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 **Enlargement**

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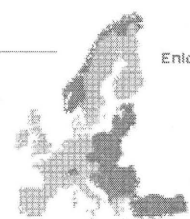
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WEEKLY
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Welcome to Enlargement Weekly. This weekly bulletin provides an overview of where European Union enlargement has got to, who's doing what in the EU, in the institutions and candidate countries,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

COMMISSION CHARTS COUNTDOWN TO ENLARGEMENT

It's official! The European Commission is now sure that ten of the candidate countries can make it into the EU by 2004. European Commission President Romano Prodi announced the conclusions of the Commission's thinking on October 9. He made clear that Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia are on track to complete negotiations by the end of this year, and to join the EU as full members two years later.

The other candidates, Prodi said, are also making good progress: the Commission is ready to back Bulgaria and Romania in their bid to join by 2007. Turkey, although it does not yet fulfil all the EU criteria to start negotiations, has made important advances towards joining the EU.

Prodi described the path many of the candidates have taken as "revolutionary". He said: "A huge area of our continent has moved peacefully from dictatorship to stable, participatory democracy". In just one decade there have been dozens of free and fair elections, the adoption of thousands of laws shape to new democracies and incorporate the EU acquis, training of tens of thousands of civil servants and magistrates, and hundreds of thousands of participants in training and co-operation projects to learn about EU policies.

The Commission's keenly awaited Regular Reports for 2002 show that all candidate countries have made significant progress in implementing the Copenhagen criteria.

The "Laeken ten" - the candidates nominated as potentially eligible by the EU summit in December 2001 - continue to fulfil the EU political criteria for membership, and "will have fulfilled the economic and acquis criteria and will be ready for membership from the beginning of 2004", according to the Commission. They have made sufficient progress in macroeconomic stabilisation and economic reform, and continuing their current trajectory should enable them to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union. They have a good track record in implementing their commitments, and there is plenty of preparatory work in progress, the Commission says. It therefore recommends concluding accession negotiations with them by the end of this year.

Bulgaria and Romania fulfil the political criteria, but in different way do not

fully meet the economic and acquis criteria. This year's Regular Report for the first time concludes that Bulgaria is a functioning market economy, and predicts that "provided it continues implementing its reform programme to remove remaining difficulties, it should be able to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union in the medium term".

On Romania, the Commission verdict is that it has "continued to make progress towards being a functioning market economy, for which the prospects have improved. Sustained and full implementation of planned measures together with the completion of the reform agenda should allow Romania to be able to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union in the medium term.

Turkey does not fully meet the political, economic or acquis criteria, the Commission decided. "Through constitutional reform and a series of legislative packages, Turkey has made considerable progress in meeting the Copenhagen criteria. Nonetheless, further efforts are needed", European Commission President Romano Prodi said when he announced the package. The Commission is therefore recommending that the EU give more support for Turkey's pre-accession preparations, and will propose a revised Accession Partnership and step up legislative scrutiny. The country has made progress on the functioning of its market economy, which should improve its capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union, but is still undergoing the consequences of two deeply destabilising financial crises, the Commission concluded. "Turkey is encouraged to pursue its reform process and so advance its candidacy for EU membership", said Prodi. And European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen commented: "The door stays open for Turkey."

But the "Laeken ten" - or "the acceding countries", as the Commission has now chosen to designate them - still have a lot of work to do before they join - and afterwards, the Commission stresses. The Regular Reports point to a number of areas where improvements are needed, across all the criteria: political, economic, and in adoption, implementation and enforcement of the acquis. "These should be vigorously pursued", it said.

Among the remaining deficiencies the report highlights are administrative capacity and justice systems, which are short of money and personnel. There is also inadequate preparation for implementation of the acquis in crucial areas such as customs services, taxation, veterinary and plant-health controls, institutions to manage and supervise agricultural policy, and departments to manage and control structural funds. Improvements to the functioning of the market economy or the competitiveness in the Union should still be made. And, said Prodi, there are still "extremely serious problems" in terms of "corruption, which... infects many of these countries, and the shameful trafficking in human beings." These failings have to be remedied before accession, and the Commission will work with the authorities of these countries to settle problems in good time, said Prodi.

