

ANNEX II

List of Resolutions and reports adopted by the European Parliament on enlargement topics in 2002 (January to June)

European Parliament resolution on the preparation of the European Council in Seville -adopted in plenary on 13 June 2002 (B-0327 to 0332/2001)

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

[Resolution on the state of the enlargement negotiations -adopted in plenary on 13 June 2002](#) [Rapporteur - Elmar BROK \(A5-0190/2002\)](#)

Parliament reaffirmed its support for the efforts made by the candidate countries and the Commission to conclude the negotiations by the end of 2002 to allow as many applicants as possible to join by 2004. Whilst Parliament confirmed that all negotiating countries fulfilled the political criteria, it emphasised the need to follow closely the situation of minorities, the phenomenon of racism and xenophobia and anti-Semitism, and other forms of discrimination. Firmly convinced that, as in the case of previous accessions, differing views about historic events did not constitute a barrier to accession, Parliament nevertheless did expect from all parties the readiness to engage in open and honest dialogue based on the commitment to construct a common Europe to replace the post-war order.

Parliament also emphasised the importance of a high level of nuclear safety in the candidate countries. The closure of reactors considered non-upgradeable at reasonable cost operating in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia must be in line with the Accession Partnership Agreements and the related Memoranda of Understanding. The importance of food safety for European consumers was also emphasised. On agriculture, Parliament insisted not only on the transposition of the *acquis* but also on the fulfilment of measures relating to external border controls, protection rules regarding BSE, standards of food-processing establishments and animal welfare rules. Parliament also wanted to ensure that all infrastructure development projects financed by pre-accession funds are consistent with Community environmental legislation. Parliament supported the Commission's strategy on increasing citizen's awareness of enlargement in both the Member States and the candidate countries, especially with regard to transparency and public access to documents. Parliament will open the first EP information offices in four candidate countries later this year and supported the efforts to decentralise the implementation of the communication strategy for each country.

The resolution contains specific paragraphs on all negotiating candidate countries. With regard to Turkey, Parliament stated that the latter must proceed with the constitutional reforms which are fundamental to the process of democratisation and which have brought positive results since their launch. These and other reforms must achieve real progress in the area of human rights and freedoms so that the persistent gap between Turkey's commitment to fulfil the political Copenhagen criteria and their implementation may be eliminated. The pre-accession strategy for Turkey should be fully implemented and the EU must assist the acceleration of the preparations for Turkey's accession. Parliament encouraged Turkey to support the ongoing talks on the Cyprus problem.

Countries aiming at accession in 2004

Cyprus (Co-rapporteur - Jacques POOS)

Parliament welcomed the intensive direct negotiations between Mr Clerides and Mr Denktash which have taken place since 16 January 2002 and hoped that the prospect of Cyprus' accession would contribute to a new momentum for resolving the Cyprus question. It reaffirmed that only a single sovereign Cypriot state would be permitted to accede: it might be bi-zonal and bi-communal, but it had to be a fully-functioning entity at international level. It reiterated the view that the Helsinki conclusions would apply should an agreement prove impossible to achieve within the requisite time frame. Deep concern was expressed at the situation in the northern part of the island with regard to freedom of expression and lawsuits and mounting pressure against some independent media. Parliament noted the further improvement in the macro-economic climate of Cyprus and the closure of 28 negotiating chapters, making Cyprus one of the front runners in this respect. However, it also recognised that this had to be seen in the context of how well transposition and implementation are being carried out and urged Cyprus to pay full attention to adopting the considerable number of laws still outstanding. Parliament also reiterated its call to the Government of Cyprus to eliminate provisions in the penal code that discriminate against homosexual men and lesbian women.

The Czech Republic (Co-rapporteur - Jürgen SCHRÖDER)

Parliament reminded the Czech Republic that an efficient and effective civil service is an important prerequisite for both the political criteria and the implementation and enforcement of the *acquis*. It welcomed the adoption of the civil service law and trusted that the Czech authorities would continue to increase administrative capacity. It commended the activities of the Czech Republic in fighting corruption and economic crime. There was also a welcome for the considerable efforts made to improve the situation of the Roma. Parliament welcomed the Czech economy's relative resilience in the face of the economic downturn in its major markets, taking this as further evidence of its ability to withstand market pressures after accession. It maintained its view that the Czech Republic should have 22 seats in the European Parliament. On the question of the 'Benes Decrees', Parliament took note of the declarations of the Czech Parliament and Government as well as of the joint statement by Prime Minister Zeman and Commissioner Verheugen. If existing Czech law still contained discriminatory provisions running counter to the *acquis*, it expected the Czech Republic to eliminate them, at the latest by the time of its accession. Parliament resolved to adopt its final position on this issue taking also into account the external legal opinion requested.

