

441.215 A

IMPORTANT LEGAL NOTICE - The information on this site is subject to a [disclaimer](#) and a [copyright notice](#).



Europa

en

The European
Commission

Enlargement

Enlargement

SELECT A COUNTRY

Countries

Topics

News

Library

Contacts

Enlargement Weekly

6 August 2002

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

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

Articles this week

Subscribe

- ★ [Danish Presidency negotiations close nine more chapters](#)
- ★ [Barnier urges Slovakia to use more EU funding](#)
- ★ ["No delay" in Enlargement of the European Union](#)
- ★ [Candidates take part in EU Enterprise Policy Programme](#)
- ★ [Looking ahead to the Euro in the candidates](#)
- ★ [Northern dimension and Enlargement get greenland light](#)
- ★ [Enlargement News in Brief](#)
- ★ [Enlargement Agenda](#)

DANISH PRESIDENCY NEGOTIATIONS CLOSE NINE MORE CHAPTERS

The new Danish Presidency of the European Union made an energetic start to enlargement by negotiating on thirteen chapters with ten candidates on July 29-30, and managing to provisionally close nine of them. In summary, the results of the negotiations were:

* Malta closed regional policy and coordination of structural instruments, and held talks c

customs union and agriculture.

- * Slovakia closed regional policy and coordination of structural instruments.
- * Latvia held talks on agriculture.
- * Bulgaria closed customs union.
- * Slovenia closed regional policy and coordination of structural instruments.
- * Romania closed industrial policy.
- * Poland closed justice and home affairs.
- * Cyprus held talks on agriculture.
- * Hungary closed culture and audiovisual policy and regional policy and coordination of structural instruments.
- * Estonia closed energy.

Poul Skytte Christoffersen, Denmark's Permanent Representative to the European Union, said these negotiations showed "steady progress", closing seven of the 15 "leftover" chapters Denmark inherited at the start of its Presidency - including particularly important achievement in sensitive subjects such as energy for Estonia and justice and home affairs for Poland. Poland had made a major effort, he said, by coming up early with a revision of its August 2000 Schengen Action Plan, with new plans for upgrading border controls and for replacing conscript guards with professionals by 2006, and with a commitment to financing plan.

Closure of the energy chapter with Estonia was also hailed as a breakthrough because - by common consent - it raised complex and difficult issues in how to treat Estonia's oil-shale resources, on which it is 90% dependent for energy, and which is the basis of prosperity of one of the country's most disadvantaged regions. Despite the polluting nature of this type of energy production, to mitigate the economic and social consequences of abrupt change, Estonia is to be allowed a transitional period of up to 2009 in opening up its electricity market (and is allowed to retain a reservation on future EU acquis in this area), and up to 2012 for opening it market up for domestic consumers.

But there is still much to do, said Christoffersen - notably on the financial aspects, on which "there is still no EU position". However, he said the costs of enlargement should not be exaggerated. The Commission's proposals - with their plans for aid at levels that the candidates could absorb, but without providing 100% aid immediately on all aspects - were, he said, "reasonable".

Eneko Landaburu, the European Commission's Director General for Enlargement, expressed satisfaction at the consistent rate of progress - there had been no break between the last-minute efforts of the Spanish Presidency at the end of June and the early start made by Denmark. But he recognised that it would be "a difficult and intensive six months" between now and the Copenhagen summit, when the hope is to complete negotiations with the candidates that are ready. "We need to do a lot in a short time", he said - including dealing with important leftover chapters (with particular challenges such as steel restructuring under the competition chapter), and there is "still a need for member state agreement on financing - and if that was easy we would have agreed it already". In addition, there is still the Nice Treaty to be ratified, which depends on the outcome of the upcoming Irish referendum. What would be needed to meet the envisaged timetable, he said, was a combination of generosity and political determination.

Find here The state of play after these negotiations.

BARNIER URGES SLOVAKIA TO USE MORE EU FUNDING

European Regional Affairs Commissioner Michel Barnier visited Bratislava on 30 July, for talks with Slovak prime minister Mikulas Dzurinda and other senior government members. Top on the agenda were the Slovak preparations for the implementation of structural funds, and the state of play in implementation of the European Union's ISPA programme of assistance for transport and environmental infrastructure.