Commissioner Verheugen also stressed: "The candidate countries must carry on preparing for membership even after the negotiations have closed, until they actually join the EU. In particular, they must honour the commitments that they have made to the EU during the negotiations". But he insisted the Commission's analysis is fair and based on objective criteria, and enables the EU to meet the political objective of accession before the elections to the European Parliament in 2004, without sacrificing clarity. "I can assure you that we have left nothing to chance; we have unequivocally pointed out all shortcomings that still need to be addressed and all areas where specific preparatory measures are still required", he went on.

The Commission will continue with its regular monitoring to track developments in these and other areas over the coming months. It will produce a final comprehensive monitoring report six months before accession. And after accession, the Commission will continue to check that EU law is being properly implemented in the new member states.

But, as Verheugen pointed out, although the progress reports we are presenting today focus on areas still in need of further attention, "This should

not be taken to mean that the shortcomings were in any way predominant. The reports must be viewed in the context of the enormous progress made over the years. The full picture emerges only when you compare what has been achieved with what has still to be done."

The Commission hopes that the Brussels European Council of 24-25 October will reach decisions on how the EU can make firm offers to the candidates on agriculture, financial issues and institutions. "That way we can negotiate and conclude these chapters before Copenhagen," concluded Prodi.

REACTIONS TO COMMISSION PROPOSALS

The European Commission unveiled its proposals for enlargement in the European Parliament on October 9, and MEPs were among the first to respond. Hans-Gert Poettering, Chairman of the majority EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament, described the moment as "a great success for Europe", and looked forward to fulfilment of the timetable so that new member states' MEPs would be sitting in the Parliament in 2004. European Socialists also welcomed the Commission position as "a big step forward on the road to the reunification of Europe" - but also focused on the need for clear conditions: Gary Titley said: "We share the Commission's concerns about some aspects of implementation, in particular concerning the administrative capacity of some candidate countries. We want to see these issues resolved and problems of corruption and inadequate legal systems to be addressed urgently". European Liberal Democrat Leader Graham Watson also emphasised the need for a reinforced monitoring system, "because there are clearly deficiencies in the readiness of the applicant states, and we should be open about this. If we are to convince our own people of the case for enlargement, it must be clear that we are not sweeping problems under the carpet". He also emphasised the ELDR Group's concern about corruption and implementation of EU justice and home affairs rules in several countries. And PES, EPP and Liberals all backed the Commission recommendation that Turkey - despite its efforts - had not yet made sufficient progress to win a start date for accession negotiations.

Pat Cox, President of the European Parliament welcomed the reports, saying: "Today we move away from the technical preparations and embrace the political challenge of the final, hard and historic decisions which will be taken under the Danish Presidency in Copenhagen in just over two months' time."

Other EU institutions also rapidly came forward with their reactions. For the EU Presidency, Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen said he was "very pleased with the reports that the Commission has presented". The judgement that ten countries have progressed so far that they will be able to complete the negotiations this year "is a very positive conclusion", and the Danish EU Presidency "will recommend that the EU Heads of State or Government support the Commission's evaluations at the forthcoming Summit on 24 and 25 October in Brussels". And for Turkey, he held out the prospect that "in the light of developments until December, new decisions on the next stage of Turkey's candidature may be made at the Copenhagen European Council."

EU Committee of the Regions President Albert Bore said: "We wholeheartedly welcome the Commission's report on EU enlargement and its conclusion that ten countries are ready to join". He insisted that the Committee "has been strongly supportive of the goal of enlargement from the outset", and urged that "The task now is to leave the technical negotiations behind and to take the hard political decisions which will allow accession treaties to be signed in spring 2003, so that the new entrants can participate as full members in the European Parliament elections of 2004."

Among EU member states, Jack Straw, UK foreign affairs minister, welcomed the Commission's proposals, and expressed support for 2007 as the target date of 2007 for Bulgaria and Romania. But he reaffirmed that the UK "remains strongly committed to Turkish membership of the EU as soon as possible". Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs Anna Lindh said the reports were a validation of "the objectives we set during the Swedish Presidency of

the EU in 2001". But she warned that although the candidates have made "impressive progress", "much still remains to be done" - to fight corruption, to improve the environment, and to strengthen their administrative and legal capacities.