Estonia (Co-rapporteur Gunilla CARLSSON)

Parliament recalled the rapid pace of Estonia's membership negotiations up to 2000, noting that the search for optimal solutions rather than the rapid closure of chapters could gather maximum support for accession within the country. It welcomed the new government's declarations on EU policy and the continuity in the negotiating team. It noted the positive development of the environment in which relations between ethnic minorities and Estonian society take place and was convinced that the current positive trends as regards the integration of minorities must be sustained and adequately supported for a number of years. Parliament observed that the economic growth rate and most other macroeconomic indicators continue to inspire confidence, despite persistent problems such as regional disparities and long-term unemployment.

Hungary (Co-rapporteur Luis QUEIRO)

Parliament applauded Hungary's strong economic performance, while urging the authorities to seek to control inflation, impose strict budget discipline and reduce the numbers of those living on or below the poverty line. It called on the new government to implement the Hungarian 'Status Law' open-mindedly and in a spirit of consensus. Parliament recognised the Hungarian Government's endeavours to improve the situation of the Roma minority. It hoped that the new parliament would find an appropriate solution to the problem of representation on the Media Council and urged the authorities to increase their efforts to secure the adoption of the Media Law. Parliament pointed out that the Hungarian Government was resolutely tackling corruption, maintaining the importance of an effective, independent civil service to the efficient operation of administrative bodies at every level. It noted the Hungarian objections to the Commission's enlargement financing proposal, hoping that a mutually-acceptable solution would be found. Parliament reiterated its view that Hungary should be accorded 22 parliamentary seats on accession.

Latvia (Co-rapporteur Elizabeth SCHROEDTER)

Parliament noted that Latvia had fully caught up with the group of countries that had started negotiations in 1998, while observing that important preparations remained to be made in many areas. It took account of recent measures to facilitate naturalisation of non-citizens and, while welcoming the fact that the Social Integration Foundation was now operational, considered that its budget should be raised and concentrated on inter-ethnic integration projects. Efforts to integrate the Russian-speaking minority would have to be sustained for a number of years. Parliament noted with concern the continuing problems in the judiciary. Latvia was congratulated for its strong economic performance in 2001. However, Parliament called for the quickest possible phasing-in of EU assistance to help tackle the large regional disparities and widespread poverty. Given the major investments Latvia would have to make in order to comply with the environmental *acquis*, Parliament was of the opinion that the EU should provide it with adequate financial support. There was a welcome for the fact that most elements of the new legal framework for the reform of public administration had been adopted, but concern was expressed that Latvia continued to be seen as a country with an apparently considerable problem of corruption. The weakness of social dialogue in Latvia was noted. Parliament welcomed the accreditation of the SAPARD paying agency.

Lithuania (Co-rapporteur Ioannis SOULADAKIS)

Parliament noted that, in terms of chapters closed, Lithuania had now fully caught up with the group of countries which started negotiations in 1998, although important preparations for membership still remained to be made in many areas. Reiterating its confidence in the functioning of democratic procedures in Lithuania, Parliament nevertheless considered that the judiciary was in need of major improvement and stressed the need to sustain current efforts to strengthen administrative capacity. Lithuania was congratulated on having achieved high economic growth, although Parliament also noted the continued seriousness of the unemployment problem. Progress in reforming agricultural authorities and in the area of food safety was welcomed, as was the accreditation of the SAPARD paying agency. Parliament requested the Lithuanian authorities to commit themselves to closing the Ignalina nuclear power

station by 2009 and welcomed the medium-term support announced by the Commission to support the decommissioning process, while recognising that substantial costs would continue to arise after 2006.

Malta (Co-rapporteur Ursula STENZEL)

Welcoming the fact that Malta was continuing to satisfy the Copenhagen criteria and that political and civil rights and economic, social and cultural rights were in a satisfactory state, Parliament nevertheless pointed out that Malta should press ahead with further civil service reform. It regretted the fact that the Maltese Labour Party does not support accession to the EU. Parliament reiterated its recommendation that Malta should be accorded 6 parliamentary seats on accession. It welcomed Malta's determination to reduce its high budget deficit, while safeguarding the social dimension, and recommended that the government intensify its efforts to abolish the remaining price controls and press ahead with the restructuring of public utilities and loss-making state enterprises. There was a welcome for the marked progress in the accession negotiations and for the substantial improvement in administrative capacity in some areas, which should be extended to cover every sphere.

