

441.215 A

IMPORTANT LEGAL NOTICE: The information on this site is subject to a disclaimer and a copyright notice.



## Enlargement

English ▾

EUROPA &gt; European Commission &gt; Enlargement &gt; Library &gt; Enlargement Weekly

Contact | Search

What's new? | Site map | Index | FAQ

&lt;&lt; HOME

### ALL ABOUT...

#### Enlargement

#### Candidate countries

#### Negotiations

#### Financial assistance

#### Communication strategy

### USEFUL INFORMATION

#### Who does what?

#### Public opinion

#### Events

#### Library

#### Research Bulletin

#### Links

&gt;&gt; E.U in the world

### PRESS CORNER

## Enlargement Weekly - 03 December 2002

- ▣ [Sketching out the endgame](#)
- ▣ [Parliament Presidents look forward to Enlargement](#)
- ▣ [Turkey edging closer to a date?](#)
- ▣ [Cyprus edging towards a deal?](#)
- ▣ [Closer links with the Czech Republic](#)

- ▣ [Enlargement news in brief](#)
- ▣ [Enlargement Mini-Briefs](#)
- ▣ [Enlargement agenda](#)



Enlargement

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER  
[Newsletter archiv](#)  
[Subscribe](#)

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.

### SKETCHING OUT THE ENDGAME

With just days to go before the Copenhagen summit on 12-13 December, where the European Union aim is to close accession negotiations with most of the candidate countries, last week was dominated by the presentation of individual packages that - it was hoped - could represent a final deal.

The European Union Presidency and the European Commission spent last Tuesday in a series of meetings with Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovak Republic and Slovenia. Denmark's permanent representative to the EU, Poul Skyte Christophersen, and the Commission's director general for enlargement, Eneko Landaburu, spelled out improved terms for a settlement to each of them.

These packages are the result of intensive, informal discussions between the EU Presidency, the Commission and each candidate country following the Brussels European Council on 24-25 October. The Presidency said that with these proposals, "everything has now been presented, and nothing has been kept back for later".

These offers will ensure that each of the candidates will be financially better off after accession than before membership. They provide an extra €1 billion for budgetary compensation, to be shared out among the candidates on the basis of their respective gross national incomes. They include another €0.9 billion to help pay for accelerated preparations for the candidates' accession to the Schengen area - assisting with expenses such as for border control and justice and home affairs.

In an attempt to take into account the special wishes of each candidate country, the offers also contain upward adjustments of several important agricultural quotas, including the milk quotas, and additional facilities for the new member states to top up direct payments to their farmers. Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia would receive an additional 5% for rural development. For some new member states, the offers would extend the period during which land could only be purchased by nationals, and for Hungary and the Czech Republic they would grant extra seats in the European Parliament. The offers would also provide some €0.6 billion for decommissioning of ageing nuclear power plants.

At the same time, the total economic effect of the packages remains well within the decisions on the budget for enlargement taken at the European Council in Berlin in March 1999, and at the Brussels summit, and they are below the Commission proposal of January 2002.

The goal of the Presidency is to complete negotiations on this broad basis with the ten countries at meetings at foreign ministers level on December 9-10, so that the enlargement deal can be confirmed at Copenhagen, and so that the new EU member states can be welcomed into the EU on 1 May 2004.

The initial reactions of the candidate countries to the offers ranged from a cautious welcome - from many - to a demand - from some - for much more. But the Presidency has made clear that there is not much more that can be offered now. Even before the Presidency presented its proposals to the candidates, there had already been expressions of concern from some member state representatives that the offers were too generous.

Responding to candidate countries' continuing criticisms of the proposals, European Commission President Romano Prodi issued a public appeal to the governments of these ten candidate countries: "We are just a few days away from concluding the historic agreement for Europe. (...) The Danish Presidency and the Commission have made valiant efforts (...) to present a package which meets almost all the concerns of the candidate countries. I appeal to the leaders of the candidate countries to demonstrate the political realism necessary to solve these final difficulties in the same spirit of responsibility and friendship which inspires the Presidency and the Commission", he said.

Meanwhile, the Danish prime minister, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, is preparing to consult with other EU leaders in the course of the roundtrip of EU capitals that the Council President traditionally makes immediately prior to a summit. Accompanied by Eneko Landaburu, he starts in Lisbon, Madrid and Vienna, goes on to Berlin and Rome the next day, then Helsinki and Stockholm on Wednesday 4th, followed by London, Dublin and Paris on Thursday 5th, and the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium on Friday 6th. As Greece will assume the EU Presidency at the turn of the year, Athens is the last stop on the trip, on Tuesday 10 December.

