

ROAD MAP FOR CONCLUDING THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS OF ROMANIA TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

The proposal of Romania

Romania considers that the internal efforts and the evolutions accomplished lately in its EU accession preparations represent a solid base for the adoption, in December 2002, by the Copenhagen European Council, of a revised pre-accession strategy and an updated negotiation road map, as decided by the European Council in Laeken and Seville, thus securing Romania's objective to join the European Union on January 1, 2007, the target date used in negotiations.

Romania hopes that the revised strategy, including an increase in the financial support from the European Union, will sustain the accelerated advancement of the internal preparations for accession.

In Romania's opinion the progresses registered in the economic field, in the adoption and implementation of the *acquis* and in the accession negotiations set the grounds for an updated road map conducive to the conclusion of the negotiations in the first semester of 2004.

This timeframe would guarantee the unitary and all-inclusive character of the current European Union enlargement process and would allow enough time for drafting, signing and ratifying the Accession Treaty of Romania before January 1, 2007.

The principle of equal treatment in the negotiation process and the provisional closure of the chapters based on the same standards and minimal conditions which were applied to the other candidate states, sustain also the viability of the road map proposed by Romania. This is further supported by the fact that the European Union will have established all its Common Positions by the end of 2002.

In Romania's opinion, the updated road map should provide a clear calendar for the provisional closure of each chapter remaining under negotiations after the end of 2002. This would assure an adequate concentration and synchronisation of the preparations for both negotiating partners.

The proposed scheduling on semesters (EU Council presidencies) of the negotiation chapters takes into account the present stage of the adoption and implementation of the *acquis* in each area, the programs and sectoral working calendars committed in the position papers, and the difficulty level of the chapters. The negotiation sequence of the financial issues of the accession was also considered, as well as the current stage of the technical procedures of the negotiations on the chapters not closed yet.

Romania considers that all the conditions are met for the provisional closure of at least the following chapters by the end of 2002:

Chapter 4 - Free Movement of Capital
Chapter 19 - Telecommunications and IT
Chapter 20 - Culture and Audiovisual Policy
Chapter 25 - Customs Union

Based on the above stated considerations, Romania proposes the following road map, which covers three presidencies of the Council of the European Union:

SEMESTER I, 2003 (Greek Presidency)

Chapter 1 - Free Movement of Goods
Chapter 2 - Free Movement of Persons
Chapter 3 - Free Movement of Services
Chapter 9 - Transport Policy
Chapter 14 - Energy

SEMESTER II, 2003 (Italian Presidency)

Chapter 10 - Taxation
Chapter 21 - Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments
Chapter 24 - Justice and Home Affairs
Chapter 28 - Financial Control

SEMESTER I, 2004 (Irish Presidency)

Chapter 6 - Competition Policy
Chapter 7 - Agriculture
Chapter 22 - Environment
Chapter 29 - Financial and Budgetary Provisions
Chapter 31- Others

After the conclusion of the negotiations, in the second semester of 2004 (Dutch Presidency) the Accession Treaty of Romania could be drafted and signed, and subsequently ratified in 2005-2006.

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