



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 12.10.2009  
SEC(2009) 1302 final

**RECOMMENDATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL**

**to authorise the Commission to negotiate a Protocol to the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and its Member States on the one part, and the Central American Republics of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama on the other part, to take account of accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia, and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.[...]**

## **A. EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

The EU-Central America Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA) was signed on 15 December 2003. The Agreement has been ratified by almost all parties with the exception of Costa Rica and Greece.

The accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia, and the Slovak Republic to the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, on the one part, and the Central American Republics of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, on the other part, shall be agreed by the conclusion of a protocol to this agreement.

These negotiations will also deal with the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania to the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement, which are already covered by the general authorisation to negotiate issued by the Council to the Commission on 23 October 2006.

The most important aspects of the enlargement protocols will cover the technical adjustments brought about by the accession of the new Member States as Parties to the EU-Central America Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement, as well as determine the authentic versions of the Agreement in the new official languages of the EU.

## **B. RECOMMENDATION**

In the light of the above, the Commission recommends to the Council to:

- authorise the Commission to negotiate a Protocol in order to adapt the 2003 EU-Central America Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement to take account of the accession to the European Union of the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia;
- designate a special committee to assist the Commission, which in accordance with the Treaty establishing the European Community will conduct these negotiations on behalf of the European Community;
- adopt the attached negotiating directives.

## ANNEX

### NEGOTIATING DIRECTIVES

Directives for the negotiation of a Protocol adjusting the 2003 EU-Central America Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement to take into account the 2004 enlargement of the European Union.

#### **1. GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

Adaptation of the EU-Central America Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement to take into account the accession to the European Union of the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

#### **2. CONTENT OF THE PROTOCOL**

The Protocol will add 12 new signatories to the Agreement and will also modify its Article 60 on 'Authentic texts' to ensure the incorporation of new languages as authentic languages of the Agreement. These languages are: Czech, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Slovak and Slovenian.

#### **3. TIMETABLE**

Negotiations should be concluded rapidly in order to allow for the Protocol to enter into force as soon as possible.