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REPORT

on the Commission's 2005 enlargement strategy paper
(2005/2206(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: Elmar Brok

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MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on the Commission's 2005 enlargement strategy paper (2005/2206(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission's 2005 enlargement strategy paper (COM(2005)0561),
 - having regard to the Commission's proposal for a Council decision on the Principles, Priorities and Conditions contained in the Accession Partnership with Croatia (COM(2005)0556),
 - having regard to the Commission's proposal for a Council decision on the Principles, Priorities and Conditions contained in the Accession Partnership with Turkey (COM(2005)0559),
 - having regard to the Commission's opinion on the application from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for membership of the European Union (COM(2005)0562) and its related proposal for a Council decision on the Principles, Priorities and Conditions contained in the European Partnership with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (COM(2005)0557),
 - having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council on the progress achieved by Bosnia and Herzegovina in implementing the priorities identified in the "Feasibility Study on the preparedness of Bosnia and Herzegovina to negotiate a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the European Union (COM(2003) 692 final)" (COM(2005)0529),
 - having regard to the Commission's Progress Reports on Albania (SEC(2005)1421), Kosovo (SEC(2005)1423), Bosnia and Herzegovina (SEC(2005)1422), Serbia and Montenegro (SEC(2005)1428), Turkey (SEC(2005)1426) and Croatia (SEC(2005)1424),
 - having regard to its resolution of 28 September 2005 on the opening of negotiations with Turkey¹,
 - having regard to Rule 45 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (A6-0025/2006).
1. Welcomes the fact that the Commission's Strategy Paper advocates an outward looking Union which continues to present itself as a reliable partner for its neighbouring countries, committed to promoting stable democracies and prosperous economies;
 2. Calls on the Member States and the Commission to work in close cooperation in drawing up a communication strategy so as to meet the legitimate concerns of the European public regarding European enlargement and integration;

¹ P6_TA(2005)0350.

3. Notes with satisfaction that the incentive offered by the European Union enlargement strategy has undeniably contributed to the commencement of reforms in Turkey, Croatia and all the Western Balkan countries;
4. Approves and supports the emphasis placed by the Commission on fair and rigorous conditionality, whereby the Commission will lay down clear and objective requirements for each phase of the accession process and will allow negotiations to proceed only if it is fully satisfied that all the relevant conditions have been met; reiterates, therefore, that the progress made by each candidate country will depend on that country's own merits;
5. Recalls that the capacity for absorption of the Union, as set out at the 1993 Copenhagen Summit, remains one of the conditions for the accession of new countries; believes that defining the nature of the European Union, including its geographical borders, is fundamental to understanding the concept of absorption capacity; requests the Commission to submit a report by 31st December 2006 setting out the principles which underpin this concept; invites the Commission to factor this element into the overall negotiation timetable; calls for its Foreign Affairs Committee, together with its Constitutional Affairs Committee, to be authorised to draw up an own-initiative report on this issue;
6. Is of the opinion that the stalemate in the ratification of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe is preventing the Union from enhancing its absorption capacity;
7. Reminds the Council that, before taking a final decision on any new Member State joining the Union, it must ensure that adequate budgetary resources are available to allow the proper financing of the Union's policies;
8. Reiterates its call for an increase of EUR 2.5 bn and a redeployment of EUR 1.2 bn under Heading 4 (The EU as a global partner) as compared to the relevant Commission proposal in particular for Pre-accession (IPA) and Neighbourhood and Partnership (ENPI) instruments;
9. Recalls that the long-term European perspective remains the objective to be pursued on the basis of the already stated criteria and conditions, including the absorption capacity of the Union, as well as on the basis of the commitments made by the Union, which must all form part of a possible negotiation timetable;
10. Calls therefore on the Commission and the Council, should this perspective require a broader spectrum of operational possibilities, to submit, for all European countries currently without a membership perspective, proposals for a close multilateral relationship with the EU; underlines that it is up to all countries with recognized membership perspective to join this multilateral framework as an intermediate step towards full membership;
11. Is of the opinion that such an option would also offer the European perspective which is necessary in order to promote the many internal reforms required in the countries in question;
12. Reaffirms that the EU integration process cannot be guided by purely technocratic criteria but requires a wholehearted commitment to the fundamental principles of liberty,

democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law; will consider compliance with these values a decisive factor in assessing preparedness to join the Union;

