

Annex I

Resolutions, Reports, Opinions and Hearings of the European Parliament -2001

[European Parliament resolution on the preparation of the Göteborg European Council](#)

- adopted in plenary on 13 June 2001

[European Parliament resolution on the preparation of the Laeken European Council](#)

- adopted in plenary on 29 November 2001

1. Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy

[Resolution on the enlargement of the EU - adopted in plenary on 5 September 2001](#)

[Rapporteur - Elmar BROK \(B5-0538/2001\)](#)

In the resolution Parliament reiterated its support for EU enlargement, underlining the 'historic' nature of enlargement which 'represents an opportunity to ensure long term stability, security and prosperity in Europe'. The EU should be aiming to conclude accession treaties on a case-by-case basis by the end of 2002 to enable those applicant countries, which are ready, to be able to participate in the 2004 European elections.

However, the House believed the EU needed to improve its mechanisms for modifying the Treaties, as the current 'antique, untransparent and unintelligible process is bound to alienate' the general public, as was demonstrated by the result of the Irish referendum on the draft Nice Treaty. There should consequently be changes in the way the treaties are modified. The public information campaign to promote the benefits of enlargement to people both in Member States and applicant countries should also be intensified. Candidate countries should have an advisory role until accession in all further preparations for the next IGC. Parliament considered that the likely cost for the EU budget arising from the accession of new Member States until 2006 could be catered for in the framework of the existing Interinstitutional Agreement on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure. The House supported the principle of maintaining the ceilings of appropriations for payments at 1.27% of the Community's GNP.

Other points in the resolution included the call for Hungary and the Czech Republic to have the same number of seats in the European Parliament as Belgium and Portugal, i.e. 22. An amendment that was adopted called for Malta to have six seats, in line with Luxembourg's allocation. The complementary nature of EU and NATO enlargement was also stressed, with Parliament emphasising that each state had the right to determine its own security policy. The resolution also referred to areas such as agricultural policy reform, the need to train people administering the law, and the benefits of candidate countries respecting the Charter of Fundamental Rights. Candidate countries should not have to meet any stricter conditions than the current Member States, and an amendment stressed that they must also enjoy the same rights. Among other amendments adopted was one that stressed that enlargement required reforms that went further than the Nice 'left-overs', in particular they should ensure greater transparency and approachability for ordinary citizens and an active policy to combat unemployment. Other amendments expressed concern about economic and social hardship in candidate countries and stressed the need to involve all stakeholders in work financed by the pre-accession funds. There was a call too for additional support measures to be provided for border regions between current and future Member States. Effective measures also needed to be introduced to tackle the risk of BSE in candidate countries. Lastly, candidate countries were

called on to abolish legislation which discriminates against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation.

[Pre-accession financial assistance to Turkey - adopted in plenary on 25 October 2001](#)
[Rapporteur - Alain LAMASSOURE \(A5-0338/2001\)](#)

The resolution stressed that financial aid to Turkey must focus on political and institutional reforms in order to contribute to the move towards democracy. Aid should be provided not just to the state and regional authorities but also for small-scale projects involving various bodies such as cooperatives, NGOs, etc., which could help to strengthen civil society. Although pre-accession aid to Turkey should be increased, in line with the doubling of such aid for the candidate countries under the Financial Perspective 2000-2006, this should be conditional upon Turkey remaining on course to consolidate the rule of law. In addition, if the management of pre-accession aid was to be gradually devolved to Turkey, the Turkish authorities should guarantee total transparency and the same standard of financial controls and guarantees as required in EU regulations in this field. An amendment adopted pointed to the need to ensure that the Turkish public is made aware of the projects and funding involved in the pre-accession aid, in order to raise the Community's profile and improve its image in Turkey. Lastly, Parliament stressed the need for the Commission to coordinate its actions with other providers of financial assistance in Turkey, such as the EIB.