Poland (Co-rapporteur Jas GAWRONSKI)

Parliament welcomed the new government's determination to move purposefully towards accession and conclude the negotiations by the end of 2002. While applauding Poland's substantial progress in adopting the *acquis*, Parliament pointed out the need to implement the *acquis* and, hence, to bring administrative capacity up to the required level. It regretted the delays in disbursing pre-accession aids, notably those available under SAPARD. The Member States were called on to adopt a common position for the agriculture negotiations which would offer Polish farmers the prospect of remaining competitive, safeguard jobs and promote income diversification, while the Polish authorities were urged to speed up structural reforms in agriculture. Parliament expressed anxiety at Poland's high unemployment rate, while welcoming the government's new economic programme and expressing the hope that both sides of industry would agree on changes to legislation to make labour markets more flexible. There was a need to put macro-economic policies back on an even keel, given the substantial budget deficit and slow-down in economic growth, although Poland's foreign trade performance was excellent. The importance of a competent and independent civil service was underlined and the authorities were urged to implement the relevant legislation more rapidly. Concern was expressed at some controversial aspects of the Radio and TV law currently under consideration in the Polish Parliament.

Slovakia (Co-rapporteur Jan Marinus WIERSMA)

Parliament encouraged all political parties to support the Slovak government in maintaining the momentum of the accession process in the belief that, with the present pace of negotiations, Slovakia could be part of the first wave of enlargement. It welcomed the constitutional steps taken to increase the independence and efficiency of the judiciary and to facilitate the transposition of EU legislation. There was also a welcome for the government's determination to fight corruption and for the adoption of the necessary legal instruments to safeguard and promote minority rights. Parliament also took note of new measures to prevent police brutality. Agreeing with the Commission's assessment that Slovakia is a functioning market economy, Parliament voiced its support for the government's restructuring programme, while calling for a strengthening of the prudent fiscal policy and for measures to improve labour market mobility.

It welcomed the good progress made in aligning with the *acquis* in most fields, as well as the progress made in the reform of public administration. There was encouragement for the government's efforts to reduce regional differences, which Parliament felt should be strengthened to better address the problems in a cost-efficient, environmentally sensitive way.

Slovenia (Co-rapporteur Demetrio VOLCIC)

Parliament welcomed the government's political determination to move ahead with Slovenia's preparations for accession and the progress in modernising the judicial system. It called on Slovenia to adopt the necessary framework legislation for the creation of an independent, professional and accountable civil service. While welcoming progress in privatisation of the banking sector, Parliament called on Slovenia to reduce the prominence of state ownership in the economy. While there was a welcome for Slovenia's steady progress in adopting the *acquis*, Parliament called on the government to make substantial efforts to improve alignment and strengthen administrative capacity in the area of regional policy and coordination of structural instruments. Administrative capacity also needed to be strengthened in agriculture.

Countries aiming at accession after 2004

Bulgaria (Co-rapporteur Geoffrey VAN ORDEN)

The Bulgarian government was commended for the continuing progress towards EU membership and the accelerated strategy for completion of the accession negotiations which it recently presented to parliament. There was support for the view that an unambiguous road map backed by generous EU assistance should be presented by December 2002. Parliament also commended Bulgaria for the continuing part it is playing in ensuring stability in the region. Bulgaria's economic success and macro-economic stability were recognised. While noting that Bulgaria was now the third-largest recipient of pre-accession funds, Parliament expressed concern that much remained unspent. Bureaucratic hurdles had to be overcome and administrative resources within Bulgaria strengthened in order to handle these funds. The adoption of the Bulgarian Government's energy strategy was welcomed, and there was a call for its early implementation. Parliament also called on the Commission and Bulgaria to come to a final agreement on the future of units 3 and 4 at the Kozloduy nuclear power station and recognised the need for increased assistance for the modernisation of units 5 and 6. It reiterated its call for Bulgaria to eliminate penal code provisions that discriminate against homosexual men and lesbian women, while welcoming the government's proposal for a comprehensive anti-discrimination bill. Noting the progress achieved in the accession negotiations, Parliament stressed the urgent need for economic progress to be translated into tangible benefits and improved social welfare for the population, given the continuing difficulty in maintaining popular confidence and support for reform measures.

