

**PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS  
GÖTEBORG EUROPEAN COUNCIL  
15 AND 16 JUNE 2001**

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***Enlargement***

5. Significant breakthroughs have been achieved in the accession negotiations under the Swedish Presidency. Determined efforts by all parties have made it possible to meet and surpass the objectives set out at Nice for the first half of 2001.

6. The Council conclusions of 11 June detail the substantial results achieved in a number of key areas. Candidate countries have made impressive progress in meeting the accession criteria. More than two thirds of the negotiating chapters have been provisionally closed with some candidate countries. All negotiating chapters will be opened before the end of June with some of the candidate countries that started negotiations only last year. The road map has proved to be an ambitious and realistic framework for the negotiations. During the incoming Belgian and Spanish Presidencies the European Union will pursue the road map with undiminished vigour.

7. This new momentum must be matched by continued progress in the candidate countries in transposing, implementing and enforcing the *acquis*. They will have to pay particular attention to putting in place adequate administrative structures, to reforming judicial systems and the civil service, as well as to the situation of minorities. Special efforts will be devoted to assisting Bulgaria and Romania.

8. Candidate countries will continue to be judged solely on their own merits. The principle of differentiation applies. This allows the best prepared countries to progress more quickly in the negotiations, and other candidates to catch up. Agreements – even partial – reached during the course of the negotiations may not be considered final until an overall agreement has been established.

9. The enlargement process is irreversible. Based on the progress achieved so far, the European Council reaffirms the road map as the framework for the successful completion of the enlargement negotiations. Provided that progress towards meeting the accession criteria continues at an unabated pace, the road map should make it possible to complete negotiations by the end of 2002 for those candidate countries that are ready. The objective is that they should participate in the European Parliament elections of 2004 as members.

10. The decisions in Helsinki have brought Turkey closer to the EU and opened up new prospects for her European aspirations. Good progress has been made in implementing the pre-accession strategy for Turkey, including an enhanced political dialogue. The presentation by Turkey of its National Programme for adopting the *acquis* is a welcome development. However, in a number of areas such as human rights, further progress is needed. Turkey is urged to take concrete measures to implement the priorities of the Accession Partnership which is the cornerstone of the pre-accession strategy. The Council is invited to adopt the single financial framework for pre-accession assistance to Turkey by the end of the year at the latest. The economic programme agreed with the IMF must be vigorously implemented to create the conditions for economic recovery.

11. Taking account of their particular situations, candidate countries are invited to translate the Union's economic, social and environmental objectives into their national policies. The intention of candidate countries to adopt the eEurope+ initiative is a successful example. Starting from Spring 2003, the Commission will begin covering the candidate countries and their national policies in its annual synthesis report.

12. The European Council notes that the Commission, in line with the Nice conclusions, will shortly present a communication on the question of the frontier regions in order to strengthen their economic competitiveness.

***The European Conference***

13. The European Conference will convene in its current composition under the Belgian Presidency. With a view to strengthening the Union's partnership with Ukraine and Moldova, they will subsequently be invited to join the Conference.