[Accession Partnership for Turkey - adopted in plenary on 14 February 2001](#)
[Rapporteur - Hannes SWOBODA \(A5-0024/2001\)](#)

Parliament adopted the resolution amending the proposal under the consultation procedure. It called for Turkey to be included in two financial instruments: the pre-accession structural instrument (ISPA) and the special accession programme for agriculture and rural development (SAPARD). This aid would help to restructure Turkey's farming sector, improve the rural environment and the country's infrastructure and protect the environment. Including Turkey in these instruments would help ensure that all the applicant countries were treated equally. Parliament also wanted Turkey's status as an equal candidate for accession to be made clear by ensuring that the corresponding pre-accession aid was channelled through the relevant heading of the financial perspective (Heading 7). Preserving parallel financing structures was likely to result in unnecessary duplication. Parliament therefore called for the financial instruments (Phare, Ispa and Sapard) to be unified and for the administrative committees of the three financial instruments to be merged within six months of the regulation's adoption, with the three instruments themselves being unified as a single pre-accession strategy instrument within one year. In addition, the Commission was asked to re-assess the budgetary resources needed. Parliament was also concerned to ensure that it was properly consulted on the Accession Partnership.

Candidate country resolutions 2001
Resolutions adopted in plenary on 5 September 2001:

[Bulgaria's membership application](#)
[Rapporteur - Geoffrey Van ORDEN \(A5-0258/2001\)](#)

Parliament considered the target date of 2004 set by the Bulgarians for completing negotiations to join the EU was "ambitious but not unrealistic". It stressed the progress achieved by Bulgaria and the remarkable stability of the political system in recent years. However, Bulgaria must

maintain efforts to tackle corruption and strengthen the legislative framework. The Roma and the Turkish minority should also be fully integrated into society, and there should be no discrimination against homosexuals. Bulgaria's macro-economic performance had been good, but there was still some way to go in improving standards of living and reducing unemployment. The government was therefore urged to step up measures to tackle the problems of poverty and social marginalisation, as well as developing a competitive market economy. Environmental concerns were also raised, including the importance of closing the Kozloduy nuclear plant. Finally, the Bulgarian authorities were urged to provide further information relating to the murder of Georgi Markov in London in 1978.

[The Czech Republic's membership application](#)
[Rapporteur - Jürgen SCHRÖDER \(A5-0255/2001\)](#)

Parliament considered that the Czech Republic was maintaining its efforts to complete its accession strategy by 2004. In particular, it welcomed the fact that the country was now a "functioning market economy" and was speeding up reforms. Progress had been made in the environmental field, but the need for careful monitoring remained. The issue of the Temelin nuclear plant needed to be resolved, and the Commission was called upon to investigate how it might be relinquished. The Czech Government was urged to implement its anti-corruption programme and to tackle the problem of trafficking in women. More transparent control of the use of state aids was also called for.

[Cyprus' membership application](#)
[Rapporteur - Jacques POOS \(A5-0261/2001\)](#)

Parliament noted that Cyprus fully met the political and economic criteria for joining the EU and had made significant progress in adopting the "acquis communautaire". It could therefore "expect to accede to the EU rapidly". However, problems still remained over the division of the island. Yet, the resolution of the Cyprus question was not a prerequisite for accession. There was no possibility of separate negotiations with the two parts of the island, and no question either of accession for two Cypriot states or of accession of the northern part of the island upon Turkish accession. The Nicosia government was negotiating on behalf of "all Cypriots" and, when those negotiations and the accession process had been completed, all its citizens would legally be part of the EU. If Turkey were to carry out its threat to annex the north of Cyprus, it would put an end to its own ambitions of EU membership. Parliament supported the "enhanced political dialogue" between the EU and Turkey and the conclusion of accession partnerships with Cyprus and Turkey that "could provide a framework of resolution of the problem". Contacts at all levels between the two communities and the support for EU membership among Turkish Cypriots were also welcomed. Other points included the deterioration in the macro-economic stability of Cyprus and the special attention that needed to be paid to certain areas of the "acquis", such as the environment. Parliament also stressed the importance of ensuring that homosexual rights are properly respected.

[Estonia's application for membership](#)
[Rapporteur- Gunilla CARLSSON \(A5-0251/2001\)](#)

Parliament stressed that Estonia was making good progress in its preparations for EU membership and had clearly emerged as one of the leaders among the candidate countries. It should continue with the implementation of its programmes to integrate minorities and take more steps to provide language training - particularly for the Russian-speaking population.