13. Calls on the Member States of the European Union to respect their commitments regarding the possible accession of the countries concerned; points out that the effective application of political conditionality depends also on belief in the European Union adhering firmly to its decisions regarding European prospects for these countries;
14. Reminds however candidate and potential candidate states that the rigorous implementation and enforcement of legislation adopted to comply with EC law is crucial; is convinced, in this context, that a truly independent, well-functioning public administration and judiciary system, endowed with the necessary logistical and financial resources, are essential pre-requisites; calls therefore on these countries, with the assistance of the Commission, to take concrete measures in this direction;
15. Considers that the candidate countries have to demonstrate their capability to protect the outside borders of the Union when they have joined the Schengen Agreement;
16. Reiterates the need to promote regional cooperation on crucial issues affecting the Western Balkans, such as ethnic and religious reconciliation, cross-border cooperation and free movement of people, fighting organised crime, facilitating refugee returns, establishing a free trade area capable of attracting foreign investment, sharing environmental resources and developing integrated trans-border networks; believes that the Commission should, in the different negotiating fora and via the different assistance programmes at its disposal, actively pursue this objective by providing real incentives; recalls the contribution made by the Stability Pact in this respect and supports its efforts to promote greater ownership, amongst Western Balkan countries, of the regional integration process;
17. Considers that regional development and investment programmes, joint education and employment initiatives, common transport and tourism projects should result in the establishment of joint mechanisms, such as a Western Balkan Customs Union, well before all the countries concerned join the EU;
18. Urges the Western Balkan countries to secure the rights of minorities and their right to return to their place of origin;
19. Welcomes the recently signed agreement between Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia-Montenegro on the return of refugees and property reparations as an important step to tackle the legacy of about three million refugees and internally displaced persons; urges the European Commission and the Member States not to further decrease their contributions to housing reconstruction and economic sustainability projects and, where possible, conditioning donations, loans and investments on employment opportunities for returnees;
20. Notes that despite economic growth, unemployment is still unacceptably high in the Western Balkans; calls, therefore, on the Commission to include job creation as one of its priorities in its overall policy concerning the region;

Turkey

21. Believes that a democratic and secular Turkey could play a constructive role in promoting understanding between civilisations;
22. Notes that, while Turkey's process of political transition is under way, the pace of change has slowed in 2005 and that implementation of the reforms remains uneven; expresses the hope that the opening of negotiations will act as leverage for further necessary reforms which should be pursued by Turkey in order to fully satisfy all political and economic criteria; expects the Commission to conduct a rigorous and thorough scrutiny of the developments on the ground regarding the effective implementation by Turkey of legal provisions regarding, in particular, human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and democracy;
23. Urges Turkey to remove all existing legislative and practical obstacles to full enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms by all Turkish citizens, notably freedom of expression, religious freedom, cultural rights, rights of minorities in general and in particular the rights of the ecumenical Patriarch as well as the rights of the Greek minority in Istanbul, Imbros and Tenedos;
24. Expects Turkey to ensure full independence of the judiciary and its proper functioning, to eradicate torture and ill-treatment immediately, to pursue vigorously efforts to promote women's rights and to prosecute violence against women; urges Turkey to provide shelters for women at risk of violence;
25. Welcomes the positive remarks of Prime Minister Erdogan on the need to resolve the Kurdish issue by democratic means; deplores the degradation of the current security situation in the south-east, in particular the increase in violence after the resumption of terrorist attacks; reminds all parties concerned that further provocation or an escalation of violence would not only seriously affect the people of this region, but would also form an obstacle in the negotiating process;
26. Welcomes the Court's decision not to prosecute Orhan Pamuk any longer, but denounces the further prosecution of others for non-violent expression of opinion; urges therefore the Turkish authorities to revise the legal provisions sometimes applied by the judiciary even on the basis of the recently adopted Penal Code, to prosecute and, in some cases, convict individuals despite the fact that they have expressed their opinions in a non-violent way;
27. Regrets the unilateral Declaration made by Turkey on the occasion of the signature of the Additional Protocol to the Ankara Agreement; reminds Turkey that recognition of all Member States is a necessary component of the accession process;
28. Calls on the Turkish authorities to fully implement the provisions stemming from the Customs Union Agreement and the priorities in the Accession Partnership and to remove without delay all restrictions on the free movement of goods affecting, inter alia, vessels flying the flag of the Republic of Cyprus or ships approaching Turkish ports from harbours in the Republic of Cyprus, or Cypriot aircraft; calls on the Turkish government to state clearly that the Declaration is not part of the ratification process in the Turkish Grand National Assembly, thereby enabling the European Parliament to ratify the Additional Protocol;