KEY ISSUES



WHAT'S NEW



FAQ



MAIL-BOX



INDEX



SEARCH



INFORMATION



FEEDBACK

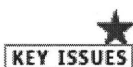
Commenting on Slovakia's closure the day before of the negotiating chapter on regional policy and coordination of structural instruments (see separate story in this issue), he said: "This visit is a good opportunity to recognise the considerable progress made by Slovakia in the accession negotiations". But he pointed out that this was "only a milestone along the road to accession, and considerable technical work still needs to be done so that Slovakia is ready to fully benefit in the future from the EU structural and cohesion funds".

Currently, the EU makes available a minimum of Euro 48 million a year to Slovakia for projects in the environment and transport sector. In fact, the Commissioner pointed out, Slovakia has been so effective in using up funding opportunities that the EU has actually committed slightly more than this sum to it for 2000 and 2001. But most of the projects have been in the transport area - particularly modernising the rail network, and building motorways, including parts of the D61 route linking Bratislava with Vienna. In environment, the main projects supported relate to city sewerage projects and wastewater treatment, and the Commission has been reminding Slovakia of the need to take up more funding for environmental projects.

He underlined the need to reinforce administrative capacity, and to boost co-ordination between the ministries involved in the programming of structural funds, so as to meet the timetable Slovakia has committed itself to for completing preparations in this area. It should be a priority over the coming months, he insisted, to create the capacity so that Slovakia can prepare sufficient projects of high quality for financing through the structural funds once it joins the EU. He added that it was the Commission's intention "to continue supporting and monitoring Slovakia's progress in this process until the day of accession".

He also discussed the Convention on the Future of Europe with the three Slovak representatives participating in this continuing review of the EU's aims and institutions.

And in reply to questions about the political situation in Slovakia, where general elections are due on September 20-21, and where one of the principal opposition figures is the Eurosceptic former prime minister Vladimir Meciar, Michel Barnier remarked: "National elections remain an internal issue to Slovakia, which is a sovereign and democratic country. In this respect, the main interest of the EU is that the government that emerges from the coming elections is able to complete the preparations for Slovakia's accession to the EU as well as to implement the commitments Slovakia has made in these negotiations. It is the sole responsibility of the Slovak citizens to consolidate the impressive record of Slovakia in the pre-accession and negotiation process by exercising their voting rights in the next parliamentary elections."



KEY ISSUES



WHAT'S NEW



FAQ



MAIL-BOX



INDEX



SEARCH



INFORMATION



FEEDBACK

"NO DELAY" IN ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

European Commission President Romano Prodi said on July 26: "Enlargement is the top priority of my Commission. We are working day and night to achieve it as soon and as successfully as possible." His remarks came as part of an official Commission rebuttal of press reports the day before suggesting that the European Commission had been discussing possible delays in the enlargement of the European Union.

"The Commission at its weekly meeting on 24 July discussed briefly a number of issues related to the likely sequencing of events in 2004", said the Commission in a formal statement. "The target date of 1 January 2004 for enlargement was not questioned. The Commission will continue to do all it can to complete negotiations by the end of 2002 and is committed to the schedule for enlargement decided by the European Council."

CANDIDATES TAKE PART IN EU ENTERPRISE POLICY PROGRAMME

Most of the candidates will be taking part this summer in the Euro 450 million EU programme for enterprises, which is aimed particularly at small and medium-sized enterprises. The Czech Republic, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Estonia,

Hungary, and Lithuania are now able to benefit from the services supplied by the 51 Euro Info Centres now open for business in the candidate countries themselves. They will be able to access EU funding to help start-ups and small businesses. And they will have a bigger say in EU-wide policy dialogue on how to improve the business environment.

There are now 51 EICs in the candidate countries, but their number is expected to grow quickly: about 25 new offices are to be opened soon, mainly in Hungary, Poland, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania and Turkey (the decision on Turkey's participation in the programme is expected sometime after September 2002). The candidate countries' participation in the programme is generally co-funded from the EU's Phare programme - or similar financial sources for the three Mediterranean candidate countries - and national budgets.

Participating in the programme enables candidates to play their full part in formulating and benchmarking best practice in enterprise policy fields such as industrial clusters, business incubators, business support services, and business transfers. Participation benefits are expected to be particularly noticeable in candidate countries that are relative newcomers to E enterprise policy programmes, such as Turkey and Malta. Turkey has already decided to open 12 Euro Info Centres, while Malta will have one.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE EURO IN THE CANDIDATES

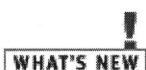
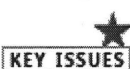
"The accession countries have made impressive advances on the path to the EU and future euro area membership", according to a review of their progress in the July issue of the month bulletin of the European Central Bank. They have made "remarkable progress over the past few years in macroeconomic stabilisation, in transforming their economies into market economies and in integrating them through trade and financial relations with the euro area".

