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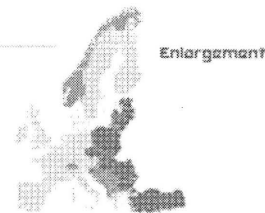
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WEEKLY NEWS
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Welcome to Enlargement Weekly. This weekly bulletin provides an overview of where European Union enlargement has got to, who's doing what in the EU, in the institutions and candidate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

ROMANIA DETERMINED TO MEET ITS ACCESSION DEADLINES

Romania's foreign minister Mircea Geoana was in Brussels last week for a series of EU encounters - including think-tank breakfasts and press briefings to formal Council meetings and diplomatic receptions. And the message to emerge from all of them was that Romania is determined to meet its target of joining the EU on January 1, 2007.

The Romanian confidence was met with polite - but slightly more guarded - enthusiasm from the EU side. European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen confirmed that Romania's accession process is "well on track". Greek foreign minister and Council President George Papandreou said he hoped the EU summit in Thessalonika on June 20 would give a "clear signal" of the further steps ahead in the accession process for both Romania and Bulgaria. And the ninth EU-Romania Association Council, which took place on May 19, spoke of welcoming Romania - but in 2007, rather than specifically at the beginning of 2007.

The Commission made clear it would do everything it could on its side so that accession negotiations with Romania could be concluded by October 2004 (when the term of the current Commission expires) - seen as a prerequisite if the schedule for accession is to be met. So far Romania has provisionally closed 17 of the 31 negotiating chapters: it is still in discussions on most of the key freedoms - movement of goods, people and services; and other chapters still to be closed include competition, agriculture, transport, taxation, energy, regional policy, environment, justice and home affairs, financial control, and finance and budget. Delays in reform of public administration have "limited Romania's ability to manage the negotiation process", the EU says.

The Association Council presented the customary list of tasks still needing attention by Romania: more efforts on administrative capacity (including civil service reform), further economic restructuring, judicial and political reforms, and more vigorous action to combat corruption. Privatisation is still "particularly slow" for a "hard core of loss-making public enterprises". The EU is still concerned that the government is resorting to rule by ordinance rather

than parliamentary approval of legislation that consultation of civil society remains limited, and that implementation still shows weaknesses. The Council pointed to "significant obstacles" to freedom of expression, and to restrictive requirements on establishing and managing political parties.

Geoana recognises that his country must take action now if it is to stay on track. He is aiming for recognition of "significant progress" in the Commission's next annual report on Romania, due to appear this November. One of the focal issues is whether Romania can by then demonstrate to the EU's satisfaction that it is a functioning market economy. The other is to make a reality of the government's new legislative package, which covers conflicts of interest, financial disclosure, a national anti-corruption prosecutor's office, and public access to information.

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES WINDING DOWN AS ACCESSION APPROACHES

After years of co-operation - and sometimes of conflict - over EU enlargement, the joint committees that the European Parliament set up with parliamentarians from each of the candidate countries are now starting to wind down, as their work comes to fruition with those set to join next year. The EU-Czech Republic joint parliamentary committee held its seventeenth - and possibly its final - meeting in the Czech Republic last week, in Ceske Budejovice.

And it took the opportunity to congratulate itself for what it had achieved. According to its own conclusions, it "pays tribute to the work of the joint parliamentary committee, which has provided a unique and irreplaceable forum for the joint parliamentary oversight of the preparations for enlargement. Both JPC delegations highly appreciate the constructive work done in this Committee, which has been carried out in a spirit of mutual trust and understanding and which has contributed to finding solutions to difficult issues."

The meeting also welcomed the recent agreement between the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers on the financial perspective: this "not only avoids any discrimination towards the new member states but also widens the definition of 'pre-accession strategy', permitting enhanced forms of co-operation with neighbouring countries", the meeting concluded approvingly. And it expressed appreciation for the European Parliament's efforts to integrate the MPs from the acceding countries, which have now become observers for the next year.

