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Enlargement Weekly

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

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VERHEUGEN SETS OUT REMAINING CHALLENGES

European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen set out some of the remaining challenges to the enlargement exercise when he spoke to the French parliament on 2 September. "No-one pretends that there are no major challenges", he admitted.

The Commission's regular reports on October 9 - that will propose the candidates considered ready to accede in 2004 - will present an in-depth analysis. They are intended to allow political decision, but they will be drafted without any political preconceptions, he insisted, or will expose deficiencies where they exist. "The Commission will not give a green light unless is absolutely convinced that the country in question is ready for accession. And we will also evaluate candidates' capacity to honour the commitments they have made during the

negotiations".

The Brussels summit of October 24-25 will then decide with which candidates the EU wishes to conclude negotiations. He said the chances of the countries - "which could number ten" are "realistic".

And October should see EU agreement on the financial arrangements: direct aids for farmers, the share-out of resources in general, and a system of budgetary compensation so that no member states are not in a worse financial situation after enlargement - "which would be politically unsustainable", he insisted. "It is inconceivable that the poorest member state should be net contributors from the start". And it is "not possible to impose new conditions" on the deal either, he underlined, in connection with some member states continuing wishes to link the financial arrangements to reform of the common agricultural policy. "Risks certainly exist, and difficulties we have not yet imagined will probably emerge too". But they are small when set against the risks that would follow from non-enlargement, said Verheugen.

With member states heavily involved in talks over the cost of enlargement at present, the Commissioner added his own thoughts on what is at stake in this discussion. "The price to pay for achieving stability is not so high if it is compared with the heavy cost that would have to be met to overcome instability in this region", he said. "And economically, the process opens up wide prospects of growth and prosperity that we can grasp to confirm our position in the face of international competition", he added.

November and December will then allow for conclusion of negotiations, the Commissioner predicted, even with a tight calendar.

The second Irish referendum on the Nice Treaty, on October 19, remains "an uncertainty", as "a second 'no' would seriously compromise the enlargement timetable". The Nice Treaty is indispensable - both for its institutional changes to allow an enlarged EU to function, and for the deepening it will generate so that it is politically viable after enlargement.

And even successful closure of the negotiations "will be only a first step on the road to enlargement", Verheugen went on. Ratification will still be necessary, by the European Parliament, and by national parliaments.

Despite all the challenges and still-unresolved questions, "There is no alternative", the Commissioner insisted. The EU, its economy and its companies have been following this path for a long time, and a failure to enlarge would have "disastrous" economic and political consequences. "Going backwards is just not an option".

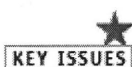
EU ENCOURAGES TURKISH REFORM IMPLEMENTATION

Turkey's impending reforms are "a very positive process, which must continue", Danish minister for foreign affairs Per Stig Møller said after his talks with Turkish minister for foreign affairs Sükrü Sina Gürel in Copenhagen on 26 September. "Implementation is now in focus", he stressed.

"We had a good and open discussion", he said, dealing in particular with the latest package of political reform, and the relationship between Turkey and the EU. "Mr Gürel gave an interesting briefing on the present situation in Turkey, and I am encouraged by the determination of the Turkish government to continue the economic and political reform process."

"We know that the latest package of political reforms deals with very sensitive issues in Turkey: the death penalty and mother tongue issues. This is a courageous step. I see the political will in Turkey to move closer to the EU. It is the Presidency's impression that the reform package constitutes a very significant step in the right direction towards Turkey fulfilling the Copenhagen political criteria".

And European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen also offered some clear view on Turkey when he addressed the French parliament on September 26. "We must recognise the considerable progress accomplished by Turkey", he said, suggesting that the strategy for



Turkey that the EU agreed on at Helsinki in 1999 "is bearing fruit". The new Turkish reform package, with its easing of controls on freedom of speech, assembly and religion - as well as the abolition of the death penalty, "are heading in the right direction".