29. Calls on the Council to make renewed efforts to reach agreement on the financial aid package and on trade facilitation regulations concerning the northern part of Cyprus;
30. Reiterates its position that those priorities in the Accession Partnership which relate to the political criteria have to be accomplished in the first phase of the negotiations; notes with satisfaction that the Commission now supports this view as well by stating that those criteria have to be fulfilled within one or two years; calls on Turkey to present as soon as possible a plan including a timetable and specific measures to meet these deadlines; urges the Commission and the Council to make the progress of the negotiations conditional on the timely accomplishment of those priorities;
31. Expects that Turkey will not obstruct the application of the Berlin Plus Agreement with NATO;

Croatia

32. Welcomes the EU's decision to open accession negotiations with Croatia in October 2005, in the wake of the ICTY Chief Prosecutor's assessment that Croatia is now fully cooperating, and commends it on the good progress made so far; urges its authorities to continue to implement its reform programme, to maintain full cooperation with the ICTY and to strengthen overall its administrative and judicial capacity;
33. Welcomes the capture of General Gotovina by the Spanish authorities; hopes that this will put additional pressure on Serbia and the Republika Srpska fully to cooperate with the ICTY and that the trial of will contribute to an open discussion on the war events in the former Republic of Yugoslavia in which General Gotovina was involved;
34. Is pleased to note that Croatia meets the necessary political criteria but points out that it faces a number of major challenges in the field of judicial reform, particularly with regard to the large backlog of cases and with judgments showing an ethnic bias against Serb defendants in the prosecution of war crimes; in addition, stresses that efforts to reduce corruption need to be stepped up, and that, despite the Constitutional Law on National Minorities being in place, urgent action is needed to further improve the situation of the Roma;
35. Recognises that there has been progress in the area of regional co-operation both as regards relations with Croatia's neighbours and with regional initiatives, and welcomes the recent decision by the Croatian Government to send to the Parliament for ratification the draft Agreement on the State border between the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, but considers that what is still needed is a major push to resolve on-going bilateral issues, particularly border- and property related ones; asks Croatia and Slovenia to solve in an atmosphere of good neighbourhood and mutual respect their bilateral problems;
36. Stresses that more needs to be done to create the conditions which will promote the sustainable return of refugees in the framework of the Sarajevo Declaration on Refugee return; welcomes in this respect the joint initiative by the OCSE Mission in Croatia, the Croatian Government, the UNHCR and the EC Delegation to Croatia to launch a Public Awareness Campaign on Refugee Returns; believes that initiatives aiming at actively promoting reconciliation amongst the different ethnic groups are essential for the future

stability of the country and the region as a whole;

37. Welcomes the fact that Croatia can be regarded as a functioning market economy and that it will be able to cope with competition as long as it continues to implement its reforms; draws Croatia's attention to the remaining weaknesses such as excessive state intervention in the economy, and the complex rules and deficiencies in public administration which are hampering development in the private sector and in the field of foreign direct investment;
38. Welcomes the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the National Fund, which provides a legal basis for the introduction of a decentralised implementation system for EU pre-accession assistance;

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

39. Endorses the Commission's recommendation to grant the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the status of candidate country; considers this a deserved recognition of the efforts made by that country to fully implement the Ohrid agreement and to create a stable, democratic, multi-ethnic state and society, to reform its judiciary and police structures and to establish an efficient market economy;
40. Considers that particular attention must be paid to the development of further strategies for strengthening of Ohrid Agreement and therewith for the country's future stability;
41. Notes with satisfaction the progress made by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in complying with EU standards and EU law; is concerned by delays in areas such as free movement of goods, intellectual property law, competition policy and financial control; joins the Commission in urging the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia authorities to step up efforts to implement legislation in several key areas, including justice and home affairs, and to implement the recommendations made by the OSCE/ODHIR before the next parliamentary elections;
42. Is convinced that the pace of adoption of the *acquis communautaire* should go hand in hand with the development of the required implementation and enforcement capacities lest the credibility of EU legislation in the public eye be otherwise compromised; commends in this context the increasing cooperation between the Republic of Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with a view to sharing experience and expertise;
43. Calls on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to seek in a constructive and flexible manner, together with Greece, a prompt, mutually acceptable solution to the unresolved problem of the country's name; takes the view that the question of the name of the republic does not constitute an obstacle to its further integration into the European fold;