At the same time, the committee recognised that not everything is yet in place. Looking ahead to the Czech accession referendum on June 13-14, it hoped "that the people of the Czech Republic will fully participate in the referendum", and noted that "at this moment the Czech citizens and the citizens of the member states need to be well and objectively informed about the consequences of enlargement and accession, so that their concerns can be properly addressed". And it urged "active engagement in this campaign" by its own members.

There is still work to be done by the Czech Republic and by the EU, too, the committee pointed out. The Czech Republic has to "bring administrative and judicial capacity up to a sufficient level in all areas, notably with a view to ensuring a successful management of the Cohesion and Structural Funds and to comply with the *acquis*". It encouraged "all concerned not to slow down the reform efforts and to remedy the deficiencies identified, although the negotiations have been closed." The European Commission has to "monitor the progress of the acceding countries in fulfilling the commitments undertaken in the negotiations", and, along with the member states, should "continue to support the harmonisation process by all available financial and logistical means."

EU AUDITORS' RESERVATIONS ON TWINNING AND ON

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE

EU twinning projects with candidate countries have not met expectations, according to the European Court of Auditors. And assistance to support candidates' institution-building in the environment sector "has been only partially successful", it says.

Following audits of EU programmes in these fields, the Court published **two special reports** last week. They acknowledge the merits of the programmes, but they are reserved as to how far results have been achieved. The report on twinning - the main EU instrument to support institution building in candidate countries - notes that the exercise has significantly helped in the adoption of EU law, "but rather less in its implementation and enforcement". What were supposed to be "guaranteed" results "were often only partially achieved and subject to significant delays", said the Court.

The Court recognises the importance of twinning, launched by the EU in 1998 as a way of helping develop the strong administrative capacity candidate countries need so as to adopt and implement the *acquis*, and which has funded the temporary transfer of hundreds of officials and experts from the EU15 to the candidate countries. The member state administrations and public institutions that have provided staff for twinning exercises "have unique knowledge and specific experience concerning the implementation and enforcement of EU law".

"Upon the completion of twinning projects, candidate countries are expected to be able to meet the requirements of the relevant EU legislation", the Court noted in its report. But this was "too optimistic": it was not possible to establish a fully functioning, efficient and sustainable organisation within the timeframe of individual twinning projects. "The interaction of the numerous public administrations involved in twinning creates administrative complexity that diminishes efficiency and effectiveness. Too much time is spent on purely administrative issues, to the detriment of the main task, namely advising candidate countries on institution-building."

"The still lengthy periods between needs assessment and project realisation, as well as the complicated payment systems, are two examples of the difficulties identified. There was also the tendency to over-emphasise twinning at the expense of other mechanisms also eligible for EU support. This resulted in some deviation from the original aim of twinning, and in its insufficiently selective and co-ordinated use".

In a second and separate report, the Court identifies what it sees as inadequacies in the Phare and ISPA funding of environmental projects in the candidate countries in 1995-2001. "Candidate countries did not have sufficient institutional capacities to develop environmental and financing strategies at a sufficiently early stage. This resulted in an inadequate identification of priority projects and the most efficient ways to finance them", it says.

Limited institutional capacity caused problems in project preparation and contract tendering for environmental infrastructure projects, the Court found. "The Commission did not always address these issues effectively, with the result that by the end of 2001 only one ISPA construction contract had been signed." By contrast, in the earlier Phare infrastructure projects examined, "once tendering had been completed, actual implementation progressed relatively smoothly in most cases."

WASTING THE CHANCES OF A SOLUTION FOR ACCESSION STATES?

The self-styled "Pro Europe Alliance" has welcomed schemes in seven of the acceding states to organise the collection, sorting and recovery of used packaging. But the Alliance - a Europe-wide grouping of national management schemes for packaging waste - points out that waste management in many accession countries "is almost exclusively done by landfilling, with negligible recycling and little or no modern energy recovery

capacity". And it urges that they will need "appropriate derogations" to meet new and tougher waste management plans. The Alliance, which has members in Latvia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Turkey, Lithuania, Slovenia and Slovakia too, points to "the difficulties of developing the infrastructure to develop sustainable recycling programmes in each of the extremely diverse new member states in pursuit of the EU's revised higher recycling and recovery targets".

