this applies not least to the agricultural sector. In my opinion, we need innovation of the agricultural sector and agricultural policy. We want the trade to be competitive in an increasingly global market, and we want it to be able to meet consumers' demand for safe food of high quality. At the same time, we must ensure sustainable production, and innovation should develop in co-operation with research and consumer protection policy. An agricultural policy that perpetuates the status quo has no future."



Cyprus Euro-Info Points to open

As part of its growing communication strategy for enlargement, the European Commission announced the opening of 4 new Euro-Info Points in Cyprus. The Head of the Commission



Delegation in Cyprus, Ambassador Donato Chiarini, and the President of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vassilis Rologhis, recently signed the contract for setting up the new info points at the Chamber's four regional offices, in Larnaka, Lemesos, Pafos and Paralimni, where they will work as regional satellites of the Euro-Info Centre at the Chamber offices in Nicosia.

Support grows for Latvia's membership of the EU

A public opinion poll carried out in July by the Latvian European Integration Bureau shows gradual increase in the number of EU supporters. If a referendum on Latvia's joining the European Union had taken place in July 2002, 46.6% of Latvia's residents would have voted for accession of the EU (45.5% in June) and 35.3% against it (38.5% in June); 18.1% of the residents were undecided (16.0% in June). While the number of the EU supporters has increased, the number of sceptics has gone down - but the number of undecided residents has grown. People aged 18-39 tend to favour Latvia's accession, whereas residents over the age of 64 tend to have a negative view. According to the poll, people with high income, high education, citizens of Latvia, urban residents and ethnic Latvians are generally more positive inclined toward the EU. Unlike the public opinion poll results in May and June, the results in July show that more female respondents (48.1%) support Latvia's EU accession than male respondents (44.8%). Euro-optimists are in the majority in the city of Riga and the regions of Zemgale, Latgale and Vidzeme. Only in the region of Kurzeme are there more euro-sceptic than euro-optimists.

For more information on opinion polls, see the DG enlargement web site : <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/opinion/index.htm>

... and increasing support for Norwegian EU membership

Two opinion polls conducted in August show increased support in favour of Norwegian EU membership. A poll in the daily newspaper "Aftenposten" showed 53 % in favour of EU membership, an increase of 2 points since May. A poll for the newspaper "Nationen", not known to be in favour of membership, also showed an increase, with 45.6 % now in favour, against 42.4 % in June. The Head of the European Movement in Norway, Sigurd Grytten, said that increasing numbers of people understand that the EEA Agreement makes Norway an EU member without democratic influence.

Candidates back EU statement on Belarus

The EU candidate countries have given their unreserved backing to an EU declaration which expresses renewed concern over human rights and democracy in Belarus - which will be the EU's direct neighbour as soon as Poland, Lithuania and Latvia become EU member states. "The European Union reiterates its wish to welcome Belarus among the democratic states of Europe", says the statement from the EU Presidency. But, it goes on, the EU is concerned about the draft of the law "On freedom of conscience and religious organisations", approved on June 27 by the House of Representatives, and to be submitted later to the Council of the Republic for final approval. If this law receives final approval this will further weaken the freedom of conscience in Belarus, says the EU: the new rules will open the way to discrimination against religious communities by dividing religions according to their "value" with respect to Belarus, and will provide a basis for censorship by requiring religious literature to be submitted to Belarussian authorities before distribution.

This will in effect create government control of religious organisations and make them subject to sanctions - for circumstances which are not clearly defined. "It is questionable whether the law - if approved - would be in accordance with international agreements to which Belarus has subscribed", says the EU, and urges the Council of the Republic not to approve it. The full endorsement of the statement marks the progress in links with the candidate countries. It is not so long ago that some of the candidate countries declined to sign up to such declarations, out of their own concern not to prejudice their links with Belarus.