As he was preparing to depart, Rasmussen said: "At the concluding summit of the Danish EU Presidency in Copenhagen on 12 - 13 December, we shall complete the enlargement negotiations with up to ten countries. During the week ahead, the Danish Presidency will present a final negotiation package to each of the ten countries. In connection with my roundtrip, I will present an account of the content of the packages and discuss the course of events leading up to the Summit. It is my firm conviction that the packages constitute the best possible combination of concessions to the candidate countries and due respect for the decisions taken by the EU Heads of State or Government at previous meetings in Berlin in 1999 and in Brussels in October this year. The negotiations on the enlargement of the EU will have to be concluded on the basis of the Presidency negotiation packages."

He already insisted last week at a meeting with Polish prime minister Leszek Miller that "the time schedule for the completion of the negotiations must be kept, which means that negotiations with individual countries should be completed prior to the Copenhagen summit... and on the basis of the negotiation packages of the EU Presidency."

The Copenhagen summit will also have to make decisions on the next stages for the other EU candidates: new roadmaps for Bulgaria and Romania, and how to progress Turkey's accession bid.

#### **PARLIAMENT PRESIDENTS LOOK FORWARD TO ENLARGEMENT**

The President of the European Parliament, Pat Cox, hosted a meeting in

Brussels last week with the Presidents of the Parliaments of the candidate countries, with the participation of European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen, and Elmar Brok, the MEP who chairs the Parliament's committee on foreign affairs.

The Presidents concluded their meeting with a joint statement confirming that enlargement "is the principal political challenge currently facing the institutions of the EU, the member states and the candidate countries", and expressing the conviction that enlargement "will represent a real and symbolic contribution to world peace, security and prosperity at a time of great international tension."

They drew attention to the need for Parliaments to work together to ensure that the European integration process engages public opinion and that parliaments are effectively involved. The arrangements for observers from the acceding countries to attend European Parliament sessions once the Accession Treaty is signed were welcomed "as confirmation of the central role of Parliaments in relation to public opinion in the final, decisive stage of the enlargement process."

And the Presidents put in a bid for a fair deal at Copenhagen: "A successful conclusion of the accession negotiations must reflect a fair distribution of the rights and obligations incumbent on both current and future member states". They urged the EU member states and the candidate countries "to respect the principles of equality and solidarity during the final stages of the accession negotiations" - and to apply those principles "equally to present and future EU member states".

#### **TURKEY EDGING CLOSER TO A DATE?**

When Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen met the leader of Turkey's Justice and Development Party, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in Copenhagen on 26 November, he greeted him as "a key figure in Turkish politics", even if prevented from running in the Turkish election and therefore not part of the new Turkish government.

"From the Turkish side much has been done to live up to the EU requirements for initiating accession negotiations with Turkey, and the new Turkish government has indicated that it intends to continue this work", Rasmussen said, promising that the EU would make a decision at Copenhagen on the next phase of Turkey's EU candidature.

Danish foreign affairs minister Per Stig Møller, who simultaneously received his Turkish counterpart, Yasar Yakis, said after his meeting: "I congratulated the new government on its victory in the parliamentary elections in early November... The Presidency is impressed with the new government's determination to continue the economic and political reform process. This is indeed very positive."

Møller recognised that "the changes in Turkey stem from its strong desire to join the EU". And he insisted that "the reforms needed to be reflected in signals from the EU". He went on to confirm that a decision on the next stage of Turkey's candidature would be taken in Copenhagen. "It is too early to say exactly what the decision will be in Copenhagen", he said; "But we are aiming at a good decision - for both the EU and for Turkey." Møller also encouraged his Turkish counterpart to work hard for a Cyprus solution: "Progress in this area would create a favourable climate for the EU-Turkey relations", said the Danish foreign affairs minister.

Greece, UK, Italy, and Spain have indicated support for Turkey's membership of the EU, and Portugal too added its voice last week to the idea of giving Turkey a date at the Copenhagen summit for starting negotiations. But Nordic member states are still voicing concerns about Turkey's human rights record. German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder is reported to have discussed with visiting Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer last week a promise of a date on which a date would be set for negotiations to open, once reforms had

been demonstrably put in place. For his part, Recep Tayyip Erdogan made use of his tour of European capitals to promise constitutional reforms in Turkey, but to warn that relations between Turkey and the EU could weaken if Turkey does not receive firm encouragement at the Copenhagen summit.