The need for tight conditions was also evident in the reactions from other bodies. EuroCommerce, for instance, representing European retailers and wholesalers, called on the Commission to ensure proper implementation and enforcement of the *acquis communautaire* in the accession countries in all fields where no exceptional transitional periods were agreed between the Union and the accession countries. "The accession of these countries to the internal market will lead to a win-win situation on both sides, as long as the same rules apply for everybody", it insisted.

Among the candidates, early reactions varied according to the success they had scored. Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit - and three of his deputy Prime ministers - criticised the Commission report as unfair in paying insufficient attention to the reforms the country had initiated during the summer. "Turkey is a pivotally important country in the Eurasian region, one that the EU cannot dare to ignore," he stated. But there is still strong Turkish hope of winning a date for starting negotiations from the Copenhagen summit: as deputy prime minister Mesut Yilmaz put it: "The political decision coming out of December's Copenhagen summit is more important. After next month's elections, the new government should intensify its diplomatic efforts up through the Copenhagen summit. Our aim is to get a date from the EU at the summit to start our negotiations." The US too is pushing hard for Turkey's accession chances: according to US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher, "Turkey's future is in Europe," and "the closest possible relationship" between Turkey and the EU was "important".

Cyprus' foreign minister Ioannis Kasoulides expressed "full satisfaction" about the Commission's report on Cyprus. "It is an important step, essential for paving the road for the big political battle until Copenhagen; a battle which I am convinced will be won", he said.

Similarly, "The report by the European Commission on Lithuania's possibilities to join the EU by 2004 is welcome news, also an evaluation of efforts of all Lithuania's people", said Lithuanian foreign minister Antanas Valionis - but he accepted that "it does not mean we may put our feet up". Lithuania still had to make some improvements of its own, and there are also complex discussions to be resolved on the EU financing for closing down the Ignalina nuclear power plant and on the solution to Russia's difficulties in gaining access to Kaliningrad across Lithuania's territory.

The Latvian foreign ministry was satisfied that the Commission had accepted that there had been stable progress by Latvia in meeting all the Copenhagen criteria - and it claimed that the reports showed that Latvia is one of the most advanced candidate countries in terms of fulfilment of negotiation commitments.

Czech foreign minister Cyril Svoboda described the Commission evaluation as the Czech Republic's ticket for EU membership. But interior minister Stanislav Gross admitted: "The fight against corruption is a long road that has to be covered in the shortest amount of time". He was, however, satisfied with the part of the report on internal security: "The report says we have made great progress," he said.

Poland's Prime Minister Leszek Miller said, "Poland's efforts are ending in success. They prove that although there is still a considerable distance separating Poland from the countries of the European Union, we have made such major progress that we are able to join the EU15 and that we are an expected and desirable partner for these countries." But he acknowledged that "Ahead of us is a very difficult but final round of talks. It includes agriculture, among others subjects." And Hungary's foreign minister Laszlo Kovacs said: "The final marathon is just beginning".

HOW TO HANDLE CYPRUS

The continuing efforts to find an internal solution to the problem of Cyprus' division received a lot of attention in the Commission's thinking as it unveiled its regular reports and enlargement strategy paper on October 9.

European Commission President Romano Prodi said as he presented the reports: "Let us hope for real progress towards reunification of the island, even though the conclusions of the Helsinki European Council do not make it a precondition for entry. The Commission wants a reunited Cyprus to join the EU and believes this is the best solution for all.

"In recommending that the Council conclude negotiations speedily with Cyprus, the Commission is also issuing a fresh appeal to the parties concerned to work to attain the island's reunification. We call on everyone to rally to the process now under way under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General so that we can get a solution before the year's end.

"The Seville European Council affirmed that the EU 'would accommodate the terms of such a comprehensive settlement in the Treaty of Accession in line with the principles on which the European Union is founded.'"

