

2- An extract of the presidency conclusions: Corfu European Council, 24 and 25 June 1994

PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS

B. APPLICANT COUNTRIES

The European Council welcomes the significant progress made regarding the application by Cyprus and Malta for accession to the European Union and considers that an essential stage in the preparation process could be regarded as completed.

The European Council asks the Council and the Commission to do their utmost to ensure that the negotiations with Malta and Cyprus with a view to the conclusion of the fourth financial protocols, intended in particular to support the efforts of Malta and Cyprus towards integration into the European Union, are brought to a rapid conclusion.

The European Council notes that in these conditions the next phase of enlargement of the Union will involve Cyprus and Malta.

The European Council, recalling relevant decisions of the Council of 4 October 1993, 18 April 1994 and 13 June 1994, reaffirms that any solution of the Cyprus problem must respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the country, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and high-level agreements.

The European Council welcomes the fact that the Europe Agreements with Hungary and Poland are now in force and that the first Association Council meetings at ministerial level with those countries have already taken place.

The European Council notes with satisfaction the submission by Hungary and Poland on 31 March and 4 April 1994 respectively of their applications to become Members of the European Union. In this respect, it recalls the decisions of the Council to refer the two applications to the Commission in order to prepare its respective opinions.

Concerning Turkey, the European Council notes the convening of the EC-Turkey Association Council to deal in particular with the achievement of the Customs Union foreseen in the Association Agreement of 1964.

D. CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

At the Copenhagen meeting in June 1993, the European Council decided that the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe which wished to do so could become members of the European Union as soon as they were able to fulfil the relevant obligations.

The Europe Agreements and the decisions taken in Copenhagen constitute the framework for deepening relations and creating the context which will enable these conditions to be met. The further implementation of those Agreements and decisions is one of the essential conditions for accession: their full potential must now be exploited with a view to preparing for accession. The European Council recalls the importance of the decisions taken by the Council on 7 March 1994 on political dialogue, which should be fully and effectively implemented as a matter of priority.

The European Council invites the Commission to make specific proposals as soon as possible for the further implementation of the Europe Agreements and the decisions taken by the European Council in Copenhagen. The European Council also asks the Presidency and the Commission to report to it for its next meeting on progress made on this basis, on the process of alignment since the Copenhagen European Council, and on the strategy to be followed with a view to preparing for accession.

This will be helped by the development of good-neighbourly relations, which will be the subject of the Stability Pact.

The institutional conditions for ensuring the proper functioning of the Union must be created at the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference, which for that reason must take place before accession negotiations begin.

The Union and its Member States will continue their contacts with Slovenia with a view to establishing the best conditions for increased cooperation with that country. Meanwhile the Council will continue its examination of a draft mandate for a Europe Agreement.

The European Council welcomes the fact that the negotiations with the Baltic States for the establishment of free trade areas are moving towards finalization and reiterates that the conclusion of Europe Agreements with those countries, which will help them to prepare for subsequent accession, remains the aim of the Union.

The European Council expects Russia, in conformity with earlier commitments, to complete its troop withdrawals from Latvia and Estonia by 31 August 1994.

The European Council attaches importance to the efforts made by the Baltic States to develop legal and regulatory frameworks which conform with inter alia the recommendations of the CSCE High Commissioner and of the Council of Europe. It notes with concern the adoption by the Latvian Parliament of a citizenship law incompatible with these recommendations and hopes that the draft law will be reconsidered.

