



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 1 June 2001

9028/01

LIMITE

ELARG 115

COVER NOTE

from : General Secretariat
to : Council

Subject : Commission Information Note on progress made in the accession negotiations ⁽¹⁾

Delegations will find attached the above-mentioned Information Note of the Commission services with a view to the meeting of the General Affairs Council on 11th and 12th June 2001.

⁽¹⁾ The Secretariat received this document in English only.

INFORMATION NOTE

Subject : Progress made in the accession negotiations

I. Progress in the accession negotiations

Since the beginning of this year, considerable progress has been achieved in the negotiations, on the basis of the enlargement strategy endorsed by the Nice European Council, and in full respect of the principles of differentiation and catching up.

At the first meetings of the Accession Conferences at Deputy level held on 29/30 March, the Union presented common positions on 52 chapters in total, and 25 of these chapters were provisionally closed.

At the second meetings of the Accession Conferences at Deputy level held on 17 May and 1 June, the Union presented common positions on 43 chapters in total, and 24 of these chapters were provisionally closed.

All these achievements are important, not only because of the number of chapters negotiated but also because of the complexity of these chapters. The results of the negotiations per country and per chapter as regards the chapters open and provisionally closed (see attached tables) show that the principles of differentiation and catching-up are materialising.

II. The implementation of the roadmap (1st semester 2001)

Work has progressed in accordance with the roadmap foreseen in the enlargement strategy. Since the beginning of the year, the EU has defined common positions on 42 chapters which belong to those earmarked in the roadmap for the first half of 2001, and 27 of these chapters have been provisionally closed.

Six chapters of the roadmap (free movement of goods, free movement of services, company law, social policy, culture, and external relations) have been provisionally closed with at least half of the candidates. For the three other chapters (free movement of persons, free movement of capital and environment), the EU has defined its position for closing these chapters with a number of candidates. The Commission has delivered the necessary elements to implement the roadmap in the first half of 2001.

The current situation regarding the implementation of the roadmap for the first half of 2001 is as follows :

- **free movement of goods** : the chapter has been provisionally closed with all countries except BG and RO. The chapter was opened with BG in May 2001. In the case of RO, the chapter was not foreseen to be opened under the Swedish Presidency. Overall, the roadmap has been implemented.

- **free movement of persons** : An EU position for closing the chapter with all countries except MT, BG and RO has been defined. For MT, the chapter is foreseen to be opened at the June Ministerial. For BG and RO, the chapter was not planned to be opened under Swedish Presidency. Overall, the roadmap has largely been implemented.

- **freedom to provide services** : the chapter has been provisionally closed with all countries except BG, LV, LT and RO. DCPs for closing the chapter with LV and LT at the June Ministerial are under discussion in the Council. With BG, an EU position might be defined at the July Deputies, given that additional information has been provided recently. For RO, the chapter was not planned to be opened under the Swedish Presidency. Overall, the roadmap has largely been implemented.

- **free movement of capital** : the chapter has been provisionally closed with CY, CZ, EE, LV, LT, SI. An EU position has been defined for HU, SK (for closing the chapter) and BG (leaving the chapter open). The EU position for PL for closing the chapter (still under discussion) should be ready for the June Ministerial. An EU position for opening the chapter with RO at the June Ministerial is ready. The EU position for MT has not been defined, given that MT has not replied to the last EUCP. Overall, the roadmap has largely been implemented.

- **company law** : the chapter has been provisionally closed with all countries except PL (disagreement with EU proposal on pharmaceutical issues), RO (chapter opened in March 2001) and BG. An EU position for BG leaving the chapter open has been presented at the May Deputies and a revised DCP is about to be presented. Overall, the roadmap has largely been implemented.

- **culture and audiovisual** : the chapter has been provisionally closed with all countries except HU and RO (given in particular that the legislation of these two countries is not in line with the acquis) and CZ. A DCP proposing to close the chapter with CZ is about to be presented in view of the June Ministerial. Overall, the roadmap has largely been implemented.

- **social policy and employment**: the chapter has been provisionally closed with CY, CZ, EE, HU, SI, LT, PL and SK. A DCP for closing the chapter with LV at the June Ministerial is under discussion in the Council. An EU position for MT has not been proposed yet, given that Malta has provided recent and incomplete information. For BG and RO, the chapter was not planned to be opened under Swedish Presidency. Overall, the roadmap has largely been implemented.

- **environment**: the chapter has been provisionally closed with CZ, EE, HU, SI. An EU position for opening the chapter with MT on 1 June has been defined. DCPs have been prepared (LT, for closure) or are being prepared (CY) in view of the July Deputies. An EU position for PL and LV has not been defined due to the fact that the replies provided by these countries are incomplete. An EU position for SK has not yet been defined in the absence of a reply from SK (chapter opened in March 2001). For BG and RO, the chapter was not planned to be opened under Swedish Presidency. Overall, the roadmap has been implemented to a large extent.