What sort of proposal to make to Turkey will also be one of the key topics under discussion by leaders of the European Peoples' Party on the eve of the Copenhagen summit. Ten European Prime ministers and leaders of the EPP's 60 member parties will consider, says the EPP, "whether it is realistic to see Turkey as an eventual member state". "Turkey is a really crucial issue for the Union," EPP Secretary-General Antonio López-Istúriz said last week. "It goes to the root of Europe's identity now and in the future". He said he was optimistic that a clear consensus could be forged "if not at Copenhagen then soon, and on the basis of a serious debate."

At the level of the European Parliament, a favourable interim verdict has been given to the early steps taken by the new Turkish Government. "So far, so good", said Dutch Green MEP Joost Lagendijk, who led a delegation of members of the European Parliament to Ankara last week. After meeting with prime minister Abdullah Gül and other leading political figures, Lagendijk, who is co-chairman of the EU-Turkey joint parliamentary committee, said his delegation could give a positive response to the government's political reform programme, which it considered would supplement the reforms introduced last August by the previous administration.

Meanwhile, over 200 Turkish non-governmental organisations forming the Turkish Civil Society Platform and representing different segments of society have called on the EU to grant Turkey a date at Copenhagen. Their call was supported by high-level representatives of each Turkish NGO's EU counterpart, as well as by Roger Briesch, President of the European Union Economic and Social Council and by the ETUC, and the European Trade Union Confederation.

#### **CYPRUS EDGING TOWARDS A DEAL?**

Hopes are rising of a positive outcome to the attempts to reach agreement between the Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus. Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş indicated last week he would be prepared to negotiate on the basis of the plan for a comprehensive settlement forged by United Nations secretary general Kofi Annan. The Greek Cypriot side and Greece have also accepted the document as "basis for talks". The outline deal would see Cyprus reunited into a single country with two equal states and a loose federal government with a rotating presidency. Its terms include concessions on territory, property, sovereignty, security and resettlement of Greek Cypriots in Turkish Cypriot territory. The plan foresees a referendum on both sides in March 2003.

#### **CLOSER LINKS WITH THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

The last few days have seen the Czech Republic forging closer links with the European Union at both the political and technical levels. European Commission President Romano Prodi last week met Czech prime minister Vladimir Spidla on his first visit to Brussels since taking office, and expressed satisfaction at "the impressive progress the Czech Republic has achieved in preparing for the EU accession." He said the EU final package for negotiations will meet legitimate Czech requests, while staying within the financial constraints of the EU. "We have entered the final lap of the enlargement negotiations. We've been working hard to address the concerns of the Czech Republic and I'm convinced that our offer can be the basis for the final agreement", Prodi said after the meeting.

Spidla also thanked the Commission for its role in extending the mandate of the European Solidarity Fund to cover the damages caused by the flooding last summer in Czech Republic.

The EU-Czech Republic joint parliamentary committee met in Brussels last week, with the participation, among others, of European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen, and looked forward to a successful outcome for enlargement at the Copenhagen summit. But it warned that no one should reduce their reform efforts once negotiations are closed. It attached "a high priority" to combating corruption, and to improving the transparency of public spending, as well as to promoting good governance in all areas of public life. The meeting welcomed the European Commission's determination to monitor the progress up until and after accession in the areas where specific urgent issues still remain to be resolved, and it recalled that reforms in all areas have to be continued well after accession in order to fulfil the commitments made during the accession negotiations. This would mean, however, that the Commission and the EU member states would have to continue to support the adaptation process with all the financial and logistical means available, the JPC concluded.

And a new EU-Czech body - the joint consultative committee, bringing together representatives of the European Economic and Social Committee and their Czech counterparts - has just held its first meeting, too. Its establishment is another acknowledgement at senior political level of the role of organised civil society, and its role is to prepare the ground for the enlargement of the EU by promoting dialogue between Czech and EU civil society organisations. The JCC will enable the Czech representatives to become acquainted with the consultation processes within the EU, and will also advocate and support the active involvement of economic and social actors in the implementation and practice of the EU legislation in the Czech Republic. Priority fields for discussion in 2003 will be cross-border co-operation, economic and social consequences of EU accession, implementation of structural funds, agriculture, simplification of EU single market legislation, and the role of organised civil society in the information strategy on EU membership.