Romania (Co-rapporteur Baroness NICHOLSON of Winterbourne)

Parliament welcomed Romania's political commitment to create conditions for opening all remaining negotiating chapters in 2002 with the aim of closing them by June 2004 at the latest. Noting the profound challenge that this represents, Parliament expressed its belief in the important role it had to play in bridging the gap between the first and second waves of the current enlargement as well as the need to consider special measures to assist Romania's final steps towards accession. It welcomed recent legislation on public procurement, abolishing discrimination against sexual minorities, the restitution of property and treatment of refugees

and asylum-seekers. Parliament encouraged the Romanian Government to implement its Roma strategy in close partnership with the Roma representatives and population concerned. Among issues to be addressed as a matter of urgency, the resolution noted the improvement of administrative capacity, resolving the endemic corruption problem, reforming public administration and creating a policy framework for internal financial control. Parliament noted the economic stabilisation agreement with the IMF, but was also aware of the heavy burden it would place on the population. Concern was expressed at the lack of independence and impartiality of the judiciary. Romania's continued progress in reforming child protection schemes was welcomed. Recognising the scale of Romania's programme of essential reforms, Parliament called on all EU institutions to intensify their efforts to assist. It looked forward to a clear and achievable new road map for Romania's accession.

2. Committee on Budgets

[Resolution on the financial impact of enlargement - adopted in plenary on 13 June 2002](#) [Reimer BÖGE \(A5-0178/2002\)](#)

In the resolution Parliament stressed that the benefits of accession were much more important than the Member States' budget balances with the EU. The accession negotiations must therefore take into account both the interests of the current Member States and the needs of the candidate countries in order to arrive at a long-term formula which would guarantee the stability of an enlarged Union. The current Member States should not endanger the enlargement process by adhering to national positions but work together to find an agreement on the financial aspects of enlargement. The Interinstitutional Agreement (IIA) of 6 May 1999 laid down a procedure for adjusting the financial perspective if new Member States were admitted. However, as the financial cost of enlargement could not be calculated until the accession negotiations were completed, the figures of the indicative financial framework should be taken as a basis for the adjustment of the financial perspective when the accessions took place in 2004.

While calling for a fair and sustainable agricultural policy, Parliament urged that the EU co-financing rate for rural development be increased to 80% after enlargement in order to ease the integration of the new Member States into the CAP. Direct aid should be phased in gradually, to reach 100% in 2013 but Parliament questioned the absorption capacity of the new Member States. This point needed to be clarified once and for all when the next financial perspective was adopted. The Commission also needed to remedy the low take-up rate of SAPARD funding.

Parliament supported the Commission's plan to set up a Cohesion Fund for the new Member States, but stressed that this should be managed and funded separately from the existing Cohesion Fund. Parliament pointed out that, amongst the general benefits associated with enlargement, there may be some undesirable effects in certain vulnerable regions or sectors and the EU or Member States may need to take special remedial action. Members also welcomed the gradual approach proposed by the Commission regarding the Structural Operations, while stressing the need to improve the administrative capabilities of the new states as well as their ability to take up available Community funds.

The financial implications of the likely shift in foreign policy priorities in an enlarged EU would be considered in detail in the light of all the options available under the IIA. The ceiling might have to be adjusted in order to find additional funding. As regards administrative expenditure, the Community institutions were urged to streamline their working procedures and make changes to their language regime, although it was already clear that the ceiling would have to be raised. Lastly, Parliament declared that it was unacceptable for the new Member States to find themselves in the position of net contributors to the EU budget immediately after enlargement,

even if only temporarily. It therefore proposed entering the budgetary compensation as negative revenue in the budget in order to preserve the margin for payments entered in the financial perspective.

10. Committee on agriculture and rural development

[Resolution on the SAPARD Annual Report 2000 - adopted in plenary on 13 June 2002](#)
[Rapporteur - Willy GÖRLACH \(A5-0124/2002\)](#)

