

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE

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20TH MEETING

20 May 2003, Ålesund

RESOLUTIONS

Adopted pursuant to Rules 11 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure,
at the 20th meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee

in Ålesund, 20 May 2003

Resolution on the *The Future of an enlarged Europe*:
co-rapporteurs Mrs Diana WALLIS (ELDR, United Kingdom) and Mr Vidar
BJØRNSTAD (Labour Party, Norway) adopted unanimously, with two abstentions.

RESOLUTION

On The Future of an enlarged Europe

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area:

- A. In accordance with its task laid out by the EEA Agreement (Article 95, paragraph 4)
 - B. Having regard to the EEA Agreement and in particular Article 128
 - C. Having regard to the Laeken Declaration from 15 December 2001
 - D. Having regard to the conclusions of the Copenhagen European Council from 12-13 December 2002
 - E. Having regard to the Assent to be obtained from the European Parliament to the enlargement of the EEA to bring in the Acceding Countries.
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- 1. Welcomes the decision of the European Council of Copenhagen to close the accession negotiations with ten candidate countries, which will allow these countries to become Members of the EU on 1 May 2004, provided that ratification procedures are completed;
 - 2. Welcomes the European Parliament's vote from 9 April 2003, which approved the accession to the EU of the ten candidate countries;
 - 3. Expresses its support for the enlargement process and notes that the enlarged Single Market will bring benefits to all participants, EU Member States, as well as EEA EFTA States;
 - 4. Recognises the importance of the debate of placing services, investment and intellectual property under the Commission's exclusive competence in order to assure a coherent trade policy;
 - 5. Stresses the need to extend the enlarged Single Market to the EEA EFTA States by 1 May 2004, regrets the manner in which the EU side opened the enlargement negotiations with the existing EEA member states, but calls on the parties to conclude the negotiations within the imminent future;
 - 6. Emphasises that the accession of candidate countries to the EEA must take effect at the same time as accession to the EU, subject to the Assent of the European Parliament;

7. Considers that all acceding countries should join the Schengen area as soon as possible; also considers, however, that this should result in the building of bridges with neighbors, not fencing them off;
 8. Underlines the need for establishing proper European Commission delegations in Iceland and Switzerland, in order to ensure effective representation and to bring the EU and the EFTA States closer together;
 9. Urges the EEA EFTA States to use more actively their rights to access the Commission's early deliberations on legislative proposals, in order to insure that EFTA views are known and taken into account into the Commission's consultation processes;
 10. Underlines the need to ensure that all Schengen countries, including Norway and Iceland, are granted full participation in the relevant Council meetings;
 11. Notes that there is indeed an urgent need to reform the EU institutions, in order to keep pace with the EU's ever widening and deepening competencies;
 12. Notes that the conclusion of the Convention's work should be made in time to present a detailed Treaty to the Thessaloniki summit in June 2003;
 13. Welcomes the initiative of strengthening the control of subsidiarity by designing an early warning system involving national parliaments and calls for the implementation of a similar system for the EEA EFTA countries;
 14. Notes the holding of referendums on the Constitutional Treaty in most of the Member States;
 15. Notes the move in the Convention towards the extension of qualified majority voting and away from unanimity, these moves being vital for facilitating and speeding-up decision making in the Union;
 16. Calls on the EEA EFTA States and the EU Member States to assess the outcome of the Convention on the functioning of the EEA Agreement, and to report back to the EEA JPC at its 21st meeting in autumn 2003;
 17. Welcomes the goal stated by the Commission in its Communication on Wider Europe, Neighbourhood "Framework for Relations with our Eastern and Southern Neighbours", and underlines the importance of maintaining the achievements and the 'acquis' of the Internal Market within the EEA, and insists that this should not be compromised by future developments.
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