But the Commissioner admitted also that "there are still serious problems". And he said the Commission would "examine with attention the evolution of the situation" in the regular report due to be released on October 9, including the reforms actually put in place. "We will praise Turkey where it deserves praise, and it has plenty to be praised for. But we will not ignore the problems we might still perceive." He said it was vital to encourage the reformist forces in Turkey: "The door should in any case remain open", he said, suggesting that even if all was not satisfactory by the time the regular report appears, a second chance might be available: "If necessary, the EU heads of state and government can decide in Copenhagen to launch a new phase in Turkey's accession strategy".

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE LOOKS AT ENLARGEMENT

The candidate countries face a dual challenge in preparing effectively for economic and monetary union, according to the Economic and Social Committee. On the one hand, they have to successfully complete all the stages for EU membership and for the preparatory phase of EMU, while on the other hand they must ensure that in the longer term they can abide by the Maastricht criteria - a healthy and competitive economy that has assimilated all the requirements of the EU acquis. The challenges were spelled out in an own-initiative opinion on the impact of enlargement on EMU, adopted at the Committee's September plenary session.

The Committee also drew attention in its opinion to the increased budget transfer problem that will have to be faced in an enlarged EMU. It urged that the reforms under way in many EU policies (such as agricultural policy and regional policy) "must be carried out within a global perspective", and that plans must be made to bolster the European Union's own resources for the post-2006 period.


The ESC also adopted several other enlargement-related reports at this session. A new information report on the economic and social situation in Cyprus, for instance, provides a detailed account of the current situation, and underlines that "a good and fair settlement is vital not only for the Turkish community but for both communities". The Committee is convinced that the island is well placed to develop and fulfil its economic, social and cultural potential after EU accession if it reaches a settlement to the internal conflict. Building, tourism and textiles are already making major contributions to the local economy, it points out - but at the same time it notes some of the concerns voiced by civil society organisations in Cyprus including the "serious crisis" facing many sectors in the northern part of the island. And it adopted opinions on transport and enlargement, on Latvia and Lithuania on the road to accession, and on financial assistance for pre-accession through the Phare, ISPA and SAPARD programmes.

In his remarks at what was the final plenary session of the Economic and Social Committee during its current four-year mandate, its president, Göke Frerichs recalled that enlargement had been a policy area of specific importance to the Committee. "The growing number of Joint Consultative Committees, bringing together representatives of civil society organisations in the Union and in the majority of the candidate countries, was the principal way in which the Committee could help interest groups in those states exercise their influence", he said.

Details of ESC involvement in the enlargement exercise are available on its website: <http://www.esc.eu.int/>

PRESIDENCY OUTLINES BRUSSELS SUMMIT PLANS

For the October 24-25 European Council in Brussels, the EU Presidency draft agenda currently envisages discussion of enlargement and of Kaliningrad. On enlargement, decisions



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are expected about which candidate countries negotiations can be concluded with by the Copenhagen European Council on 12-13 December, as well as about decisions to be taken in Copenhagen on updated pre-accession strategies and roadmaps for Bulgaria and Romania and on the next stage of Turkey's candidature; budgetary and financial issues, monitoring, and institutional arrangements will also be on the agenda.

"In the light of the Commission's regular reports and strategy paper [due to be published on 9th October] and based on a recommendation from the Commission, the European Council is expected to decide on the candidate countries which fulfil the Copenhagen criteria and with which the negotiations can be concluded by the Copenhagen European Council on 12-13 December, so that the Accession Treaty can be finalised and signed by Spring 2003; to have an exchange of views on the situation of the other candidate countries and on that basis mandate the General Affairs and External Relations Council to prepare the decisions to be taken at the Copenhagen European Council on an updated pre-accession strategy and roadmap for Bulgaria and Romania and the elements of the next stage of Turkey candidature", says the Presidency.

And on budgetary and financial issues for 2004-2006, it says: "On the basis of the financial framework agreed at the Berlin European Council, the European Council is expected to decide on the open financial and budgetary issues in order to be able to present the relevant Common Positions to the candidate countries in early November". On agriculture, it will decide the overall allocation, including the question of granting direct payments to new member states including any transitional measures, and possible guidelines for solving other major outstanding issues. On Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund, it will decide on overall allocations, including allocations for each candidate country. On internal policies, it will decide the overall allocation, including the financial package for the decommissioning of nuclear power plants at Ignalina in Lithuania and Bohunice in Slovakia, and the institution building facility.

