

2249. Council - GENERAL AFFAIRS

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Enlargement - accession partnership with Cyprus and Malta

The Council adopted two Decisions on the principles, priorities, intermediate objectives and conditions contained in the accession partnerships with Cyprus and Malta (as they are submitted to each applicant country).

The Decisions recall in particular that Community assistance is conditional on the fulfilment of essential elements, and in particular on progress towards fulfilment of the Copenhagen criteria. Where an essential element is lacking, the Council, acting by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission, may take appropriate steps with regard to any pre-accession assistance.

The Decisions also state that in order to prepare for membership, Cyprus and Malta should prepare national programmes for the adoption of the "acquis" taking into account the objective analysis on both countries preparations for membership and the priority areas clarified for further work in the 1999 Commission Regular report.