On more technical matters, the European Commission last week proposed a new agreement to ease trade with the Czech Republic. A draft modification to the Europe Agreement would liberalise trade worth some €120 million a year on sensitive items such as molasses, many fruit and vegetables, honey and fruit juices. "The Czech Republic has made room for import of quality agricultural products from the European Union, such as tropical fruits, fruit juices, sheep meat and yoghurts," according to Ramiro Cibrián, head of the European Commission delegation in Prague. At the same time there will be improved concessions and new duty-free tariff quotas on cereals (with "substantial tariff quotas on wheat, maize and barley") and in the dairy sectors, and the EU will be granted new duty-free access to the Czech market for its exports of rice and olive oil. The agreement - which still needs to be finalised by ministers - includes a commitment to remove export subsidies for the sectors concerned. It could come into force from 1 January 2003.

Another aspect of boosting the success of enlargement at grass-roots level came under the spotlight at a seminar at the Czech Mission to the EU in Brussels. The challenges and expectations for smaller Czech firms facing EU enlargement was examined by diplomats, ministers and senior European Commission officials, as well as by Czech and European businessmen.

And work is moving forward on another dimension of Czech relations with the wider Europe. Representatives of the Czech Republic met their counterparts from the European Free Trade Association in Prague on 25 November to discuss EFTA-Czech Republic trade relations. This was the seventh meeting of the Joint EFTA-Czech Committee since the entry into force of the countries' Free Trade Agreement on 1 July 1992 - and high on the agenda were Czech accession negotiations with the EU: the EFTA side "expressed its satisfaction that the Czech Republic's accession to the EU implied a new and closer relationship with the EFTA states", particularly in respect of the European Economic Area, which the new EU member states are obliged to join too. The EFTA countries at the meeting underlined the importance of the Czech Republic's simultaneous accession to the EU and to the EEA - and said they were concerned that unless remedial action is taken, the Czech Republic's accession to the EU would raise tariff barriers on fish products

from EFTA.

## Enlargement news in brief

### *EU agrees a budget to prepare for enlargement*

The outline EU budget for 2003 was agreed last week, and greeted as "a solid and economical framework for next year's challenges" by Michael Schreyer, the Member of the Commission responsible for the budget. The budget "takes full account of the main political as well as administrative priority - the enlargement preparations," said Schreyer. The budget will be 1.9% up on 2002, providing a maximum of around €97.5 billion for payment appropriations. The Presidency said "the agreement secures the necessary funding for administrative costs incurred as a result of the anticipated enlargement of the EU with ten new member states".

### *Candidates contribute to European Court of Auditors work*

The European Court of Auditors hosted a meeting of the Presidents of the supreme audit institutions of the European Union and the candidate countries in Luxembourg last week. For the first time, the Presidents of the national supreme audit institutions of the thirteen candidate countries were invited to join the official meeting of their EU counterparts, and to discuss protection of public funds and other matters of common interest together. Co-operation was high on the agenda, and the candidate countries also made concrete contributions to the exchanges. The State Audit Office of Hungary presented a report from a joint working group on audit activities, and the Supreme Chamber of Control of Poland and the National Audit Office of Malta presented their report on relations between national parliaments and supreme audit institutions. Since 1997, the European Court of Auditors has intensified its co-operation with the enlargement countries, both formally and at the practical level, in order to allow regular exchanges of information, harmonise audit methodology and enhance professional training. SIGMA (an OECD-based organisation) and the supreme audit institutions from the EU member states also take part in these activities, with the aim of improving the quality of financial management in the candidate countries. National supreme audit institutions from EU member states also take part in EU-funded "twinning" projects with candidate countries, to help develop organisation and methodology and to allow effective audits of EU funds after accession.

### *Hungary can start running its EU pre-accession agriculture programme*

The European Commission last week gave the go-ahead to Hungary to manage its SAPARD programme - the EU pre-accession programme for agriculture and rural development. Under this scheme, Hungary will now be entitled to the €38.7 million allocated for 2000 and €39.4 million for 2001. The outline figure for 2002-2006 will be €40.6 million per year. This decision covers investments in agricultural holdings, processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products, development and improvement of rural infrastructure, and accompanying technical assistance. Franz Fischler, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, said: "I am pleased that finally the SAPARD money for Hungary can start flowing. Hungarian farmers will now benefit from EU money to modernise their holdings, to meet EU production standards or to improve infrastructure in the Hungarian countryside". Hungary is the last of the ten candidate countries from central and Eastern Europe to win approval for its national agency that will run the SAPARD programme.