It will also make a "decision in principle" on a possible programme for the Northern part of Cyprus, says the Presidency, and will deal with "possible transitional budgetary compensatory measures for the candidate countries, as well as the form they should take and the criteria on which they should be based."

The European Council is expected to agree on "the framework for continued effective monitoring of progress achieved by candidate countries in transposing and implementing the acquis and the commitments taken in the negotiations, with emphasis on strengthening judicial and administrative capacity."

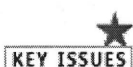
The institutional issues to be dealt with include the qualified majority voting threshold to apply in the EU Council of Ministers after 1 January 2005; the principles for allocating European Parliament seats for 2004-2009; and the necessary transitional arrangements (since the Nice Treaty does not cover these matters) on the weighting to be given to each new member state in 2004, the QMV threshold in 2004, the allocation of EP seats up to June 2004, and the order of the rotation of Presidencies in the enlarged Union.

In addition, the European Council is expected to determine the way that new member states should take part in the European Development Fund and the arrangements for the participation in the European Coal and Steel Community Fund.

On Kaliningrad, the Presidency says the Council "is expected to take stock of issues relating to transit between Kaliningrad and other parts of the Russian Federation and to take any decisions necessary in view of the EU-Russia Summit on 11 November in Copenhagen."

ENLARGEMENT HELPS THE ENVIRONMENT

"Austria is an excellent example of how enlargement of the European Union can benefit our environment", said Hans Christian Schmidt, Danish Minister for the Environment, said at the conference on "The Benefits of Enlargement for our Environment" held in Vienna in mid-



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September. Ever since it joined the European Union in 1995, it has been among the frontrunners in the fight for environment and sustainable development in Europe and at the global level - not least in the field of renewable energy, said Schmidt. But he looked forward to further benefits accruing from the accession of the current candidate countries.

"We will see significant reductions in the pollution of water, air and soils - and corresponding improvements in public health. We will see large improvements in energy-efficiency, to the benefit of the global climate and European air pollution. And I am sure, that the people of the current member states will enjoy discovering the rich nature of the new members, if they haven't so far", he said.

"We have been rather tough in the negotiations of transition periods. We want to make sure that the new member states are ready to move forward with us as new needs arise", the minister pointed out. Much progress has been made in the last ten years. But the investments needed for environmental infrastructure are still very substantial - in particular for fresh-water sewage-treatment, the handling of solid waste (including hazardous waste) and emissions from combustion. Creating an administrative apparatus to handle the administration of the whole body of environmental law now in place in the EU will be a huge challenge as well. As the *acquis* is itself a moving target, as directives are revised and new directives are introduced because of the need for further improvements.

The new member states have a much shorter time-span to make the efforts already made by EU member states in terms of private and public investments as well as the build-up of effective environmental administrations, the minister remarked. They need to mobilise huge financial resources to live up to the requirements - at home and abroad, and they must make efficient use of the pre-accession funds provided by the EU.

He cited the recent floods in central and Eastern Europe as a demonstration of "the need to co-operate on environmental issues in the region and in Europe as a whole". The EU Presidency representative noted that pan-European co-operation on the environment over the last decade has already played an important role in paving the way for the enlargement itself. "After the enlargement, we will still need pan-European co-operation beyond the borders of the EU to enhance the overall European environment", he stressed. A new environmental strategy for the former Soviet states of eastern Europe has been under discussion since April, for instance, and there are hopes that the "Environment for Europe" conference to be held in Kiev next year will result in a follow-up in these countries to the Global Water Initiative, launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. "So, in looking forward to welcoming many new members to the European Union we must continue our support to those parts of our continent that will not be joining us".