European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen promised: "We will continue to work towards our strategic goal of welcoming a united Cyprus as a new member. The next few weeks will bring a 'window of opportunity' for ending the decades-old conflict and providing all Cypriots with the chance of a better future. The conflict can be solved; it is a question of political will. As in the past, we will do all we can to facilitate the finding of a solution. The parties involved know that the EU intends to reach a decision in Copenhagen, and it will. I call on everyone involved to make one big final effort."

The Commission's own strategy paper that accompanied the regular reports said: "The Commission hopes to see a re-united Cyprus acceding to the European Union on the basis of a comprehensive settlement, as the best outcome for all concerned." It welcomes the continuation of the "substantial UN involvement", and urges all parties concerned to "make a concerted effort to achieve such a settlement before the completion of the accession negotiations". And taking into account the statements of the UN Security Council, the Commission "urges Turkey, in particular, to lend full support to efforts to reach a comprehensive settlement this year. In this event, Cyprus' terms of accession can be adapted to reflect the comprehensive settlement as well as its implications for the application of the *acquis* throughout the island".

The Commission continues to be active in contact with all the parties concerned to reinforce efforts to reach a settlement, and has proposed that considerable EU resources to support the northern part of the island to catch up and to back up a settlement. But it makes clear that, in the absence of a settlement, the decisions to be taken in December by the Copenhagen European Council will be based on the conclusions of the Helsinki European Council. In its successive meetings in Gothenburg, Laeken and Seville, the European Council reaffirmed that, if the present rate of progress in negotiations and reforms is maintained, the European Union is determined to conclude the negotiations with Cyprus if it is ready."

Enlargement news in brief

Sweden looks at the price of enlargement

The Expert Group on Public Finance, an ad hoc independent government commission attached to the Swedish Ministry of Finance, has just published a new study suggesting that in budgetary terms the brunt of the enlargement

costs will fall in the period after 2006. It concludes that the costs are likely to be manageable, and that there is a major savings potential through relatively modest reforms of the agricultural and structural policies. But the study also shows that the present system of financing and allocating budgetary expenditure within the Union could lead to uneven distribution of the financial burden after the enlargement, because of financial concessions made to a few contributors through successive decisions of the European Council. The study discusses some elements that could be included in a reformed financing system - an issue that should be tackled by the ongoing Convention on the Future of Europe as well as the Intergovernmental Conference. The study seeks to estimate, in quantitative terms, the budgetary cost of the enlargement of the European Union (including the costs of alternatives to the present agricultural, structural and other policies), and to look at the distribution of the financial net burdens between countries and groups of countries and try to identify areas where interests may diverge and future tensions appear.

Ensuring consumers in candidate countries benefit too

Enlargement has been explicitly integrated into the EU's consumer policy strategy, said David Byrne, European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, in Brussels on 8 October, addressing the annual assembly of consumer associations. Already negotiations have been completed and the consumer protection chapter has been provisionally closed with all of the ten "Laeken" countries, and the current emphasis is on monitoring transposition of consumer legislation, ensuring administrative capacity to enforce it, and promoting the development of local consumer movements. The implementation of the EU's General Product Safety Directive has been reviewed by member state experts, and regional training programmes have been started in market surveillance for non-food consumer products. But, he stressed, "We will see how the practical reality unfolds over the coming years. I fully expect the Consumer Associations from the candidate countries to be active in helping us to identify any shortcomings so that appropriate action can be taken. The promise for consumers all over the EU (before and after enlargement) is not only wider choice and better prices, but also better protection as regards their health, safety, as well as their economic and legal interests."

Chirac "understands" Latvian problems

French President Jacques Chirac told the President of Latvia, Vaira Vike-Freiberga, in Paris on 1 October, that he understood Latvia's specific agricultural interests and the historical background, and promised that France would seek a solution through the European Commission that would be acceptable and fair towards all parties concerned. Vike-Freiberga had listed for the French President Latvia's concerns on the EU's current proposals on agriculture, and had particularly spelled out the country's wish for higher milk quotas and increased support for sugar-beet and grain farmers. She argued for special consideration because of the specific historical situation of the Baltic States, the heritage of the Soviet occupation, the Russian crisis of 1998, and denationalisation.