There was also applause for the progress in tackling corruption. Estonia received praise for its economic progress, while concern was expressed over the high rate of unemployment and the 'difficult situation' in the North-East. The resolution looked forward to Estonia's full participation in the common foreign and security policy and its integration into the Euro-Atlantic security structures. It also welcomed the progress in adopting the environmental 'acquis' and Estonia's forthcoming accession to the European Environmental Agency.

[Hungary's membership application](#)
[Rapporteur - Luis QUEIRÓ \(A5-0257/2001\)](#)

Parliament called for firm dates to be set for the conclusion of negotiations with Hungary and its accession to help forestall any discontent on the part of the Hungarian public. It also suggested that the number of Hungarian MEPs to be elected after accession be increased to 22. Discrimination against the Roma minority was highlighted in the resolution, which noted that the government had begun to implement its medium-term action programme to address the issue. Parliament also took note of the adoption of a law on Hungarians living in neighbouring countries and recognised the concerns of their governments. The Commission was urged to undertake an evaluation of the law with regard to its compatibility with the "acquis" and the spirit of good neighbourliness and cooperation. There was a call for action to be taken against trafficking of women and children and for the elimination of discrimination in law against homosexuals. An amendment was adopted calling for the opposition to be adequately represented on public media boards. Parliament welcomed continued progress on the economic front, while stressing the importance of tackling inflation and regional disparities.

[Latvia's membership application](#)
[Rapporteur - Elisabeth SCHROEDTER \(A5-0252/2001\)](#)

Parliament welcomed the enormous efforts made by Latvia to close the gap with the first group of candidate countries. However the country still needed to make improvements to its legal and administrative systems and to step up the fight against corruption. It needed to integrate the "still considerable number of non-citizens", although current legislation, such as the new ID cards that only give details of citizenship instead of ethnicity, might improve matters. There was also support for a gradual broadening of the right to vote in local elections. Lastly, Parliament welcomed Latvia's strong economic growth, although it also stressed the importance of complying with EU environmental standards.

[Lithuania's membership application](#)
[Rapporteur- Ioanna SOULADAKIS \(A5-0253/2001\)](#)

Parliament noted that Lithuania was making good progress and applauded the country's protection of the rights of ethnic minorities. However, the functioning of some institutions needed to be improved, notably the police and judiciary. Greater efforts should be made by both Lithuania and the EU to combat trafficking in women, and discrimination against homosexuals should be eliminated. The economic situation was good and provided an ever more solid base for long-term growth, but there were concerns about increasing unemployment, and the need to tackle the resulting social problems. The Resolution welcomed signs that Lithuania may take a decision on the closure date for unit 2 at the Ignalina nuclear power plant well before the end of 2004 and called for preparations for this to be stepped up. Finally, Parliament noted with satisfaction the "constructive role" played by Lithuania in enhancing cooperation with Russia in

relation to the Kaliningrad region, while also calling for a strengthening of the EU's involvement in the dialogue.

[Malta's membership application](#)

[Rapporteur - Ursula STENZEL \(A5-0262/2001\)](#)

While it took the view that Malta was well on the way to joining the EU, as there was constitutional stability and a functioning market economy, Parliament regretted the fact that government and parliamentary opposition held divergent views on Malta's accession to the EU. It expressed support for all efforts to safeguard the continuity of the accession process. The Resolution stressed the need for Malta to maintain its progress in introducing environmental legislation to press on with agricultural reforms. There was also recognition of Malta's concerns over the potential disruption of the labour market in the event of a high inflow of workers following accession. An amendment was adopted noting the establishment of a Financial Intelligence Unit to combat money laundering and other measures to bring Malta's criminal code into line with European legislation

[Poland's membership application](#)

[Rapporteur - Jas GAWRONSKI \(A5-0254/2001\)](#)

Parliament took the view that Poland was well on the way to joining the EU, perhaps in time for the 2004 European elections. It welcomed the "remarkable efforts" made by the Polish parliament to adapt national legislation to the EU *acquis* as quickly as possible and urged Poland to speed up effective and verifiable implementation of the *acquis*. There was recognition of the particular structural difficulties facing Polish farmers, and the Polish authorities and the Commission were urged to reach a compromise agreement on participation in the common agricultural policy based on the proposals for a phasing-in of direct payments. Parliament noted the high rate of unemployment in Poland, while welcoming the proposed amendment of the labour laws as a way of combating the problem. The macroeconomic situation was generally encouraging, and inflation and exports were showing clear signs of improvement. There was applause for the 2001 budget law, which included provision for spending increases in sectors that were extremely important for accession, such as agriculture.