The Alliance's view is a response to the planned revision of the packaging and packaging waste directive, which, it says, "will hopefully now be finalised within the next weeks", so that industry has enough time prepare for "the new and very ambitious recycling and recovery targets". The proposal for updating the 1994 directive raises the overall minimum recycling goal from 25% to 55%. The Alliance can live with these targets, it indicates: but it stresses that "any proposal which goes beyond this minimum recycling quota cannot be fulfilled by most of the member states and will only cause enormous expenses for industry without minimising the environmental impact of packaging in an adequate manner." It also wants the deadlines for meeting the deadlines to be extended from 2006 to 2008, since it is taking longer than anticipated to finalise the update.

Without rapid and reasonable agreement on the shape of this update, the already fragmented approach to EU waste management regulation threatens to descend into something approaching anarchy, the Alliance suggests. "Taking into account the current situation within the member states, the ten accession countries which will join next year, and the two or three countries which will probably join within the deadline of the current revision of the packaging directive", the Alliance points to "the danger of too many different speeds for the implementation of the directive inside a unified Europe."

It says twelve member states will have to fulfil the new targets in 2008, three will have a derogation until 2012, some of the accession countries will have a longer derogation and the accession countries which will probably join in 2007 will again have another deadline for fulfilling the new targets of 2015 or 2016. In the meantime we will probably have two more revisions of the Packaging Directive with new ambitious targets so that the difference between member states will increase instead of a harmonisation."

Enlargement news in brief

Pope boosts Polish accession campaign

Pope John Paul II has urged his fellow-Poles to vote "yes" to EU accession in the upcoming referendum. "Entry in the EU structures, with equal rights to those of the other countries, is for our nations and for the adjacent Slav nations, an expression of a historical justice," the Pope told thousands of Polish pilgrims **in Rome last week**. And in a bid to defuse anti-EU sentiment among conservative elements of Polish society, he said: "I know that there are many in opposition to integration. I appreciate their concern about maintaining the cultural and religious identity of our nation. However, I must emphasise that Poland has always been an important part of Europe. Europe needs Poland. The Church in Europe needs the Poles' testimony of faith. Poland needs Europe." The Pope recalled what he said in 1997 in Gniezno, Poland: "There will be no unity in Europe unless it is based on the unity of the spirit. ... European history, in fact, is a great river in which many currents flow, and the variety of traditions and cultures that form it are its great wealth."

First EESC plenary session with acceding state observers

The European Economic and Social Committee's first plenary session with the new observers from the ten acceding states has this month given a new dimension to the committee's contacts - which already date back ten years with civil society in these countries. EESC President Roger Briesch underlined the importance of a debate with these new member states on

whether Europe is building "a large single market or a single Europe". And he evoked the Iraq conflict and the ongoing discussions in the World Trade Organisation as concrete examples of how the EU needs to choose its new role and place - and of where the EESC and civil society should be making its voice heard. The discussions at the plenary session with the new observers ranged across major subjects such as agriculture, employment, and sustainable development. And EESC member Henri Malosse, suggested that in all these areas, the new member states will be able to bring their experience of political transition and their relations with neighbouring countries, while the EU should be able to help in generating prosperity and jobs, in regional development, in cross-border co-operation, and in giving civil society the place it deserves in this evolution.

Conserving the Carpathians - and what they contain

Survival in Europe of the brown bear, the wolf and the lynx, as well as the Imperial eagle, could depend on the state of the Carpathian Mountains. But the habitat is under threat if better legal protection is not put in place, warns WWF. This is the substance of its new report - "The Carpathian List of Endangered Species" - presented at last week's Kiev environment conference. WWF says the mountains, which stretch across Ukraine, Poland, Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria and Serbia & Montenegro, are home to some of Europe's richest diversity of mountain-dwelling animal and plants species. Other rare species listed in the study include the European bison, 400 of which were reintroduced in the Polish and Ukrainian Carpathians after disappearing 200 years ago. Dams and pollution in the mountain range have affected migratory fish, with Atlantic sturgeon and Atlantic salmon now classified as extinct. And while the nearly 4,000 species and subspecies of Carpathian flora represent about 30 per cent of all European flora, "many are critically endangered". WWF says concerted action is necessary if the wider Europe's wealth is to be preserved.