*Candidate countries win EU backing for cinema projects*

The cinema in Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic is to benefit from the EU's MEDIA Plus and MEDIA training programmes. 18 of their projects have been selected for financing, with a budget of about €2.5 million.

In Poland the money will support projects covering fiction, documentary, and animation. Estonia will get money for an animation project, and Bulgaria for a fiction project. A distributor from Poland was chosen to distribute three European films: "L'Emploi du temps", "8 femmes" and "Irreversible". And a Bulgarian company will also distribute "8 femmes". Further support is to be provided to a Czech distributor and to a Polish company which has been very successful in generating cash flow - mainly due to the distribution of the film "Amelie". And a Czech film, "Dark Blue World", was selected for distribution in seven other European countries.

The Sofia International Film Festival will see around 50% of its costs covered by financing from MEDIA, and there will be support for training projects in the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Poland and Latvia. In addition, the EU is directly supporting cinema theatres with €10 million over two years for 23 screens in these five countries are profiting from direct support.

In 2003, Lithuania, Slovak Republic, Cyprus and Slovenia will also join the MEDIA Programme. "The candidate countries have a solid tradition of filmmaking and a rich cinema heritage. I am convinced that the promising figures announced today are likely to increase next year when the whole structure of the programme will be set up in the countries and when new countries will join" European Commissioner for Culture and Audio-visual Viviane Reding said.

**Enlargement Mini-Briefs**

- The **European Parliament's constitutional affairs committee** last week criticised the new plan for enlargement to take place on 1 May 2004 - it will create technical and political difficulties, the committee said. MEPs are concerned they will not be able to vet the ten new Commissioners foreseen for May 2004, and "any arrival of new Members of Parliament just before the last plenary session of this term would only generate further confusion", they said.
- Reforms to European Union competition rules backed last week by the Competitiveness Council should make enlargement easier. Abolishing the practice of notifying business agreements to the Commission should cut bureaucracy and legal costs for companies. The European Commission said the adoption of the plan - which it proposed in 2000 - before the historic enlargement of the Union will strengthen vigorous antitrust enforcement by means of a better and more effective sharing of enforcement tasks between the Commission and national authorities. The new rules will come into force on the 1st of May 2004 - at the same time the EU is planning to take in ten new member states. The **reform of antitrust proceedings** is an important step of preparing the European Union for enlargement, according to the Commission. A system of notification and authorisation of a multitude of individual agreements is simply not workable in the context of a European Union comprising 25 Member States.
- When **Estonian President Arnold Rüütel** came to Brussels last week - for meetings with President of the European Commission Romano Prodi, EU Enlargement Commissioner Günther Verheugen, and representatives of European Parliament committees, he acknowledged that 40% of his fellow-citizens were "decidedly hostile" to accession and that the percentage of those in favour had scarcely changed in the past six months. He insisted that even though the Union could not play the role of donor forever, his country should not have a negative financial balance with the EU in the first few years.

- Schools in many of the candidate countries have registered for the "**Spring day in Europe**" - a project to promote discussion of the future of the European Union. Scheduled for 21 March 2003, the event is intended to involve all schools in the member states and the candidate countries, to stimulate interest and involvement among the younger generation.
- European environmentalist non-governmental organisations have presented another study questioning the way that EU pre-accession funds are being used in the candidate countries. Entitled "Billions for Sustainability?", the study summarises three years of monitoring EU pre-accession funds in central and eastern Europe, and argues for a tighter focus on ensuring the money is used for **sustainable development**. "Environmental concerns are often shoved aside when large-scale infrastructure is at stake", alleges one of the study's authors, from CEE Bankwatch.
- A Romanian delegation led by the minister of European integration, **Hildegard Puwak**, examined "the Copenhagen package", comprising the draft road-map for accession initiated by the European Commission earlier this month, at a meeting in Copenhagen last week. The Romanian delegation called for a significant increase of the non-reimbursable funds allocated to Romania for 2004-2006, over and above what the European Commission is proposing in the road map.
- Senior political figures from the candidate countries will take their place at the **European Peoples' Party** summit in Copenhagen next week. In addition to the heads of government of Austria, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, deputy prime ministers of Finland and Denmark, and opposition leaders from other member states, the meeting will be attended by two prime ministers from candidate countries - Mikulás Dzurinda of Slovakia and Edward Fenech-Adami of Malta, as well as by Nadezhda Mihaylova, the opposition leader in Bulgaria, Viktor Orban, former prime minister of Hungary, and Presidents of EPP member parties in the candidate countries: Nicos Anastasiade from Cyprus, Kazys Bobelis from Lithuania, Franc But from Slovenia, Victor Ciorbea from Romania, Tunne Kelam from Estonia, Maciej Plazynski from Poland, Andris Skele from Latvia, and Cyril Svoboda from the Czech Republic.