[Romania's membership application](#)

[Rapporteur - Baroness NICHOLSON of Winterbourne \(A5-0259/2001\)](#)

Parliament endorsed Romania's commitment to consolidate democracy and the rule of law and welcomed the government's programme. It also supported the Romanian Government's clear statements and its action plan of 12 June 2001 to tackle root and branch reform of child health and development. While praising the government's suspension of international adoption and its intention of making Romania a no-go area for traffickers, the resolution noted the grave concerns expressed in recent years over the significant abuse and neglect of children in state institutions and the growth of the street children phenomenon and trafficking. It stressed that Romania's incorporation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was incomplete and that the secondary legislation on international adoption created a legal framework for child-trafficking world-wide. Parliament also stressed the need to ensure equal opportunities and to integrate minorities. The abolition of Article 200 of the Penal Code, which maintained discrimination in this field, was particularly welcomed as was the adoption of the national strategy for improving the status of the Roma. Improvements in macro-economic stabilisation were noted, although major reforms were still needed, and the importance of the government's

medium term economic strategy for 2000-2004 was emphasised. There was also concern over the environment and the weaknesses of the infrastructure in this sector - in particular the nuclear and mining industries. Other issues raised included the importance of the fight against corruption, interference in the judiciary and the "evident signals of reduction of freedom of information and of an independent media". Finally, Parliament reiterated its view that Romanian citizens did not require a visa to enter EU territory, while calling on the Bucharest government to provide a clear commitment to the fight against illegal immigration and residence.

[Slovakia's membership application](#)

[Rapporteur - Jan Marinus WIERSMA \(A5-0256/2001\)](#)

Parliament recognised the governing coalition's agreement on key reforms, in particular constitutional reforms. Recognising the complexity and international dimension of the Roma issue, it called for a stronger commitment by the EU. It also encouraged the Slovak government to develop national approaches to the problem of minorities and noted a gap between policy formulation and its practical implementation. All levels of government should tackle this issue, particularly the ongoing discrimination against the Roma. Parliament noted that Slovakia had made significant progress in restructuring its industrial and financial sector, thereby adapting itself to meet the requirements of the single market, and had also made some progress in the areas of public administration reform. Progress in the area of the internal market was welcomed, but certain weaknesses existed in such areas as financial control, agriculture, environment and justice and home affairs. There was also a welcome for the steps taken to tackle these problems by significantly strengthening staffing in the relevant ministries. Other issues raised included the environment, in particular the ongoing problem of the nuclear plants at Bohunice and Mochovce, and the need to tackle corruption and crime.

[Slovenia's membership application](#)

[Rapporteur - Demetrio VOLCIC \(A5-0260/2001\)](#)

Parliament noted that Slovenia planned to be ready for accession on 1 January 2003 and that it had taken significant political and economic steps to align itself with the *acquis*. Points still to be addressed included the need to inject transparency into the rules governing foreign investment flows and to reach cross-party agreement on the division of Slovenia into regions. Amendments to the resolution which were adopted included a call for legislation on mental health and for measures to prevent monopolies on the distribution of printed media. Parliament also called on Slovenia to put in place mechanisms necessary to link effectively to the Community's Rapid Alert System for food safety.

[Turkey's membership application - adopted in plenary on 25 October 2001](#)

[Rapporteur - Alain LAMASSOURE \(A5-0343/2001\)](#)

Parliament called on Turkey to adhere to the Copenhagen political, institutional, economic and social criteria as quickly as possible. Although considerable progress had been made on respect for human rights, there was still some way to go. While noting the reforms that had already taken place, the resolution urged Turkey to comply with the principles laid down in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, to step up its efforts to improve the treatment of prisoners and eliminate the use of torture completely, to ensure respect for freedom of expression and democratic principles and to declare a broad political amnesty. Parliament also noted the progress achieved on reforming criminal law while urging the Turkish authorities to bring their criminal law procedures into line with EU norms. The Turkish authorities were also urged to

address the issue of national minorities - in particular the Kurds - in a spirit of dialogue and openness. There was full support for the civil initiative aimed at resuming a constructive dialogue with Armenia. Parliament welcomed the wide-ranging economic and political reforms recently carried out in Turkey, in particular the National Programme for the Adoption of the *Acquis* adopted in March 2001. Parliament called on Turkey to increase its measures to combat corruption and to pursue its efforts at macroeconomic adjustment. However, there was concern about the possible repercussions of a prolonged economic and financial crisis, and Parliament therefore called for increased aid from the EU to accompany Turkey's reforms. On the Cyprus question, the resolution emphasised the need for the Turkish Cypriot side to rejoin the proximity talks in order to reach a comprehensive settlement before accession.