"Women have a role in solving the Cyprus problem"

The European Parliament women's rights committee met Turkish and Greek Cypriot women last week. Committee chair Anna Karamanou discussed the situation of women in the island in the context of EU accession, and stressed the role of women in peace and reconciliation. She encouraged female citizens on both sides of Cyprus to overcome divisions. "The two communities have been separated for too long", she said, adding that new developments are paving the way for a solution to the Cyprus problem. The EU will be enriched by the accession of this new country, where women have an important role to play in bringing solutions to current problems, she said, urging the search for a middle way: "There are no solutions without compromise", she said. Members of the European Women's League at the meeting urged increased exchanges between accession countries, especially on measures within the fight against violence, better representation of women in decision making, and modifying legislation to allow effective integration of new countries in the EU.

Regions "have a major role in the enlarged Europe"

The "Poznan declaration" emerged from last week's meeting of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, which held its three-yearly general assembly in Poznan. The declaration, backed by some 700 local and regional representatives from all over Europe, calls for a greater role for local and regional authorities within the European Union. It also reiterates CEMR support for enlargement, and underlines that local and regional governments will have an essential role to play in making it a success. Much of the debate at the meeting turned on how to best manage the challenges and opportunities of integrating the new member states - and there was particular concern in how far regions in the EU15 might suffer from enlargement. Jan Olbrycht, a member of the Silesia regional parliament, responded to fears expressed by several representatives of current member states, particularly on what might happen to regions that now benefit from one of the principal

EU structural funding programmes, Objective 1: "The key is for existing and future Objective 1 regions to meet, to talk together, frankly, openly, in order to present one common front. Rivalry between regions or between cities and towns would only reinforce the national level. The cohesion policy is not about money; it is about improving European citizen's quality of life", he said. Emphasis was also put on the scope offered by twinning for helping applicant countries and at the same time bringing together citizens from all over Europe - with showcase presentations of existing partnerships between Hydra in Greece and Eregly in Turkey, and between Lublin in Poland, Brest in Belarus, and Lutsk in Ukraine.

Fischler warns Slovenia against "complacency"

"In general, Slovenia is now well prepared for accession", according to Franz Fischler, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries. During an official visit to Slovenia last week, he said preparations are on schedule for the Integrated Administration and Control System and the setting up of the paying agency for the management of the CAP funds. "But there is no room for complacency", he added. "Let there be no mistake", he warned: "If the all the required components are not ready then the money from Brussels will simply not start flowing". In particular, he urged more focus on Slovenian farmers' preparation for accession. "Slovenian farmers should be enabled to make full use of the package that was agreed upon at Copenhagen. This means stepping up the efforts to properly inform farmers". The Commissioner also pointed to the need for more work on putting in place the certification system for intra-EU veterinary trade, and veterinary controls within the country and at external borders. And, he underlined, SAPARD funding is not being fully used yet: "For the years 2000-2003 roughly € 27 million are year are waiting to be spent. Whilst the EU might put the money on the table, we cannot not spend it for Slovenia".