The review suggests that the prospect of EU accession and future euro adoption has already served as a powerful anchor for economic, monetary and exchange rate policies and has guided policy-makers as well as market participants. In particular, it says, progress has been made with regard to disinflation and financial stability. The economic structures are continuously being brought closer to EU patterns, through transformation, privatisation and liberalisation, and trade and financial integration are also well advanced.

However, the review notes, progress has been more hesitant in the area of real income convergence. It "has been rather slow in recent years" - reflecting the unfinished reform agenda in some countries, such as Bulgaria and Romania, as well as the effects of domestic and external crises such as those in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Romania between 199 and 1999 or the Russian crisis of 1998. "The sheer size of the income gap suggests that even with wider growth differentials, the process of convergence in income levels may extend well beyond the date of EU accession or euro area membership." But there are considerable differences between the candidates, it admits. The pace of convergence varies substantially: Estonia, Hungary and Malta have narrowed the income gap with the euro area by around 10 percentage points since 1995, while other countries have not progressed in this regard, or even regressed.

Important achievements in the areas of macroeconomic stabilisation and structural reforms have helped lay the foundation for sustainable non-inflationary growth, but the challenges ahead include further inflation convergence, entrenchment of macroeconomic stability even amid possibly stronger and more volatile capital flows, and further economic and financial development, it concludes.

In particular, the warning from the ECB review is that remaining structural reforms must be implemented and that "regressive steps - such as those concerning central bank independence - must be avoided". Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia are well advanced with their legal preparations for central bank independence, and most other countries have made progress, although they still have to refine some parts of their central bank laws or constitutions - often in the area of personal and financial independence - to fully comply with the Treaty, it says.



But it is also important to ensure that the revised laws are fully implemented and that central bank independence is not only ensured formally but also respected in the day-to-day conduct of policy, says the ECB review. "The process of adjusting the central bank statutes has not been smooth in all cases. Amendments to the Czech National Bank Act were initially resisted in Parliament in 2001, before the matter was finally resolved in early 2002. More recently, the parliaments in Hungary and Poland have discussed draft amendments to their respective central bank statutes that could de facto limit the degree of central bank independence. The passage of amendments that, in substance, weaken central banks in their pursuit of price stability would cause serious concerns in the accession process."

European Central Bank

NORTHERN DIMENSION AND ENLARGEMENT GET GREENLAND LIGHT

The next phase of the Northern Dimension is the focus of a meeting of foreign ministers being organised by the EU Presidency at the end of August. Danish Minister for European Affairs Bertel Haarder has invited the foreign ministers of the EU member states and Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia to a conference in Ilulissat, Greenland, on 28 August, to be co-hosted by Premier Motzfeldt of the Greenland Home Rule Government.

The meeting will discuss the increased significance that the imminent prospect of enlargement is giving to the Northern Dimension - the EU initiative to promote cross-border co-operation between the EU and its neighbouring countries and regions in northern Europe in order to create growth, security and stability in the region. The accession of Poland and the Baltic countries will extend the EU's border with Russia, and the Northern Dimension will be in a position to supplement enlargement, the reasoning runs, by allowing the benefits of enlargement to be projected into the adjacent areas of Russia, including the Kaliningrad region.

The current action plan for the Northern Dimension expires in 2003, and guidelines for a new action plan will be developed during the Danish Presidency of the EU. As Haarder explains: "The Conference in Greenland will be the first discussion of the priorities for a new action plan. It is a welcome chance to make sure that the opportunities of the high North and the Arctic as well as its problems get the attention they deserve. The research in climate issues and the environment going on in Greenland and other parts of the Arctic is of crucial importance to Europe. The conference will also touch upon this topic."

What is being termed the "Arctic Window" in the Northern Dimension reflects the wish of the Greenland Home Rule Government that Arctic societies, including Greenland, should establish closer ties with the EU. Greenland introduced the term, to denote the Northern Dimension subjects common to the Arctic parts of the EU, Russia and other Arctic areas such as Greenland - including economic development in thinly populated areas, and the challenges of long distances, extreme climatic conditions, small and often isolated populations.

