

Transparency of the Accession Process

Whereas;

- negotiations have begun with 12 countries of Central and Eastern Europe on their accession to the European Union;
- the eventual outcome of these talks will be that the entire EU acquis communautaire is adopted by the accession countries;
- the contents of these talks are mainly about transitional periods and temporary arrangements for countries not (yet) able to comply with specific parts of the EU acquis communautaire;
- several candidate countries, like Estonia and Slovenia, make their complete position papers available to public and parliamentary scrutiny, inter alia by publication on the Internet;
- public support for the accession process has fallen substantially in both the current Member States and the candidate countries;

Points out that;

- the accession talks are not political negotiations about the actual contents of a treaty, since the entire acquis will eventually have to be adopted, but are instead technical by nature, since they concern the time needed by each accession country to remove the legal, logistic and technical obstacles to full adoption of the acquis as soon as possible;
- NGOs, businesses, the public and their representatives should be able to scrutinise the entire accession process and not just the end result, in order to ensure that long transitional periods are not the result of political or opportunistic considerations, or wheeling and dealing serving the narrow interests of specific member states;
- the current secrecy surrounding the accession talks is counter-productive when it comes to increasing public support for the accession process;

Calls on ELDR MPs, MEPs, Ministers and Commissioners:

- to do everything in their power to ensure that the maximum possible information on the positions of all parties involved in the accession talks, and on the progress made in these talks, is made available to the public at regular intervals.

Resolution:

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Page:

1