## 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 all current and future member states.

Date	Event
<b>December</b>	
Tbc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Meeting of the European Economic and Social Committee EU-Lithuania joint co-operation committee, Brussels.</li> </ul>
Tuesday 3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ EU-Romania Association Committee meets, Brussels</li> <li>■ Bilateral Presidency discussions with candidates</li> <li>■ European Commission President Romano Prodi speaks on "Europe facing the decision - EU enlargement and global crises", and European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen speaks on "Europe before the ultimate test - the Community of 25", at the Europa-Forum 2002, European Parliament, Brussels</li> <li>■ European Parliament foreign affairs committee discusses the report by Jan Joost Lagendijk (Greens/EFA, NL) on the visit last week to Ankara of</li> </ul>

- the bureau of the EU-Turkey joint parliamentary committee JPC; Brussels
- Wednesday 4th
- Candidate countries take part in EU Council of Ministers working group on frontiers, Brussels
  - EU Council of Ministers working group on enlargement meets, Brussels
  - Franz Fischler, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries receives the Bulgarian agriculture minister Mehmed Dikme, Brussels
  - European Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou receives the Romanian minister of labour and social protection, Marian Sarbu, Brussels
  - European Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou receives Vassilis Rologis, president of the Cypriot chamber of commerce, Brussels
  - European Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou takes part in the high-level ministerial meeting with the candidate countries on progress in the social protection field, Brussels
- Wednesday 4th-Thursday 5th
- Meeting of the European Economic and Social Committee EU-Hungary joint co-operation committee, Brussels.
- Thursday 5th
- EU Council of Ministers working group on enlargement meets, Brussels
  - EU Council of Ministers working group on South-East Europe meets, Brussels EU
  - Council of Ministers working group on the Accession Treaty meets, Brussels
  - Franz Fischler, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries receives the Latvian agriculture minister, Martinš Roze
  - European Budget Commissioner Michael Schreyer receives the Romanian minister of European integration, Hildegard Puwak
  - European Commission Vice-President Neil Kinnock visits Hungary, and meets prime minister Péter Medgyessy, foreign affairs minister László Kovács, interior affairs minister Mónika Lamperth, finance minister Csaba László.
  - Meeting of the representatives of the governments of the member states and the candidate countries to the Convention, Brussels
- Thursday 5th-Friday 6th
- Meeting of the European Economic and Social Committee EU-Bulgaria joint co-operation committee, Brussels
- Friday 6th
- EU Council of Ministers working group on enlargement meets, Brussels
  - European Commission Vice-President Neil Kinnock visits the Czech Republic, and meets deputy prime minister Petr Mares, interior minister Stanislav Gross, foreign affairs minister Cyril Svoboda, and finance minister Bohuslav Sobotka.
- Monday 9th-Tuesday 10th
- Meeting of the European Economic and Social Committee EU-Romania joint co-operation committee, Brussels.
  - European Union General Affairs and External Relations Council will discuss preparations for the European Council in Copenhagen, enlargement, and

- the use of languages in an enlarged Union.
  - Negotiations at ministerial level with the candidate countries - with the hope that negotiations with some of the candidates can be closed; 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
  - European Budget Commissioner Michaele Schreyer visits Romania
- Sunday 22nd
- Presidential elections, Lithuania (second round on January 5, 2003)
- January 2003**
- Details tbc
- Presidential elections, Czech Republic
- Sunday 5th
- Lithuanian Presidential elections
- February 2003**
- 9th and 16th
- Presidential, elections, Cyprus
- March 2003**
- Sunday 2nd
- Estonian national election
- Wednesday 5th
- Parliamentary elections, Estonia
- April 2003**
- Wednesday 16th
- signature of the Accession Treaty, Athens
- May 2003**
- June 2003**
- Friday 6th and  
Saturday 7th
- Referendum on the accession treaty, Slovakia
- Sunday 15th  
and Monday  
16th
- Referendum on the accession treaty, Czech Republic
- July/August 2003**
- Details tbc
- Presidential elections (elected by the parliament), Latvia
- 2004**
- May 2004**
- Saturday 1st
- Entry into force of the accession treaty (according to conclusions of General Affairs Council, 18.11.02)

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](mailto:enlargement@cec.eu.int).

---

[TOP](#) ↗