

## Conclusions from the Copenhagen European Council: excerpt on the EU accession criteria (21-22 June 1993)

**Caption:** The Copenhagen European Council of 21 and 22 June 1993 defines the economic and political conditions for accession to the European Union.

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[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/conclusions\\_from\\_the\\_copenhagen\\_european\\_council\\_excerpt\\_on\\_the\\_eu\\_accession\\_criteria\\_21\\_22\\_june\\_1993-en-24104be4-664b-41b8-8e16-756c57868498.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/conclusions_from_the_copenhagen_european_council_excerpt_on_the_eu_accession_criteria_21_22_june_1993-en-24104be4-664b-41b8-8e16-756c57868498.html)

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## European Council in Copenhagen (21-22 June 1993) Conclusions of the Presidency

[...]

### 4. Enlargement

The European Council took note of progress in the enlargement negotiations with Austria, Finland, Sweden and Norway. It noted that the initial difficulties encountered in launching the negotiations had now been overcome and that the pace of the negotiations was speeding up. It recalled that the negotiations will, to the extent possible, be conducted in parallel, while dealing with each candidate on its own merit.

The European Council invited the Commission, the Council, and the candidate countries to ensure that the negotiations proceed constructively and expeditiously. The European Council is determined that the objective of the first enlargement of the European Union in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Lisbon and Edinburgh European Councils should become a reality by 1 January 1995.

### 5. Relations with Malta and Cyprus

The European Council considered that its guidelines with regard to enlargement with the EFTA countries shall be without prejudice to the situation of other countries which have applied to join the Union. The Union will consider each of these membership applications on its own merits.

The European Council welcomed the Commission's intention to present shortly its opinions on Malta and on Cyprus. These opinions will be examined rapidly by the Council taking into consideration the particular situation of each of the two countries.

### 6. Relations with Turkey

With regard to Turkey, the European Council asked the Council to ensure that there is now an effective implementation of the guidelines laid down by the European Council in Lisbon on intensified cooperation and development of relations with Turkey in line with the prospect laid down in the association agreement of 1964 and the protocol of 1970 as far as it relates to the establishment of a customs union.

### 7. Relations with the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe

#### A. The Associated Countries

i) The European Council held a thorough discussion on the relations between the Community and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe with which the Community has concluded or plans to conclude Europe agreements ("associated countries"), on the basis of the Commission's communication prepared at the invitation of the Edinburgh European Council.

ii) The European Council welcomed the courageous efforts undertaken by the associated countries to modernize their economies, which have been weakened by 40 years of central planning, and to ensure a rapid transition to a market economy. The Community and its Member States pledge their support to this reform process. Peace and security in Europe depend on the success of those efforts.

iii) The European Council today agreed that the associated countries in Central and Eastern Europe that so desire shall become members of the European Union. Accession will take place as soon as an associated country is able to assume the obligations of membership by satisfying the economic and political conditions required.

Membership requires that the candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities, the existence of a

functioning market economy as well as the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union. Membership presupposes the candidate's ability to take on the obligations of membership including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union.

The Union's capacity to absorb new members, while maintaining the momentum of European integration, is also an important consideration in the general interest of both the Union and the candidate countries.

The European Council will continue to follow closely progress in each associated country towards fulfilling the conditions of accession to the Union and draw the appropriate conclusions.

iv) The European Council agreed that the future cooperation with the associated countries shall be geared to the objective of membership which has now been established. In this context the European Council approved the following:

- The Community proposes that the associated countries enter into a structured relationship with the Institutions of the Union within the framework of a reinforced and extended multilateral dialogue and concertation on matters of common interest. The arrangements, which are set out in Annex II to these conclusions, include dialogue and concertation on a broad range of topics and in several fora. Where appropriate - in addition to regular meetings between the President of the European Council and the President of the Commission with their counterparts from the associated countries - joint meetings of all the Heads of State and Government can be held to discuss specific predetermined issues.
- The European Council, recognizing the crucial importance of trade in the transition to a market economy, agreed to accelerate the Community's efforts to open up its markets. It expected this step forward to go hand in hand with further development of trade between those countries themselves and between them and their traditional trading partners. It approved the trade concessions established by the Council (General Affairs) at its meeting on 8 June. It invited the Council to adopt on a proposal from the Commission the necessary legal texts before the summer holidays.
- The Community will continue to devote a considerable part of the budgetary resources foreseen for external action to the Central and Eastern European Countries, in particular through the PHARE programme. The Community will also make full use of the possibility foreseen under the temporary lending facility of the EIB to finance transeuropean network projects involving the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Where appropriate, part of the resources under the PHARE programme may be used for major infrastructural improvements, in accordance with the arrangements agreed by the General Affairs Council on 8 June.
- The European Council, welcoming the possibility offered to the associated countries to participate in Community programmes under the Europe Agreements, invited the Commission to make proposals before the end of the year for opening up further programmes to the associated countries, taking as a point of departure those programmes which are already open for participation by the EFTA-countries.
- The European Council underlined the importance of approximation of laws in the associated countries to those applicable in the Community, in the first instance with regard to distortion of competition and, in addition, - in the perspective of accession - to protection of workers, the environment and consumers. It agreed that officials from the associated countries should be offered training in Community law and practice and decided that a task force composed of representatives of the Member States and the Commission shall be established to coordinate and direct this work.
- The precise modalities regarding the above matters are set out in Annex II.

## **B. Other Central and Eastern European Countries**

The European Council discussed the economic situation in Albania. It welcomed the conclusions of the Council (ECO/FIN) on 7 June and the recognition by the Community of the need to ensure adequate

support, through grants, loans or both to Albania. The European Council also underlined the importance of making full use of the provisions relating to political dialogue foreseen under the present agreement with Albania.

In order to strengthen the trade and commercial links between the three Baltic States and the Community, the European Council invited the Commission to submit proposals for developing the existing trade agreements with the Baltic States into free-trade agreements. It remains the objective of the Community to conclude Europe Agreements with the Baltic states as soon as the necessary conditions have been met.

[...]