Enlargement news in brief

Sapard annual report for 2001 highlights progress

Accreditation of Sapard agencies in five of the ten candidate countries during 2001 signified an important step towards enlargement, according to the second Sapard annual report, released on July 30. Now the programme is at work, and management of the instrument has been conferred on most of the candidate countries themselves. Other achievements highlighted in the annual report include the setting up of monitoring committees in all ten countries, the approval of the Annual Financing Agreements 2001, and seminars organised by the European Commission to deal with the main issues of Sapard implementation. "Such administrative



capacity building work is imperative in the enlargement context," says the report, and represents a "major task" for the candidate countries. "The European Commission has been considerably encouraged by comments from various candidate countries recognising the contribution Sapard makes in the context of enlargement preparations". The report also includes contributions from several candidate countries commenting on their early experience and expectations for subsequent developments.

Sapard Annual report

Nine down, one to go, on Sapard management

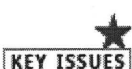
To demonstrate just how far the Sapard programme has advanced since 2001 (see story above), right at the end of July, Romania became the penultimate candidate country from central and eastern Europe to qualify to operate the European Union's Sapard programme of pre-accession aid for agriculture and rural development. Only Hungary now has to complete the process. Just before the summer break, European Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler approved Romania's national Sapard agency and the first projects under the scheme. Romania will now be entitled to Euro 153.2 million for 2000, Euro 156.3 million for 2001 and an indicative amount of Euro 157.8 million annually from 2002 until 2006. Payment of the first advance for the year 2000 - up to 49% of the amount - can now be made. The initial project will cover improvement in processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products, agricultural development and improvement of rural infrastructure - with an accompanying technical assistance allocation. Fischler commented: "This is good news. I know that the road to the Sapard funds has been cumbersome and I am pleased that now the money can now begin to flow. With these funds Romania can tackle priority problems in the field of agriculture and rural development. At the same time, this provides Romania with invaluable experience for the future management of EU agriculture funds."

Czech Republic signs up to EU Media programme

The Czech Republic will soon be taking a full part in the EU Media programmes for 2001-2006: MEDIA-Plus and MEDIA-Training. The programmes support all aspects of European audiovisual production, to strengthen the competitiveness of the European industry. The Czech government already gave its approval on 24 July, with retroactive effect from 1 January 2002. And on 30 July, Libor Secka, the Head of the Mission of the Czech Republic to the European Commission, co-signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Commission's Director General for Education and Culture - Nicolaus van der Pas, who was the European Commission's chief negotiator when the accession negotiations started with the Czech Republic. Candidate countries can participate in the Media programmes as soon as they have provisionally completed accession negotiations on the culture and audiovisual chapter (which itself presupposes implementation of the EU directive on "Television without Frontiers"). The Czech Republic will pay Euro 370,000 a year into the programmes' budget, and a new "MEDIA Desk" office will be opened in the Czech Republic to assist Czech applicants in drafting projects, and provide contacts in the Czech Republic and abroad. Czech experts will also be involved in the selection and evaluation of applications for financial support. Since 1994, the Czech Republic has been a full member of the Council of Europe Eurimage fund, which supports co-production, distribution and exhibition of European films (including Czech productions such as "Kolya", "Sekal must die", "Conspirators of Pleasure" and "Dark Blue World").

IMF backs Bulgaria

The International Monetary Fund gave Bulgaria's economic performance an approving nod last week. This favourable review will allow Bulgaria to draw around Euro 35 million from the IMF immediately, under a two-year stand-by credit arrangement worth more than Euro 330 million approved last February. According to Shigemitsu Sugisaki, IMF's deputy managing director and acting chairman: "Building on the impressive progress made by Bulgaria since the