Enlargement Mini-Briefs

- In a bid to make further progress in meeting the EU acquis on human rights, Hungary has appointed an equal opportunities minister. In the face of persistent evidence of active discrimination - such as segregation of Roma in maternity wards of provincial hospitals - and of continuing hardship for the poorest sections of society, who are most affected by weakening of health and social security provision, the move is intended to respond not only to EU criticisms but also to the government's own commitment to provide services for all its citizens on a fairer basis, according to Hungary officials.
- At the informal EU regional policy Council in Chalkidiki last week, ministers from the 25 called for a strengthening of European cohesion policies in the light of enlargement. European Regional Affairs Commissioner Michel Barnier told the meeting: "With the widening of economic disparities, improving economic and social cohesion will be more important than ever in a Union of 25 member states."
- Turkey announced last week that Greek Cypriots will be allowed to visit Turkey from next week for the first time in nearly 40 years.
- Avid for further foreign direct investment, the Polish Agency for Foreign Investment is forging ahead with a series of missions to EU member states to fly the flag. The Agency was in Spain last week, and will be in Germany in early June. Potentially interested companies are being offered customised information about business opportunities in Poland, detailed profiles of sectors of the economy, overviews of the legal system, and the possibilities for winning investment incentives.
- Romania was singled out among the EU candidate countries as suffering particularly from deficiencies in access to improved water supplies and basic sanitation, when World Bank vice-president Johannes Linn spoke at the Kiev environment conference.
- Pervenche Berès, leader of the French MEPs in the European Parliament's Party of European Socialists group, insisted last week that there should be consistent support for EU enlargement. "It is our

duty and our historic opportunity to welcome these countries", she said in Dijon. Firmly rejecting arguments that have been raised for deferring enlargement until the current EU has resolved its internal differences, she said: "The divisions which will arise and the difficulties that await us exist already in the EU15. We should sort out our own problems rather than refuse to share what we have with others".

- Simplifying the common agricultural policy "will give farmers in an enlarged Europe planning security and a clear perspective within which to make their future business decisions", said Franz Fischler, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries last week, at a discussion of CAP reform in the Greek parliament.
- The European Economic Area joint parliamentary committee last week underlined the importance of the simultaneous enlargement of both the EU and the EEA to avoid chaotic conditions for EU and EEA citizens and economic operators after 1 May 2004. And although it welcomed the enlargement of the EU and the EEA, the committee expressed concern about the EEA EFTA States' ability to shape decisions and to make its voice heard in an enlarged Europe.
- In Hungary's economic development, and in the growth of its international competitiveness, transport has become one of the decisive factors, Dr Istvan Csillag, Hungary's minister of economy and transport told the International Road Transport Union East-West road transport conference in Budapest in mid-May. "In the past ten years the successful market economy performance of the Hungarian economy has pointed out that fast roads, a high performance railway, air transportation at a high service level, as well as the possibility of cheap water transportation for industrial and agricultural raw materials are the most important basic conditions when selecting the sites of industrial, commercial and logistical enterprises", he said.
- A group of young Polish farmers are cycling from Warsaw to Brussels to win support for EU accession, particularly within the farming community, in advance of Poland's referendum on June 7-8. The participants were chosen from among thousands of young farmers who took part in local competitions designed to test knowledge about the European Union.
- The updated accession partnerships for **Bulgaria**, **Romania** and **Turkey** were formally adopted last week by EU foreign affairs ministers. The partnerships, on which agreement in principle had already been reached, set out the priorities for these candidates to deal with over the next two years in their accession preparations.
- Recent opinion polls in Austria suggested that half the population is anxious about EU enlargement, while only one in five see enlargement as a good thing. Top of the list of worries are fears of local job-losses following an influx of cheap labour, and concerns about loss of Austrian influence in an EU of 25 member states.
- EU enlargement and the **wider Europe** are two of the principal items on the agenda for the upcoming EU summit in Thessaloniki on June 20-21.
- The OECD has urged south east European countries - including Romania and Bulgaria - to make faster progress in economic reforms. According to the latest analysis under the Stability Pact for South East Europe, with the catalyst of EU integration, Bulgaria and Romania have already met policy targets in advance of schedule for policy measures directed at improving the investment climate. But "significant further efforts are needed across the region to meet all the targets and to consolidate the progress already made", says the report. "Far more impetus is needed in the areas of competition, corporate governance and the reduction of administrative barriers affecting investment and business operations." Ministers from the countries of south east Europe will review the progress in Vienna on 10-11 July.

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.