Opinions

- Opinion for the Constitutional Affairs Committee on the Treaty of Nice and the future of the European Union (A5-0168/2001) - Draftsman Elmar BROK

Hearings - Meetings

Romania: Prime Minister, Mr A. NASTASE, Foreign Minister Mr M. DAN GEONA
Commissioner G. VERHEUGEN - 25 January 2001

Mr V. PUSCAS, Chief Negotiator of Romania, Mr M. LEIGH, Commission Chief Negotiator - 25 April 2001

Slovenia: Foreign Minister, Mr. D RUPEL, Mr J.G. LOMARDERO, Commission Chief Negotiator - 5 February 2001

Cyprus: Mr G. VASSILIOU, Chief Negotiator of Cyprus, Mr L. MAURER, Commission Chief Negotiator - 19 March 2001

Bulgaria: Mr V. KISSIOV, Chief Negotiator of Bulgaria, Mr. M. LEIGH, Commission Chief Negotiator - 20 March 2001

Czech Republic: Mr. P. TELICK, Chief Negotiator of the Czech Republic, Mr. R. WISSELS, Commission Chief Negotiator - 20 March 2001

Latvia: Mr KESTERIS, Chief Negotiator of Latvia, Mr CAMOS GRAU, Commission Chief Negotiator - 26 March 2001

Lithuania: Mr P. AUSTREVICIUS, Chief Negotiator of Lithuania, Mr A. HENRIKSON, Commission Chief Negotiator - 27 March 2001

Poland: Mr J. KULAKOWSKI, Chief Negotiator of Poland, Ms. F. GAUDENZI-AUBIER, Commission Chief Negotiator - 10 April 2001

Hungary: Mr E. JUHASZ, Chief Negotiator of Hungary, Mr P. MIREL, Commission Chief Negotiator - 23 April 2001

Malta: Mr R. CACHIA CARUANA, Chief Negotiator of Malta, Mr A. PALOSUO
Commission Chief Negotiator - 24 April 2001

Slovakia: Mr J. FIGEL, Chief Negotiator of Slovakia, Mr D. MEGANCK, Commission Chief Negotiator - 24 April 2001

Estonia: Mr A. STREIMENN, Chief Negotiator of Estonia, Mr D. LANGE
Commission Chief Negotiator - 25 April 2001

Turkey: Deputy Prime Minister, Mr M. YILMAZ - 20 June 2001

Enlargement: Mr G. VERHEUGEN, Commissioner for Enlargement - 3 July 2001
13 November 2001

Presentation by the Open Society Institute of its report on the 10 CEECs
(Joint meeting of the rapporteurs of the FAC, the Bureaux of the JPCs and of the
FAC) - 22 October 2001

Visits

Riga: 20-22 June 2001

Romania: 19-20 November 2001

2. Committee on Budgets

Opinions

- Opinion for the Foreign Affairs Committee on the applications for membership of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey (A5-0251 to 0262/2001 and 0343/2001) - Draftsman Reimer BÖGE
- Opinion for the Environment Committee on the participation of the candidate countries in the European Environment Agency and the EION (A5-0170/2001) - Draftsman Wilfried KUCKELKORN

Visits

Slovenia: 11-13 July 2001 (together with the Agriculture Committee)

3. Committee on Budgetary Control

Opinions

- Opinion for the Foreign Affairs Committee on the applications for membership of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey (A5-0251 to 0262/2001) - Draftsman Herbert BÖSCH
- Opinion for the Foreign Affairs Committee on Turkey's application for membership (A5-0343) - Draftsman Herbert BÖSCH

Hearings -Meetings

Aid to accession countries: Mr. G. VERHEUGEN, Commissioner for Enlargement
9 July 2001

4. Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs

[Resolution on visas for third countries' nationals and exemptions](#)

Adopted in plenary on 29 November 2001 - Rapporteur Klaus-Heiner LEHNE

Parliament adopted the resolution amending the proposal for a Council regulation under the consultation procedure. In particular, it rejected the attempt to attach certain conditions to the exemption for Romania from visa requirements, arguing that there was no justification for treating Romania differently, especially as it was one of the applicant states. Another amendment stipulated that visa requirements for stateless persons should be the same as for nationals of the third country in which they reside. Parliament also wanted Member States to be able to exempt from the visa requirement young people taking part in EU youth programmes, as it felt that the EU should do everything possible to enhance crossborder contacts. Other amendments were designed to secure coherence with the existing Schengen rules and to tidy up the Council's text.

Opinions

- Opinion for the Foreign Affairs Committee on the applications for membership of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey (A5-0251 to 0262/2001 and 0343/2001) - Draftspersons: Maria BERGER and Arie OOSTLANDER

Hearing - Meetings

European Area of Freedom, Security and Justice: adoption of the EU acquis

27 February 2001

Parliamentary Supervision of Schengen 28 May 2001

5. Committee on Economic and Monetary affairs

Opinions

- Opinions for the Foreign Affairs Committee on the applications for membership of the EU of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland (A5-0255, 0257, 0254/2001) - Draftsmen: Pierre JONCKHEER, Othmar KARAS and Christopher HUHNE

Hearings - Meetings

Autumn Forecast for the EU and the candidate countries

Mr SOLBES MIRA, Commissioner - 20 November 2001

International dimension of competition policy Mr M. MONTI, Commissioner

4 December 2001

6. Committee on Legal Affairs and the Internal Market

Opinions

- Opinions for the Foreign Affairs Committee on the applications for membership of the EU of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary and Poland (A5-0255, 0251, 0257, 0254/2001) - Draftspersons: Maria ERGER, Gary TITLEY, Willi ROTHLEY, Luis BERENGUER FUSTER

Hearings/Meetings

Meeting with the Chairs of the corresponding committees of the Parliaments of the candidate countries - 21 June 2001

7. Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy

Opinions

- Opinion for the Foreign Affairs Committee on the applications of 13 candidate countries for membership of the EU (A5-0251 to 0262/2001 and 0343/2001) - Draftsman Norbert GLANTE

Hearings - Meetings

Enlargement of the EU and European commercial and economic cooperation

Joint Meeting with the Council of Europe's Committee on Economic Affairs and Development - 3 December 2001

8. Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Opinions

- Opinions for the Foreign Affairs Committee on the membership applications of Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania and Turkey (A5- 0261, 0251, 0252, 0262, 0254, 0259/2001, A5-0343/2001) - Draftsperson Miet SMET
- Opinions for the Foreign Affairs Committee on the membership applications of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia (A5-0258, 0255, 0253, 0256, 0260/2001) - Draftsman Harald ETTL

Hearings - Meetings

The membership applications of the candidate countries: Mr G. VERHEUGEN, Commissioner for Enlargement - 10 July 2001

9. Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy

Resolution on the conclusion of agreements between the EC and the candidate countries concerning their participation in the European Environment Agency and the EEION

Adopted in plenary on 31/05/2001

Rapporteur - Caroline JACKSON (A5-0170/2001)

Opinions

- Amendments to the Foreign Affairs Committee's report on the applications of 13 candidate countries for membership of the EU (A5-0251 to 0262/2001) (Draftsperson - Caroline JACKSON)

Hearings - Meetings

Final Report of the Baia Mare International Task Force on the pollution disaster in Romania: Mr T. GARVEY, Task Force - 27 February 2001

Update on the enlargement process: Mr G. VERHEUGEN, Commissioner - 10 April 2001

Visits

Warsaw: 26-28 March 2001

Bratislava: 16-18 October 2001

10. Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

Opinions

- Opinion for the Foreign Affairs Committee on the applications of 13 candidate countries for membership of the EU (A5-0251 to 0262/2001 and 0343/2001) (Draftsman - Willi GÖRLACH)

Hearings - Meetings

Implementation of SAPARD programmes in candidate countries - Information from European Commission - 27 February and 21 March 2001