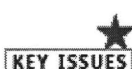
establishment of the currency board arrangement in 1997, the authorities have continued to implement prudent fiscal and income policies under their economic program supported by the Stand-By Arrangement. They have also made further progress in key structural reform areas including the adoption by parliament of the privatization law, the announcement of a schedule to raise household electricity prices toward cost recovery levels, and measures to make the education and health sectors more efficient. The authorities are also taking steps to further strengthen the already sound financial system. These policies have helped maintain macroeconomic stability and external competitiveness, and have allowed the continuation of robust growth in spite of unfavorable external developments in late 2001 and early 2002". He went on, however, to remind Bulgaria that to sustain high growth and reduce the high unemployment rate and poverty, the authorities "need to complete the remaining crucial structural reforms, particularly those related to the energy sector, business environment, and public sector. Prospects for achieving strong growth and keeping the current account in control during the remainder of this year are broadly favorable, but subject to a sustained rebound from the European Union and the maintenance by Bulgaria of strict macroeconomic discipline". In particular, he said, "Crucial reforms to enhance the competitiveness and medium-term growth prospects of the Bulgarian economy need to be implemented. Measures to improve corporate governance, enhance judicial procedures and foreclosure, and improve labor market flexibility are key to attracting more investment and reducing unemployment. In the same vein, the privatization of the remaining public companies and the strengthening of the financial sector should be pursued".

EU grant offers for enlargement information in France and Belgium

As part of the EU's strategy for raising awareness about enlargement, the European Commission's representations in France and Belgium have launched calls for proposals for their national campaigns to provide information to the public. France - where there is the least support for enlargement in any EU member state, and where the Commission says that lack of knowledge may be an important factor - is seeking offers to provide information and communication actions or media coverage relating to enlargement. The aim is to provide information about the candidate countries themselves, and about the enlargement process and to stimulate dialogue, particularly among opinion-formers and -leaders. So far for 2002 a budget of Euro 750,000 is foreseen for projects such as studies, exchanges, cultural events and publications (with an average grant envisaged of around Euro 40,000 per project), and further Euro 300,000 for broadcast and written press. In Belgium, the aims are similar, but the accent is on generating debate and involvement of groups of people - particularly those who feel some form of threat from enlargement. The overall budget for Belgian actions is Euro 300,000 for 2002, and projects must be worth at least Euro 20,000. In all cases, the EU is offering subsidies of up to 50% of the costs of projects and actions.

Presidency project welcomes candidates' culture

The culture of EU candidate countries was prominently displayed during the Images d'Europe project, which drew packed crowds to the Danish House on the Champs-Élysées in Paris from 1 July to 28 July. Danish House hosted a series of free concerts, photography exhibition, films and book presentations from all thirteen candidate countries - Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey. It is the first cultural project involving all the candidate countries and the EU Presidency. At the Danish Embassy in Paris - the organiser of the project - culture and press counsellor Michael Bjørn Nellemann says: "It's quite overwhelming. The candidate countries have really taken up the challenge. It's totally up to them how much they put into the project. All we've done is provide the setting". The concert repertoire ranged from a military border guard band from Estonia to a leading pianist from Turkey. Poland hosted the final concert, in which the soprano Katarzyna Matuszak sang Polish folk songs and also sang a folk song from each of the current member states in the original language. According to the deputy director of the Polish Institute of Culture in Paris, Katarzyna Wasilewska, so many people came that there was standing-room only - and people stood. After each concert, the guests had the opportunity to taste their way to the concert-giving country by sampling the buffet.



KEY ISSUES



WHAT'S NEW



FAQ



MAIL-BOX



INDEX



SEARCH



INFORMATION



FEEDBACK

served, offering national specialities.


World Bank loan for Turkish schools

The World Bank has approved a loan of around Euro 300 million for a Turkish education project - the Second Basic Education Project, which will focus on developing preschool education as an integral part of basic education. The loan will support the Turkish government's basic education program over three years, with ICT hardware and software for nearly 3,000 additional basic education schools throughout Turkey, physical upgrading of about 1000 schools, provision of educational materials, and in-service training. The Turkish government requested large-scale support from the World Bank in 1997, after the Parliament approved a new basic education law extending the duration of compulsory schooling to eight years and mandating improved quality of basic education. The Bank approved a first loan in 1998, which helped refurbish 300 rural basic education schools, and provided education materials for more than 22,000 rural schools, as well as funding training and reconstruction.

Agenda

See also the new "Enlargement events calendar" on the DG Enlargement web site, <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/events/calendar.htm>. This gives a run-down of public events related to the enlargement of the EU taking place in all current and future member states.