Meanwhile, Latvia says it made some progress on agriculture at the EU accession negotiations in Brussels on 1 October, where again it made the point about losses suffered by Latvia's agriculture, especially as a consequence of the liquidation of collective farms in the early 1990s and the Russian economic crisis of the late 1990s. The two sides were able to agree that negotiations on veterinary and phytosanitary issues need not be continued, and they confirmed the agreement on transition periods until the year 2006 for meeting quality criteria for milk intended for processing, and for modernisation of 11 milk and 29 fish processing enterprises in line with EU requirements until 2005, and 77 meat processing enterprises and slaughterhouses until 2006.

Presidency talks to EU and candidate MPs

At a meeting of the chairmen of the foreign policy committees of the EU member states and of the candidate countries in Copenhagen on 10 October, Danish prime minister and EU Council President Anders Fogh Rasmussen said "The year 2002 could well turn out to be a milestone in the history of Europe. For we now have the chance to establish lasting links in a new Europe for our time." Looking back towards the division of Europe after World War II, and forwards to the upcoming NATO and EU summits which will decide on enlargement of both organisations over the coming years, he said the journey which Europe started as the Berlin Wall fell is about to reach its crossroad. "During the next couple of months we will have a unique opportunity to, in part at least, make good the mistakes of the past and enlarge both the EU and NATO. Not with all the candidate countries. But with the large majority of them. And with the perspective of finalising negotiations with the rest in the years ahead.

If we succeed, the NATO Summit in Prague and the EU Summit here in Copenhagen will, together, mark a historic step in the great transformation of Europe. We shall finally close one of the bloodiest chapters in our history. And open the door to a united future of freedom, peace and prosperity." He added however that there would be conditions to success. "Candidate countries, as well as existing member states, must be willing to show flexibility. To make compromises. A successful outcome of the negotiations in Copenhagen requires the commitment of all involved. If not, we risk seeing time schedules starting to slip and opportunities being missed." And, he warned, it is important that EU negotiations should be concluded by December 2002. "If we fail to do so we risk considerable delays in the entire process."

Ecofin previews Brussels summit on enlargement funding

The EU Council of Economic and Finance Ministers heard the views of European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen and Budget Commissioner Michael Schreyer on the financing of enlargement at their meeting in Luxembourg on October 8-9 - where the Commission pressed again for adoption of its framework proposal of last January. Ministers then held an orientation debate on the budgetary and financial aspects of enlargement, so as to provide input to the work which leads up to the Brussels European Council on 24-25 October. There was no decision made, as the subject remains open to continuing discussion, but the Council President undertook to communicate the views expressed to his ministerial colleagues most closely involved in preparing the Brussels European Council, and suggested that colleagues from the other member states did likewise.

EU candidates take on new rankings in EURO 2004

Hungary and Slovakia showed their hunger for rapid action when they both took early leads in their qualifying matches in the EURO 2004 football competition on October 12. Hungary's teamwork put them ahead after five minutes in their away match against Sweden, who took until fifteen minutes before the final whistle to score their equaliser in the 1-1 draw. Slovakia also established themselves in the first half of their match against England, with a goal by Szilárd Nemeth - whose day-job is playing for Middlesbrough in northern England. But England fought back in the second half on the rain-soaked Bratislava pitch to take a 2-1 victory. Slovenia fared worst of the EU candidate countries in matches against EU member states, losing 5-0 at the Stade de France in Paris. In only one match last week were EU candidates pitted against one another: Latvia pulled off a surprise away win against Poland, despite the home side's energetic start. Latvia's coach Aleksandrs Starkovs said: "If you are surprised with the score don't be, because the level of football in Europe is equal." Meanwhile, Bulgaria beat Croatia 2-0 in Sofia, putting them at the top of their group, and Turkey beat the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2-1 in Skopje, putting them too at the head of their group. Romania lost 1-0 to Norway in Bucharest, the Czech Republic beat Moldova 2-0 in Chisinau, Lithuania beat the Faroe Islands 2-0 in Kaunas, and Malta lost 2-0 to Israel. Estonia chalked up a 3-2 victory in a friendly international against New Zealand in Tallinn.

Agenda

See also the new "Enlargement events calendar" on the DG Enlargement web site at <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 al current and future member states.