Other Western Balkan countries

44. Recalls and fully endorses the conclusions of the Thessaloniki European Summit in June 2003, when the Heads of State and Government reiterated their determination to fully and effectively support the European perspective of the Western Balkan countries, which will become an integral part of the EU, once they have met the established criteria;

45. Believes that the European integration strategy, with its prospect of EU membership, is the ultimate incentive to achieve the reforms which are necessary to create a lasting peace and stability in the Western Balkans, a European region which will soon be completely surrounded by EU Member States;
46. Considers that the future accession of the Western Balkans is to be seen as a next phase in the reunification of Europe after the Cold War;
47. Notes that the Pre-Accession Road Map for the Western Balkans needs both a detailed and concrete approach, as well as a more policy-driven, incentive-based approach that is tailored to the countries concerned, which share weak central-state institutions, and is capable of keeping up the momentum for reform over a foreseeably long period;
48. Encourages the Commission to continue its re-orientation of Community assistance in this region and to focus EU support on the development of an efficient state administration and judiciary, the establishment of modern, non-segregational education systems and, finally, the promotion of social and economic inclusion measures for returnees; believes that this assistance should also be used to pursue a more future-oriented visa policy towards these countries, targeted at fighting organised crime but not hindering trans-border exchanges between the business community, social partners, academic staff and students;
49. Notes the fact that Albania is close to finalising negotiations for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), which bears witness to the efforts undertaken by this country to meet European standards, but urges the political authorities to implement the adopted laws and expects them to achieve tangible results in the fight against corruption and in the promotion of free independent media before such date; urges the Government and the Parliament to change the electoral law before the next elections in order to guarantee fair representation in Parliament of the political forces supported by the Albanian citizen and to prevent existing practices of tactic voting;
50. Urges the Commission to help the Albania to put an end on the ongoing blood feud which amongst other things, hinders children going to school and others exercising their right to vote;
51. Welcomes the decision by the General Affairs and External Relations Council to open SAA negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina but urges BiH authorities, with the support of the Commission and the incoming High Representative, to review Dayton's constitutional arrangements by further consolidating State-level institutions whilst ensuring that the transfer of competences in the justice, defence and police sectors are matched by commensurate financial transfers; emphasises that such constitutional reforms must seek to combine democracy and effectiveness with representativeness and multi-ethnicity; reminds BiH authorities that full cooperation with the ICTY remains a fundamental requirement for SAA negotiations with the Union;
52. Welcomes in this respect recent statements by the High Representative that BiH is finally leaving Dayton behind and moving resolutely towards Europe; believes that, in this crucial phase, Community assistance programmes and CFSP missions should be closely co-ordinated; therefore urges the Council to take the appropriate steps to ensure that the European Union speaks with one voice;

53. Considers that in the framework of the negotiations for the conclusion of a SAA, priority must be given to further reducing the need for international intervention in the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina; calls on the Council and Commission carefully to pave the way for winding down the Office of the High Representative;
 54. Respects the wish of the Montenegrin authorities to submit to a popular vote, in compliance with the constitutional provisions of Serbia and Montenegro and with European standards, the question of Montenegro's status within the State Union; whatever the final outcome, urges the authorities of the two republics to cooperate closely and constructively in the context of the negotiations for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement and to adopt the measures required to achieve full economic integration of their respective markets;
 55. Is pleased to record the significant progress made by Belgrade's authorities with the ICTY; reminds them however that it is vital to ensure that the government's policy towards the ICTY enjoys the full support, at all levels, of the administration, police, judiciary and the army;
 56. Welcomes the recommendation by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy that status negotiations on Kosovo should start immediately; is concerned, however, by the fact that the Special Envoy's report describes the situation of interethnic relations, particularly with regard to the Serb and Roma minorities, as "grim" and calls on the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government to take immediate action to reverse this;
 57. Joins the Commission in emphasising the progress made by Kosovo but also the many shortcomings in implementing UN Standards;
 58. Reminds that the conclusion of the status negotiations presupposes full compliance with the UN Standards and agrees with the Council that the solution to the status question can only be a multi-ethnic Kosovo where all citizens are free to live, work and travel, a Kosovo whose territorial integrity is safeguarded by the UN and the European Union; takes the view that the question should be considered in the light of Kosovo's integration into the EU and should contribute to strengthening peace, security and stability in the region;
 59. Furthermore believes that the decision on the final status should be accompanied by a roadmap for its implementation, detailing the conditions necessary to avoid destabilisation in the region;
 60. Urges the European Union and the Commission to play a leading role, in close cooperation with the United Nations and all members of the Contact Group, in the negotiations on the future status of Kosovo; believes that these negotiations are a challenge for the whole region and that it is for all the countries concerned to support the process and to endorse its final outcome;
- ◦
61. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the parliaments and governments of the Member States, the parliaments and governments of