Enlargement news in brief

Candidates prepare for final lap

Ministers, senior diplomats and officials from ten of the candidate countries assessed the prospects for the final phase of negotiations when they met in Warsaw last week. The "Laeken ten" - the candidates that are hoping to win EU agreement this December that they can join the EU in 2004 - said they reviewed "the final phase of negotiations, including the financial framework for enlargement of the European Union". Ministers and state secretaries for European affairs from Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia commented positively on "the progress achieved in the accession process" and on the "efforts made by the European Commission, the Danish Presidency and the Member States" so far. But they made clear their "strong expectation that the European Council in Brussels will present to the candidate countries a financial package which will reflect a fair balance between the rights and obligations of membership". In this final phase of the accession negotiations, "efforts should be made to fully explore all possibilities offered by Agenda 2000 in the most effective and constructive manner", they urged. They also underlined their continued interest in rapid progress, "with the objective of becoming Member States of the European Union by 1 January 2004."



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Romania "wants to work with the EU" on ICC

Romanian Prime Minister Adrian Nastase pledged his desire to work closely with the EU and the International Criminal Court when he came to Brussels on September 26. Roman provoked expressions of EU disappointment in August when it agreed to US requests for bilateral exemptions for US personnel from the Court's aegis. Nastase said he hoped future consultations with the EU and US "would clarify the situation", and spoke of his desire to continue "friendly dialogue", and remain "a loyal partner to the EU". During a meeting with the Romanian prime minister, European Commission President Romano Prodi again made clear that the EU "regretted" the Romanian initiative in advance of any common EU position being agreed, and said he would have preferred close contact and to work side-by-side with Romania. But he said the Commission would not comment on the issue in its forthcoming regular report on Romania. Nastase expressed the hope that the EU now better understood the Romanian position following this encounter. He also sought support from the Commission for a target date from the Copenhagen summit for conclusion of Romania's EU accession negotiations, although President Prodi gave no firm answer on this request.

New statistics on candidate countries

The Viennese research institute WIIW has published a new handbook of statistics on countries in transition in 2002, covering key economic data on seven of the EU candidate countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia - for the period 1990 to August 2002. It covers GDP and employment by activities and economic sector including wages and labour productivity, as well as consumption and investment, population and living standards, social benefits, price indices, foreign trade, balance of payments, and foreign direct investment.

<http://www.wiiw.ac.at/handbook.html>

Czech concerns on EMU

It will be 2007 at least before the Czech Republic can adopt the euro, according to its new finance minister, Bohuslav Sobotka. He says the country's large and growing budget deficit estimated to reach 6.4% of GDP this year, and likely to rise as high as 8% next year before starting to dip again - precludes any early compliance with the Maastricht criterion of public finance deficits below 3% of GDP.

EBRD commitments up again in first half 2002

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development committed 1.28 billion for new loans and equity investments in central and eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States in the six months ended 30 June, compared with 1.24 billion in the first half of 2001, has announced. Gross disbursements were 870 million, compared with 1.04 billion a year ago. First-half profit after provisions rose to 186 million from 171 million a year earlier principally on the strength of steady net interest income and higher returns on the equity portfolio. The EBRD, which helps foster the transition from centrally planned to market economies in central and eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, invested in 39 projects in the first half - compared with 33 in last year's first half - including 130 million loan to restructure the Polish railways, and a \$75 million investment to upgrade Slovak power. Steven Kaempfer, EBRD vice president for finance, said the EBRD's countries of operations have on the whole performed relatively well.

European Parliament foreign affairs committee on cohesion

The European Parliament's committee on foreign affairs is to discuss the first progress report on economic and social cohesion this week, and will put plenty of emphasis on the enlargement dimension. The draft report before it calls on the Commission and the Council to create the necessary conditions for the successful integration to the EU of new member states giving priority to policies which aim at diminishing economic disparities within the enlarged



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Union and at promoting the catching-up process, thus allowing for a speedy economic convergence". It stresses "the long term perspective and the evolutive and inclusive nature of the enlargement process", but it also urges maintaining "at an adequate level the cohesic efforts targeting the least developed regions which are currently benefiting from structural funds, so that their further development is not hampered by enlargement". It also reminds the candidate countries of "the imperative need to further improve their administrative capacity and co-ordination mechanisms in their preparations for the management of the structural funds. The committee's views are part of the input to the Parliament's overall review of cohesic policy, which is being spearheaded by the committee on regional affairs.