Date	Event
Autumn	
Details tbc	Slovenia presidential and local elections
October	
Details tbc	Partial Senate elections, Czech Republic
Thursday 17th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Enlargement and EU cohesion policy workshop, CEPS, Brussels ■ Monday 21st-Wednesday 23rd ■ Workshop with the supreme audit institutions of the candidate countries on audit quality control, Gdansk ■ EU Council of Ministers working group on enlargement meets, Brussels ■ EU Council of Ministers working group on the Accession Treaty meets, Brussels
Thursday 17th - Friday 18th	European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen visits Malta
Friday 18th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ European Justice and Home Affairs Commissioner Antonio Vitorino visits Poland ■ Candidate countries hold accession negotiations at deputy level, Brussels ■ European External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten and European Competition Commissioner Mario Monti take part in the Forum 2000 Conference 'Bridging Global Gaps', Prague ■ Franz Fischler, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries receives the Slovenian agriculture minister, Franc But
Friday 18th - Sunday 20th	European External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten and Competition Commissioner Mario Monti visit the Czech Republic
Sunday 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Estonian local elections ■ Local governmental elections, Hungary
Monday 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ministerial Conference on the guidelines for a new action plan for the Northern Dimension, Luxembourg ■ General Affairs and External Relations Council reviews economic and institutional issues relating to enlargement, Luxembourg
Thursday 24th-Friday 25th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ European Council, Brussels: the EU Presidency draft agenda currently envisages discussion of enlargement and of Kaliningrad. On enlargement, decisions are expected about which candidate countries negotiations can be concluded with by the Copenhagen European Council on 12-13 December, as well as about decisions to be taken at Copenhagen on updated pre-accession strategies and roadmaps for Bulgaria and Romania and on the next stage of Turkey's candidature; budgetary and

financial issues, monitoring, and institutional arrangements will also be on the agenda.

Sunday 27th Polish regional elections

- Monday 28th-
Tuesday 29th
- European Budget Commissioner Michael Schreyer visits Malta
 - European Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou visits Bulgaria and Romania.

November

Monday 4th Danish Energy Agency conference on energy supply and demand in the Kaliningrad Region, Kaliningrad

- Monday 11th
- EU-Russia summit in Copenhagen will discuss Kaliningrad

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

- Tuesday 12th-
Wednesday 13th
- Meeting of the European Economic and Social Committee EU-Slovakia joint co-operation committee, Brussels.

- Tuesday 19th
- Wednesday 20th
- Baltic Sea Regional Energy Co-operation ministerial conference, Vilnius
 - Meeting of the European Economic and Social Committee EU-Slovenia joint co-operation committee, Brussels.

Wednesday 20th-
Thursday 21st Meeting of the European Economic and Social Committee EU-Poland joint co-operation committee, Brussels

Thursday 21st-Friday 22nd Meeting of the European Economic and Social Committee EU-Czech Republic joint co-operation committee, Brussels.

Monday 25th-
Tuesday 26th Meeting of the European Economic and Social Committee EU-Estonia joint co-operation committee, Brussels.

- Wednesday 27th and
- Meeting of the Presidents of the supreme audit institutions of the member states and the candidate

Thursday 28th countries in Luxembourg
 ■ Meeting of the European Economic and Social Committee EU-Turkey joint co-operation committee, Brussels.

Thursday 28th Meeting of the presidents of the supreme audit institutions of
 and Friday the member states and the candidate countries, Luxembourg
 29th

December

Tbc Meeting of the European Economic and Social Committee
 EU-Lithuania joint co-operation committee, Brussels.

Wednesday Meeting of the European Economic and Social Committee
 4th-Thursday EU-Hungary joint co-operation committee, Brussels.
 5th

Thursday 5th- Meeting of the European Economic and Social Committee
 Friday 6th EU-Bulgaria joint co-operation committee, Brussels

Monday 9th- Meeting of the European Economic and Social Committee
 Tuesday 10th EU-Romania joint co-operation committee, Brussels.

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.
 ■ European Court of Auditors meeting with heads of the supreme audit institutions of the candidate countries, Bucharest
 ■ OECD conference on governance and partnerships in transition economies, Český Krumlov, Czech Republic

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

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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