Enlargement: Mr G. VERHEUGEN, Commissioner - 10 July 2001

Public Hearing: Beyond Agenda 2000: the future challenges to the CAP

Visits

Slovenia: (together with Committee on Budgets) 11-13 July 2001

11. Committee on Fisheries

Participation in Community programmes: framework agreement - Cyprus, Malta, Turkey

12. Committee on Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism

[*Resolution on the EC/Romania agreement on the carriage of goods by road and combined transport*](#)

Adopted in plenary on 5 September 2001 (A5-0268)

Rapporteur - Konstantinos HATZIDAKIS

Opinions

- Opinions for the Foreign Affairs Committee on the membership applications of :
the Czech Republic (A5-0255/2001) Draftsperson: Adriana POLI BORTONE
Estonia (A5-0251/2001) Draftsman: Samuli POHJAMO
Hungary (A5-0257/2001) Draftsman: Ari VATANEN
Malta (A5-0262) Draftsman Mark WATTS
Poland (A5-0254) Draftsman: Per STENMARCK
Slovenia (A5-0260) Draftsman: Helmut MARKOV

Hearings - Meetings

Programme execution and assistance to border regions:

Mr M. BARNIER, Commissioner - 9 October 2001

13. Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport

[*Resolution on achieving better circulation of European films in the internal market and candidate countries*](#)

Adopted in plenary on 13 November 2001 (A5-0351/2001)

Rapporteur: Luckas VANDER TALEN

Opinions

- Opinion for the Foreign Affairs Committee on the EU membership applications of the 13 candidate countries (A5- (A5-0251 to 0262/2001 and 0343/2001) Draftsman: Ole ANDREASEN

Hearings - Meetings

Hearing on Culture in the Candidate Countries - 26 November 2001

14. Committee on Development and Cooperation

15. Committee on Constitutional Affairs

[Resolution on the reform of the Council](#) Rapporteur - Jacques POOS (A5-0308/2001)

The resolution stressed the fact that the main object of reform of the Council should be adapt its practices and structure to take account of enlargement and the need for coherence and transparency in legislative activity. It pointed to the many shortcomings in the way the Council operated, with its meetings behind closed doors and its increasingly complicated decision-making procedures. Pending the forthcoming constitutional process to be laid down by the Laeken Council, a first stage of reform was needed (albeit without amending the Treaties) to make sure that the Council functioned smoothly and to ensure sound governance of the Union, in particular after enlargement.

While the role of political guidance assigned to the European Council was essential to the progress of the Union, this role was called into question by the excessive expansion of its agenda. It was necessary to reassess the role of the General Affairs Council in particular in order to ensure the coherence of decisions and the proper coordination of the various EU policies. The General Affairs Council should meet more frequently and the excessive number of sectoral formations of the Council should be redistributed within a limited number of specialised Councils which would pave the way for formal decision-making, but would not be able to take legislative decisions themselves. The number of Council committees, which were a source of bureaucratic delay, should be reduced and more should be delegated to the Commission. MEPs also wanted the Council to comply with the rules relating to its quorum and ensure that the majority of ministers were present for votes on legislative procedures. A further recommendation was that the Council should be present when legislative texts were adopted in Parliament and that Parliament should also be present when the Council took final legislative decisions. There should be more collaboration with Parliament in general, and the Council should spend more time in attendance at Parliament's plenary sittings. There was also a call for the Council's activities to be more transparent. Lastly, Parliament urged that the office of High Representative for the CFSP be merged with that of the Commissioner responsible for external relations and that this role be assigned to a Vice-President of the Commission.

[Resolution on the Treaty of Nice and the future of the European Union](#)

Adopted in plenary on 31 May 2001 (A5-0168/2001)

Co-rapporteurs: Íñigo MÉNDEZ DE VIGO and António José SEGURO

Parliament regretted profoundly that the Treaty of Nice had provided a half-hearted and in some cases inadequate response to the matters in the already modest Intergovernmental Conference agenda. It hoped that the deficits and shortcomings with regard to the establishment of an effective and democratic European Union could be dealt with in the course of the post-Nice process. It recommended the establishment of a Convention (to start work at the beginning of 2002), with a similar remit and configuration to the Convention which drew up the Charter of Fundamental Rights, comprising members of the national parliaments, the European Parliament, the Commission and the governments, the task of which would be to submit to the IGC a constitutional proposal based on the outcome of an extensive public debate and intended to serve as a basis for the IGC's work. It took the view that the accession countries should be involved in the Convention as observers until the accession treaties have been signed and as full members thereafter.