Education and training "key to mobility in an enlarged EU"

The Danish Presidency of the EU is aiming to give a boost to education and training as a way to improve employment prospects right across Europe after enlargement. Ulla Tørnæs, the Danish minister of education, who is chairing the meetings planned to advance this objective, says she expects the education ministers of the EU Member States and candidate countries to sign a declaration on increased co-operation in the field of vocational education and training when they meet in Copenhagen on 29-30 November. The preparations for this declaration on vocational training have been underway for two-and-a-half years, and many problems have been overcome, says Tørnæs. "But progress has been made via a long-term programme of co-operation. Each year the education ministers of 35 European countries meet to discuss education, and this year the main topic will be vocational education and training: "The steps taken in respect of higher education in Europe have helped to promote integration and increase mobility. It is now the turn of vocational education and training", said the Minister. We hope the same will apply to vocational education and training", says Ms Tørnæs. "Seen in the light of the growing shortage of labour in the EU Member States, it is important to increase awareness of vocational education and training opportunities in the other European countries so that, for example, an electrician in one country can have his or her qualifications and work experience recognised in another", she says.

Candidates produce winning young scientists

Candidate countries picked up some of the prizes in Vienna on 27 September at the 14th E Contest for Young Scientists - the annual showcase of the best of European student scientific achievement. Among the students whose works were considered "of remarkable quality" by the international jury, 19-year-old David Sahrta of Slovenia won one of the second prizes of 1,000 for his work on chemiluminescence, and third prizes of 1,500 were awarded to 18-year-old Piotr Garbacz of Poland (for his work on the influence of direction and intensity of gravity on plant growth) and to 18-year-olds Ozgur Paksoy and Aslihan Akin Nuriye of Turkey for the joint work on a general approach to the proof of inequalities in mathematics. 18-year-old Gabi Miklos Csiky of Hungary won a special London International Youth Science Forum award for his investigations of adverse health effects of residual oil fly ash in the field of environmental chemistry, 18-year-old Marta Swierczynska of Poland won an alumni prize in environmental science for her work on a natural method for removing seston from water bodies, and Liir Saar of Estonia won a special Norwegian Polar Institute for her work in biological science and regeneration of vegetation in the Tika gravel quarry. Next year's contest will take place in Budapest.

Nordic Co-operation and enlargement

Flemming Hansen, Denmark's new minister for Nordic co-operation, says that the Nordic Council - 50 years old this year - will have an important role to play in the enlarged Europe too. The co-operation in the past has helped the economic and social development that characterises the Nordic countries, but now there are new challenges and tasks. "Nordic co-operation cannot, and should not, be seen in isolation, but in a broader, European context", he said. The EU has in recent years become increasingly important to the Nordic countries. Denmark, Finland and Sweden's membership of the EU, and Norway and Iceland's connection to the EU through the EEA Agreement, "have impacted decisively and constructively on the Nordic co-operation". EU issues have increasingly become part of the Nordic agenda, and "



no way should we try to establish a permanent Nordic bloc in the EU".

And talking about the EU means talking about the current enlargement of the EU: "The enlargement is also a challenge for the Nordic countries. The enlargement will change the political landscape around the Nordic countries, and it will pose new challenges to the Nordic Council of Ministers' agenda". Up to now emphasis has been on the co-operation with the Baltic countries and support for their preparations for EU membership, and much Nordic effort has gone into this, he said. "When the Baltic countries hopefully accede to the EU, we shall have a new situation. It will then be natural for us in the Nordic countries to take the close co-operation forward and support the Baltic countries, also in the first phase after the accession."