Turkey, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Kosovo and the United Nations Mission to Kosovo (UNMIK).

PROCEDURE

Title	The Commission's 2005 enlargement strategy paper			
Procedure number	2005/2206(INI)			
Basis in Rules of Procedure	Rule 45			
Committee responsible Date authorisation announced in plenary	AFET 17.11.2005			
Committee(s) asked for opinion(s) Date announced in plenary	DEVE 17.11.2005	INTA 17.11.2005	BUDG 17.11.2005	CONT 17.11.2005
	ECON 17.11.2005	EMPL 17.11.2005	ENVI 17.11.2005	ITRE 17.11.2005
	IMCO 17.11.2005	TRAN 17.11.2005	REGI 17.11.2005	AGRI 17.11.2005
	PECH 17.11.2005	CULT 17.11.2005	JURI 17.11.2005	LIBE 17.11.2005
	AFCO 17.11.2005	FEMM 17.11.2005	PETI 17.11.2005	
Not delivering opinion(s) Date of decision	DEVE 14.11.2005	INTA 23.11.2005	BUDG 15.11.2005	CONT 14.11.2005
	ECON 30.11.2005	EMPL 15.11.2005	ENVI 27.10.2005	ITRE 23.11.2005
	IMCO 21.11.2005	TRAN 22.11.2005	REGI 21.11.2005	AGRI 14.11.2005
	PECH 21.11.2005	CULT 23.11.2005	JURI 24.10.2005	LIBE 14.11.2005
	AFCO 16.11.2005	FEMM 24.11.2005	PETI 23.11.2005	
Enhanced cooperation Date announced in plenary	–			
Motion(s) for resolution(s) included in report	–			
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Elmar Brok 19.10.2005			
Discussed in committee	28.11.2005	12.12.2005	25.1.2006	
Date adopted	26.1.2006			
Result of final vote	for:	36		
	against:	3		
	abstentions:	11		
Members present for the final vote	Elmar Brok, Simon Coveney, Giorgos Dimitrakopoulos, Camiel Eurlings, Jas Gawronski, Maciej Marian Giertych, Ana Maria Gomes, Alfred Gomolka, Klaus Hänsch, Anna Ibrisagic, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, Georgios Karatzaferis, Ioannis Kasoulides, Bogdan Klich, Vytautas Landsbergis, Cecilia Malmström, Emilio Menéndez del Valle, Francisco José Millán Mon, Philippe Morillon, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Raimon Obiols i Germà, Cem Özdemir, Mirosław Mariusz Piotrowski, Paweł Bartłomiej Piskorski, Bernd Posselt, Michel Rocard, Raúl Romeva i Rueda, Libor Rouček, José Ignacio			

	Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Jacek Emil Saryusz-Wolski, György Schöpflin, Hannes Swoboda, István Szent-Iványi, Konrad Szymański, Charles Tannock, Inese Vaidere, Jan Marinus Wiersma, Karl von Wogau, Luis Yañez-Barnuevo García, Josef Zieleniec
Substitutes present for the final vote	Árpád Duka-Zólyomi, Marie Anne Isler Béguin, Erik Meijer, Janusz Onyszkiewicz, Rihards Pīks, Frédérique Ries, Aloyzas Sakalas, Inger Segelström
Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Lena Ek, Jules Maaten
Date tabled – A6	3.2.2006 A6-0025/2006