Date	Event
August	
Friday 16th - Monday 19th	Pope John Paul II visits Poland
Wednesday 28th	Ministerial Conference on the Northern Dimension and the Arctic Window, Greenland
Thursday 29th - Friday 30th	The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions annual forum.
Friday 30th - Saturday 31st	Informal foreign affairs ministers meeting, Helsinki
September	
Details tbc	European Court of Auditors workshop with the supreme audit institutions of the candidate countries on audit of internal control systems
Thursday 12th - Friday 13th	Franz Fischler, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries visits Poland
Monday 16th - Tuesday 17th	Franz Fischler, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries visits Latvia
Monday 16th - Tuesday 17th	Forum on the Northern Dimension in Social Protection and Health Joensuu, Finland.
Tuesday 17th -	Franz Fischler, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural


KEY ISSUES


WHAT'S NEW


FAQ


MAIL-BOX


INDEX


SEARCH


INFORMATION


FEEDBACK

Wednesday 18th	Development and Fisheries visits Estonia
Thursday 19th - Sunday 22nd	European Budget Commissioner Michael Schreyer visits Hungary
Friday 20th	European Enterprise Commissioner Erkki Liikanen visits Estonia
Friday 20th - Saturday 21st	Parliamentary elections, Slovakia
Thursday 26th - Friday 27st	Conference on energy safety and supply security in the Baltic Sea Region in the light of EU enlargement, Riga and Ventspils.
Thursday 26th - Friday 27st	The Baltic Sea Region 2010: Encountering the Past - Mapping the Future. Copenhagen.
Monday 30th	Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference annual meeting discusses the Northern Dimension, St. Petersburg
Autumn	
Details tbc	Slovenia presidential and local elections
September/October	
Details tbc	Self-governmental elections, Poland
October	
Details tbc	European Court of Auditors workshop with the supreme audit institutions of the candidate countries on audit quality control, Warsaw
Wednesday 2nd-Thursday 3rd	Meeting of liaison officers from supreme audit institutions of the candidate countries and the European Court of Auditors, Luxembourg
Saturday 5th	Parliament elections, Latvia
Details tbc	Partial Senate elections, Czech Republic
Details tbc	Local governmental elections, Hungary
Saturday 12th - Sunday 13th	Baltic Sea conference on Baltic Metropolises, Copenhagen
Sunday 20	Estonian local elections
Monday 21	Ministerial Conference on the guidelines for a new action plan for the Northern Dimension, Luxembourg

★
KEY ISSUES

!
WHAT'S NEW

...
FAQ

@
MAIL-BOX

Az
INDEX

?
SEARCH

i
INFORMATION

TV
FEEDBACK

24th and 25th	Brussels European Council: enlargement will be on the agenda and the Commission's regular reports on the candidate countries may be available.
November	
Monday 4th	Danish Energy Agency conference on energy supply and demand in the Kaliningrad Region, Kaliningrad
Details tbc	Local elections, Czech Republic (including first elections for 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 19th - Wednesday 20th	Baltic Sea Regional Energy Co-operation ministerial conference, Vilnius
Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th	Meeting of the Presidents of the supreme audit institutions of the member states and the candidate countries in Luxembourg
Thursday 28th and Friday 29th	Meeting of the presidents of the supreme audit institutions of the member states and the candidate countries, Luxembourg
December	
Details tbc	Meeting of heads of supreme audit institutions of the candidate countries and the European Court of Auditors, Bucharest
Thursday 12th, Friday 13th	Copenhagen European Council - enlargement may be on the agenda again, taking account of the aim of concluding accession negotiations by the end of the year.
Thursday 12th, Friday 13th	European Court of Auditors meeting with heads of the supreme audit institutions of the candidate countries, Bucharest
Sunday 22nd	Presidential elections, Lithuania (second round on January 5 2003)
January 2003	
Details tbc	Presidential elections, Czech Republic
February 2003	

!
WHAT'S NEW

...
FAQ

@
MAIL-BOX

Az
INDEX

?
SEARCH

i
INFORMATION

✓
FEEDBACK

9th and 16th	Presidential, elections, Cyprus
March 2003	
Details tbc	Parliamentary elections, Estonia
July/August 2003	
Details tbc	Presidential elections (elected by the parliament), Latvia

Archives

ENLARGEMENT WEEKLY is prepared for the Information Unit of the Enlargement Directorate General of the European Commission. As part of its communication strategy on enlargement, the Commission makes this bulletin publicly available. Comments are welcome and should be addressed by e-mail to enlargement@cec.eu.int.

[\[Enlargement Home\]](#) [\[Overview Enlargement website\]](#)