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
Autumn	
Details tbc	Slovenia presidential and local elections
October	
Tuesday 1st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlargement negotiations with the candidate countries at ministerial level, Brussels • European Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen meets the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cyril Svoboda, Brussels • European Parliament foreign affairs committee votes on its opinion on the consequences of enlargement for economic and social cohesion, Brussels • European Parliament economic and monetary affairs committee discusses with the President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Jean Lemierre, as part of the committee's development of a report on the activities of the EBRD, Brussels • European Parliament budget committee discusses the financing of the EU solidarity fund - the EU's response to the flooding in central Europe; Brussels
Wednesday 2nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Commission President Romano Prodi meets the President of Bulgaria, Georgi Parvanov, Brussels • European Enterprise Commissioner Erkki Liikanen meets Jean Lemierre, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Brussels • European Parliament committees on citizens' freedoms discusses a draft report on integrated management of the external borders of the member states of the EU • European Parliament agriculture and rural development committee discusses the consequences of enlargement for economic and social cohesion, Brussels
Wednesday 2nd-Thursday 3rd	Meeting of liaison officers from supreme audit institutions of the candidate countries and the European Court of Auditors, Luxembourg

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Thursday 3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Commission President Romano Prodi, Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen, and Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, meet the President of Latvia, Vaira Vike Freiberga, Brussels European Parliament constitutional affairs committee discusses the Convention of the future of Europe with representatives of candidate countries Candidate countries take part in discussions in the EU Council of Ministers working group on the Convention, Brussels EU Council of Ministers working group on the Accession Treaty meets Brussels
Thursday 3th - Friday 4th	European Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström visits Hungary
Friday 4th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidates take part in EU troika meeting on terrorism, Brussels EU Council of Ministers working group on enlargement meets, Brussels EU Council of Ministers working group on central Europe meets, Brussels
Saturday 5th	Parliament elections, Latvia
Details tbc	Partial Senate elections, Czech Republic
Details tbc	Local governmental elections, Hungary
Monday 7th	Fifth European Commission seminar on consumer affairs for candidate countries, Brussels
Wednesday 9th	European Commission to approve the 2002 regular reports on the progress of the candidate countries towards the EU and the strategy paper Strategy paper and recommendations
Thursday 10th - Friday 11th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Regional Affairs Commissioner Michel Barnier visits Romania
Saturday 12th - Sunday 13th	Baltic Sea conference on Baltic Metropolises, Copenhagen
Thursday 17th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enlargement and EU cohesion policy workshop, CEPS, Brussels Monday 21st-Wednesday 23rd Workshop with the supreme audit institutions of the candidate countries on audit quality control, Gdansk
Friday 18th	European Justice and Home Affairs Commissioner Antonio Vitorino visits Poland
Friday 18th - Sunday 20th	European External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten and Competition Commissioner Mario Monti visit the Czech Republic
Sunday 20	Estonian local elections
Monday 21	Ministerial Conference on the guidelines for a new action plan for the Northern Dimension, Luxembourg
Thursday 24th-Friday 25th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Council, Brussels: the EU Presidency draft agenda currently envisages discussion of enlargement and of Kaliningrad. On enlargement, decisions are expected about which candidate countries negotiations can be concluded with by the Copenhagen European Council on 12-13 December, as well as about decisions to be taken at Copenhagen on updated pre-accession strategies and roadmaps for Bulgaria and Romania and on the next stage of Turkey's candidature;



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	budgetary and financial issues, monitoring, and institutional arrangements will also be on the agenda.
Sunday 27th	Polish regional elections
Monday 28th-Tuesday 29th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Budget Commissioner Michael Schreyer visits Malta European Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou visits Bulgaria and Romania.
November	
Monday 4th	Danish Energy Agency conference on energy supply and demand in the Kaliningrad Region, Kaliningrad
Monday 11th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU-Russia summit in Copenhagen will discuss Kaliningrad
Details tbc	Local elections, Czech Republic (including first elections for the Prague region)
Details tbc	Local elections, Estonia
Details tbc	Presidential, Local, and National Council (Second Parliamentary Chamber elections, Slovenia)
Details tbc	Ecofin Council discusses the report on economic dialogue with the candidate countries
Details tbc	Lithuania presidential elections
Tuesday 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	
Thursday 12th, Friday 13th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copenhagen European Council - enlargement may be on the agenda again, taking account of the aim of concluding accession negotiations by the end of the year. European Court of Auditors meeting with heads of the supreme audit institutions of the candidate countries, Bucharest OECD conference on governance and partnerships in transition economies, Český Krumlov, Czech Republic
Sunday 22nd	Presidential elections, Lithuania (second round on January 5, 2003)
January 2003	

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

Archives

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

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