Parliament also emphasised that Union decision-making had become more confused and less transparent, that the principle of existing codecision to cover all the matters in which legislation is adopted by a qualified majority has not been followed and that the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union had not been incorporated into the Treaties. The new IGC should be based on a radically different process which is transparent and open and it should initiate a constitutional development. The House deplored the fact that the proposed make-up of the European Parliament did not follow any clear logic. It expressed surprise at the decision to exceed the limit of 700 Members laid down at Amsterdam. In addition, the House regretted that the pillar structure of the treaty has been retained and that, above all in the sphere of the CFSP, unnecessary duplicate structures have established. It called for the tasks of the Commissioner responsible for external relations and those of the High Representative for the CFSP to be placed in the hands of a Commission Vice-President with specific obligations vis-à-vis the Council.

Resolution on the constitutional process and the future of the Union

Adopted in plenary on 29 November 2001 (A5-0368/2001)

Co-rapporteurs: Jo LEINEN and Íñigo MÉNDEZ DE VIGO

The main issues are the composition of the Convention, who should chair it and what its mandate should cover. Parliament believed the composition of the Convention should reflect the full range of European political opinion, as in the case of the Convention that drafted the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The different components should be represented in the same proportions as in the first Convention. The applicant countries should take part as permanent observers, as should the Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee (two observers each) and the Court of Justice. The Convention's task should be to draft a single coherent proposal to be submitted to the IGC as the sole basis for negotiation for the reform of the Treaties. It should start work immediately after the Laeken European Council and complete its work in time to allow the IGC to wind up its proceedings by the end of 2003, with the new Treaty being adopted in December 2003. The Union that emerged from this process should fulfil the Community's original objective of being a union of peoples and states capable of meeting the criteria of democratic legitimacy, transparency and efficiency, which were essential for enlargement.

Opinions

- Opinion for the Foreign Affairs Committee on the membership applications of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and the state of negotiations (A5-0251 to 0262/2001) Draftsman: Reinhard RACK.

Hearings - Meetings

The political future of the European Union: Mr M. BARNIER, Commissioner
5 February 2001

The Treaty of Nice and the Future of the European Union: Mr L. DANIELSSON, President-in-Office of the Council - 13 February 2001

The Treaty of Nice and the Future of the EP: Parliaments of the Member States and the candidate countries - 20 March 2001

Enlargement: Parliaments of the Member States and the candidate countries
10 July 2001

The future of the European Union: Mr V. GISCARD D'ESTAING 10 October 2001

The Laeken European Council and the Future of the EU: Mr M. BARNIER, Commissioner - 19 November 2001

16. Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities

Opinions

- Opinions for the Foreign Affairs Committee on the membership applications of:
Bulgaria (A5-0258) Draftsperson: Patsy SÖRENSEN
Cyprus (A56-0261/2001) Draftsperson: Astrid LULLING
Czech Republic (A5-0255/2001) Draftsperson: Maria MARTENS
Estonia (A5-0251/2001) Draftsperson: Heidi HAUTALA
Hungary (A5-0257/2001) Draftsperson: Miet SMET
Latvia (A5-0252/2001) Draftsperson: Lone DYBKJAER
Lithuania (A5-0253/2001) Draftsperson: Rodi KRATSA-TSAGAROPOU
Malta (A5-0262/2001) Draftsperson: Rodi KRATSA-TSAGAROPOU
Poland (A5-0254/2001) Draftsperson: Ida FIGUEIREDO
Romania (A5-0259/2001) Draftsperson: Christa PRETS
Slovakia (A5-0256/2001) Draftsperson: Olle SCHMIDT
Slovenia (A5-0260/2001) Draftsperson : Patsy SÖRENSEN
Turkey (A5-0343/2001) Draftsperson: Anna KARAMANOU

Hearings - Meetings

Hearing on equal opportunities in the candidate countries: Mr G. VERHEUGEN, Commissioner - 26 February 2001

Visits

*Hungary 25-26 April 2001
Poland 18-19 June 2001
Prague 30-31 October 2001*