(note: now that acceding states take part in Council meetings and EP and ESC plenaries, these will from now on be listed in this calendar)

Date	Event
May 2003	
Monday 26th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Franz Fischler, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries meets the Maltese minister of agriculture, George Pullicino ■ David Byrne, European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection meets the Czech minister of agriculture, Jaroslav Palas, the Slovakia minister of agriculture, Zsolt Simon, and the Latvian minister of agriculture, Martinš Roze, Brussels ■ European Justice and Home Affairs Commissioner Antonio Vitorino speaks on security and EU enlargement, Lisbon ■ European Commission Vice-President Neil Kinnock meets ministers from the acceding states at a conference on public administration, Brussels ■ European Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou speaks at the European Trade Union Confederation congress, Prague ■ EU Council of Ministers working group on migration meets with candidate countries, Brussels ■ EU Council of Ministers working group on enlargement meets, Brussels ■ EU Council of Ministers working group on central Europe meets, Brussels
Monday 26th - Tuesday 27th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen visits Poland ■ EU Agriculture and Fish Council ■ Workshop on EU enlargement and the future of the European audiovisual sector, Thessaloniki ■ Official visit of the OECD Secretary-General to the Czech Republic.
Monday 26- Wednesday 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ EU supreme audit training event on evaluation of internal control, Prague
Tuesday 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ European Regional Affairs Commissioner Michel Barnier meets the Slovenian minister of European affairs, Janez Potocnik, Brussels ■ European Regional Affairs Commissioner Michel Barnier meets the Bulgarian minister of regional development, Valentin Cerovski, Brussels ■ European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen visits Poland ■ EU-Turkey Troika meeting, Heraklion
Thursday 29th - Friday 30th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen visits the Czech Republic
Friday 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Candidate countries take part in discussions in the EU Council of Ministers working group on the Convention, Brussels
June 2003	
Monday, 2nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ EU Employment, Social Affairs, Health and

and Tuesday 3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumers Council, Luxembourg ■ Informal EU Development Council, Alexandropoulis
Tuesday 3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Informal EU Co-operation and Development Council, Alexandropoulis ■ Ecofin, Luxembourg
Thursday, 5th and Friday 6th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ EU Justice and Home Affairs Council, Luxembourg ■ EU Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council, Luxembourg ■ European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen visits the Czech Republic
Friday 6th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Informal EU Public Administration Council, Rhodes ■ European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen visits the Czech Republic ■ EU Transport Council, Luxembourg
Friday 6th and Saturday 7th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Euroconstruct conference on the outlook for the European construction sector, focusing on the benefits of EU enlargement for the construction market across Europe and beyond; Budapest
Saturday 7th - Sunday 8th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Referendum in Poland on EU accession
Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ EU Agriculture and Fish Council, Luxembourg
Thursday 12th - Friday 13th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ European Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou visits Romania
Friday 13th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ EU Environment Council, Luxembourg ■ Erkki Liikanen, European Commissioner for Enterprise and the Information Society visits Slovenia
Friday 13th - Saturday 14th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Referendum in the Czech Republic on EU accession
Saturday 14th - Monday 16th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen visits Israel
Tuesday 17th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ General Affairs and External Relations Council, Luxembourg ■ Erkki Liikanen, European Commissioner for Enterprise and the Information Society visits the Czech Republic
Tuesday 17th - Wednesday 18th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ General Affairs and External Relations Council, Luxembourg
Friday 20th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ European Council, Thessaloniki
Friday 20th - Saturday 21th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ European Council, Thessalonika
Monday 23th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ European Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Pedro Solbes visits Slovakia
Monday 23th - Tuesday 24th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ European Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou visits Bulgaria
Tuesday 24th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ General Affairs and External Relations Council, Luxembourg
Monday 30th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ European Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou visits Hungary
July/August 2003	
Details tbc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Presidential elections (elected by the parliament),

Latvia

**September
2003**

Sunday 14th

- **Referendum** in Estonia on EU accession

Saturday 20th

- **Referendum** in Latvia on EU accession

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.

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