

**7- An extract of the presidency conclusions: Florence European Council,
21 and 22 June 1996**

PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS

VII. ENLARGEMENT

The European Council takes note of the Council's report on relations with the associated Central and Eastern European countries during the first half of 1996 and stresses the importance of the strategy for preparing for accession, which now incorporates Slovenia.

Recalling its Madrid conclusions, it reiterates the need for the Commission's opinions and reports on enlargement as called for at Madrid to be available as soon as possible after the completion of the Intergovernmental Conference so that the initial phase of negotiations with countries of Central and Eastern Europe can coincide with the beginning of negotiations with Cyprus and Malta six months after the end of the IGC, taking its results into account.