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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
September	
Details tbc	European Court of Auditors workshop with the supreme audit institutions of the candidate countries on audit of internal control systems
Monday 9th - Thursday 19th	The annual meeting of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) examines an agenda that includes the protection of victims of human trafficking, and developing new international standards for democratic elections; Warsaw
Tuesday 10th	Public Hearing "Is Enlargement also for Women?", with participants from Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Hungary, and Romania; European Parliament, Brussels
Tuesday 10th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen appears before European Parliament foreign affairs committee, Brussels • European Parliament regional affairs committee and foreign affairs committee discuss the consequences of enlargement on economic and social cohesion policy after 2006, Brussels • European Parliament industry and research committee discusses the situation of research in the candidate countries and their participation in EU programmes, Brussels • European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen meets Hildegard Puwak, Romanian Minister for European Integration, Brussels • EU Council of Ministers working group on enlargement meets, Brussels
Wednesday 11th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Parliament President Pat Cox meets Hildegard Puwak, Romanian Minister for European Integration, Brussels • European Parliament agriculture committee discusses the consequences of enlargement on economic and social cohesion policy after 2006, Brussels
Thursday 12th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen meets Turkish deputy Prime Minister Yilmaz, Brussels • EU Council of Ministers working group on enlargement meets, Brussels • EU Council of Ministers working group on the Accession Treaty meets, Brussels • EU Council meeting of representatives of member states and candidate countries to the Convention on the Future of Europe, Brussels
Friday 13th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Council of Ministers working group on enlargement meets,

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	<p>Brussels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Commission President Romano Prodi and Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen meet Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik, Brussels
Thursday 12th - Friday 13th	Franz Fischler, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries visits Poland
Saturday 14th-Sunday 15	Conference on gender equality in the EU candidate countries: institutional mechanisms, labour market + economy; Copenhagen.
Tuesday 17th	Baltic Conference on Intellectual Property, Riga
Monday 16th - Tuesday 17th	Franz Fischler, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries visits Latvia
Monday 16th - Tuesday 17th	Forum on the Northern Dimension in Social Protection and Health, Joensuu, Finland.
Tuesday 17st - Wednesday 18th	Franz Fischler, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries visits Estonia
Wednesday 18th - Thursday 19th	European Economic and Social Committee plenary session discusses reports on transport and enlargement, on pre-accession financial assistance via Phare, ISPA and SAPARD, and on the impact of enlargement on EMU, as well as reports on Cyprus, Latvia and Lithuania, Brussels
Thursday 19th - Sunday 22nd	European Budget Commissioner Michael Schreyer visits Hungary
Friday 20th	Enterprise Commissioner Erkki Liikanen visits Estonia
Friday 20th	European Enterprise Commissioner Erkki Liikanen visits Estonia
Friday 20th - Saturday 21st	Parliamentary elections, Slovakia
Friday 20-Sunday 22	Conference on EU enlargement and gender equality: implications for applicant countries; the conference will look at how EU legislation on equality will influence the situation of women in the candidate countries, how accession will impact on the social and economic situation of women in the candidate countries, and women's participation in the decision-making process in respect of the EP elections in 2004;
Thursday 26-Friday 27th	Latvian and European Commission ministerial conference on "Safety and security of energy supplies in the Baltic Sea Region in the context of EU enlargement", Ventspils (www.energy-conference.gov.lv)
Thursday 26th - Friday 27st	Conference on energy safety and supply security in the Baltic Sea Region in the light of EU enlargement, Riga and Ventspils.

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Thursday 26th - Friday 27st	The Baltic Sea Region 2010: Encountering the Past - Mapping the Future. Copenhagen.
Monday 30th	Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference annual meeting discusses the Northern Dimension, St. Petersburg
Autumn	
Details tbc	Slovenia presidential and local elections
September/October	
Details tbc	Self-governmental elections, Poland
October	
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
Monday 7th	Fifth European Commission seminar on consumer affairs for candidate countries, Brussels
Saturday 12th - Sunday 13th	Baltic Sea conference on Baltic Metropolises, Copenhagen
Wednesday 16th	European Commission due to finalise the 2002 regular reports on the candidates and the strategy paper on the enlargement exercise as a whole
Sunday 20	Estonian local elections
Monday 21	Ministerial Conference on the guidelines for a new action plan for the Northern Dimension, Luxembourg
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	
Monday 4th	Danish Energy Agency conference on energy supply and demand in the Kaliningrad Region, Kaliningrad
Details tbc	Local elections, Czech Republic (including first elections for th

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	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
Tuesday 19th - Wednesday 20th	Baltic Sea Regional Energy Co-operation ministerial conference, Vilnius
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
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.
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)
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

ENLARGEMENT WEEKLY is prepared for the Information Unit of the Enlargement Directorate General of the European Commission. As part of its communication strategy on enlargement, the Commission makes this bulletin publicly available.

Comments are welcome and should be addressed by e-mail to enlargement@cec.eu.int.

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