Parliament expressed its concern that preparations for the accession of the CCEE were being considerably hindered in the agricultural sector by the delay in implementing the SAPARD programme. There had been no take-up of funds at all in the financial year 2000, and only insignificant amounts in 2001. This was a sign that Sapard had been poorly organised insofar as its aim is to provide effective development aid prior to accession. Public opinion in most applicant countries was not fully informed about the reasons for the delay in receiving Sapard funding, which has increased scepticism in applicant countries about enlargement. The difficulty experienced by some CCEEs in setting up paying agencies was also noted. Parliament called on the Commission to examine whether it would improve the take-up of appropriations if the Commission were to allocate a certain amount of Sapard funds centrally. Parliament went on to point out that, on average, only 11% of Community appropriations for Sapard are earmarked for the development and diversification of agriculture in the CCEE. There was an urgent need for greater support to create alternative sources of income and strengthen civil society in the CCEE in the context of promoting rural development. The overmanning in this sector might lead to a massive rise in unemployment following accession. There should therefore be a reorientation of the Sapard Programme to give greater support to creating alternative employment possibilities in rural areas. The Commission was called upon to submit a proposal enabling funding to be used under Sapard for creating additional employment and income and strengthening civil society in rural areas, taking a "bottom-up" approach along the lines of the Leader programmes in the EU. Parliament would seek an agreement with Council and Commission to amend the financial perspective to make additional funds available in rural areas.

[Resolution on enlargement and agriculture - adopted in plenary on 13 June 2002](#)
[Rapporteur - Karl Erik OLSSON \(A5-0200/2002\)](#)

Parliament welcomed the Commission's communication and called it a realistic proposal for a negotiating package. It considered the gradual introduction of direct payments to be a rational approach, as an excessive influx of cash in the short term could result in low productivity, discourage investment in production or alternative activities and lead to capital formation in the value of property, resulting in higher costs. When laying down the reference production levels eligible for aid and production quotas for the applicant countries, the Commission should ensure that their own levels of self-sufficiency in products subject to quotas does not fail, so that the imposition of quotas does not result in an increase in their net imports. On rural policy, Parliament felt that the structural changes in the rural areas of the CEECs must be supported and alternative employment opportunities must be promoted in order to guarantee the integrity of the countryside and to prevent depopulation. It should be possible to use the special form of support for subsistence farming as temporary income support for farmers wishing to switch to another form of rural enterprise and not confine it to those wishing to develop farming business. The Commission should draw up and implement rural development measures in the applicant countries on the basis of the Leader+ programme. The Commission and Council were invited to enter into dialogue with the candidates on the reform of the CAP after 2007. The underlying

principle should be a system of agriculture based on the European model guaranteeing safe and healthy food, a viable countryside and respect for animals and nature.

12. Committee on regional policy, transport and tourism

[Resolution on enlargement and regions bordering candidate countries
-adopted in plenary on 13 June 2002
Rapporteur - Renate SOMMER \(A5-0096/2002\)](#)

The resolution underlined the specific problems which enlargement will bring for border regions and the importance of Community support. The exceptional burdens imposed on Objective 1 areas lying directly on a border will need to be taken properly into account. The strategy proposed by the Commission is a first step towards tackling the specific problems of the border regions by means of the targeted package of measures. With regard to structural policy instruments, Parliament called for the drawing-up of a catalogue of indicators - still to be defined- to counteract any social and economic problems. Specific assistance to border regions should be available in addition to the existing assistance options. SMU's should receive more INTERREG funding. Parliament welcomed the Commission's proposal to strengthen the transport infrastructures in the regions concerned (EUR 150 million) and to raise the EU share of funding for transport links with candidate countries by 20%. Among other measures, the resolution also proposed raising the percentage of EU funding for assisted projects in cross-border areas and extending cross-border cooperation programmes against racism and xenophobia. Parliament did not consider the endowment of EUR 195 million proposed by the Commission to be adequate given the scale of the task. Given the figure, the percentage for TEN is too high, since the border region will be able to benefit only indirectly from the extension of the TEN routes. Parliament welcomed the agreement between the two arms of the budgetary authority to increase the endowment by EUR 65 million. This should be assigned to solving the specific problems faced by SMUs in the border regions.

[Resolution on the Commission Annual Reports on structural funds, cohesion fund and ISPA -
adopted in plenary on 13 June 2002
Rapporteur -Maurizio TURCO \(A5-0202/2002\)](#)

The resolution criticises the underutilisation of commitment and payment appropriations of Structural Fund assistance. On ISPA, implementation should be stepped up, but Parliament wondered whether beneficiary countries have the capacity to submit suitable projects. Project quality is the key criteria for allocating the funds. The Commission must examine whether it would be better to increase money for technical assistance so as to avoid high levels of underutilisation for 2000-2006. Parliament deplored the failure to implement payment appropriations (1.5%) and again questioned the accuracy of the budget forecast. In future, the Commission must strive to:

- improve the quality of projects, using instruments capable of assessing their impact and promoting the projects that perform best;
- monitor project management very closely, ensuring Community rules and procedures are scrupulously applied;
- promote decentralised project management, with the above proviso.