- **external relations**: the chapter has been provisionally closed with all countries. Overall, the roadmap has been implemented.

III. The opening of chapters

Work is also progressing well with regards to the opening of chapters with those countries that entered negotiations in 2000. Out of the 64 chapters which were planned to be opened under the Swedish Presidency, 43 have already been opened at the two first Deputies meetings.

The current situation regarding the opening of chapters under Swedish Presidency is as follows :

- **Latvia** : out of the 13 chapters planned to be opened (all remaining chapters), 10 have already been opened. DCPs for opening the remaining 3 chapters (free movement of persons, agriculture, JHA) have been presented by the Commission.

- **Lithuania** : out of the 13 chapters planned to be opened (all remaining chapters), 9 have already been opened. DCPs for opening the remaining 4 chapters (free movement of persons, agriculture, energy, JHA) have been presented by the Commission.

- **Slovakia** : out of the 12 chapters planned to be opened (all remaining chapters but one), 8 have already been opened. DCPs for opening the remaining 4 chapters (free movement of persons, agriculture, taxation, JHA) have been presented by the Commission. In addition, a DCP for opening the only chapter which was not planned to be opened (financial control) has also been presented by the Commission.

- **Malta** : out of the 11 chapters planned to be opened (all remaining chapters but one), 8 have already been opened. DCPs for opening the remaining 3 chapters (free movement of persons, taxation, and JHA) have been or are being presented by the Commission.

- **Bulgaria** : out of the 9 chapters planned to be opened (bringing the total to 20), 5 have already been opened. DCPs for opening 3 of the remaining chapters (transport, JHA and customs union) have been presented by the Commission. The opening of the chapter taxation has been delayed because of late reception of the country's position.

- **Romania** : out of the 6 chapters planned to be opened (bringing the total to 15), 3 have already been opened. DCPs for opening 2 of the remaining chapters (free movement of capital and transport) have been presented by the Commission. The opening of the chapter consumer protection should be possible at the July Deputies.

If EU positions are defined on all DCPs presented by the Commission at this stage, it will be possible to open 63 chapters compared to the 64 planned under the Swedish Presidency. This should allow to reach the objective of opening all remaining chapters with three (Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia) of the best prepared countries among those that entered the negotiations in 2000.

ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS : STATE OF PLAY

N°	CHAPTER	CYP	CZECH	EST	HUN	POL	SLO	BUL	LAT	LIT	MAL	ROM	SLK
1	Free movement of goods	X	X	X	X	X	X	* 0	* X	* X	* X	~	* X
2	Free movement of persons	0	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	~	*	*	*	~	*
3	Free movement of services	X	X	X	X	X	X	* 0	0	0	* X	~	X
4	Free movement of capital	X	X	X	(X)	0	X	0	X	X	0	*	0
5	Company law	X	X	X	X	0	X	0	X	X	X	* 0	* X
6	Competition	0	0	0	0	0	0	* 0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Agriculture	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	*	*	~	~	*
8	Fisheries	X	X	X	X	0	X	* X	0	* 0	0	* 0	X
9	Transport	X	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	*	0
10	Taxation	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	* 0	* 0	*	~	*
11	EMU	X	X	X	X	X	X	~	X	* X	X	~	* X
12	Statistics	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
13	Social policy	X	X	X	X	X	X	~	* 0	X	0	~	* X
14	Energy	X	0	0	X	0	X	~	* 0	*	* X	~	* 0
15	Industry	X	X	X	X	X	X	~	X	X	X	~	X
16	SMEs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
17	Science and research	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
18	Education and training	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
19	Telecommunication	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	* 0	X	X	0	X
20	Culture and audiovisual	X	0	X	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	X
21	Regional policy	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	* 0	* 0	* 0	~	* 0
22	Environment	0	X	X	X	0	X	~	* 0	0	* 0	~	* 0
23	Consumers and health protection	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	* X	X	*	X
24	Justice and home affairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	*	*	~	*
25	Customs union	X	X	0	X	X	0	*	* 0	* 0	* 0	* 0	0
26	External relations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
27	CFSP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
28	Financial control	X	0	X	X	X	X	* 0	* 0	* 0	* X	~	~
29	Financial and budgetary provisions	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	* 0	* 0	* 0	~	* 0
30	Institutions												
31	Other												
Chapters opened (1)		29	29	29	29	29	29	16	26	25	25	12	24
Chapters closed (2)		21	18	19	19	16	20	9	13	15	16	6	16

- 0 Chapter opened, under negotiation
- X: Chapter provisionally closed
- (X): Chapter for which the provisional closure proposed in the EUCP was not accepted by the CC at the 1/6/01 Deputies accession conferences.
- *: Chapter to be opened under the Swedish Presidency
- ~ Chapter not yet opened to negotiation nor foreseen for opening under the Swedish Presidency

31/05/2001