
DENMARK - Mise à jour 2

On the 8th of December the Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen answered questions to Folketinget, the Danish Parliament, on the preparations to the Helsinki summit in a Danish perspective.¹

Mr. Rasmussen speech to Folketinget was the introductions of the Danish government's new style in the EU-policymaking. It will work in a positive way for the EU policy, **be progressive to the IGC and the enlargement**, instead of being awaiting the policies from the other member states.

The enlargement is also about giving the free market economy a human face. A try to control the environment, to lower the unemployment rates, not let us being controlled by the Transnational Companies, and instead have a human market economy, so that we will have a fair internal market in Europe, and not only in EU.

For Denmark is the enlargement of highest priority, also at the IGC, which means that **the IGC shall be narrow and concentrated on the institutional matters**, so that EU will be ready for the enlargement in 2002. The applicant countries might not be ready for the enlargement by that time, but what is important is that EU is preparing it self for taking an other choice than it did in the 20th century. The 21st century shall instead be for a common European human market economy, free of state-planned - or the unregulated economy. The enlargement also includes that we will need to have a new redistribution of our European resources, we all need to take on our social responsibility, which we will need to show at the IGC.

On the 18th of December 1999, the Danish Foreign Minister wrote a chronicle to "Fyens Stiftstidende" on "Good start for the EU enlargement in the year 2000."²

On the Council of Ministers meeting in Helsinki, the agreement on **inviting all the applicant countries** to negotiations with EU on an equal basis, gave the applicant countries a firm target to follow. A Target that put pressures and gives discipline to the applicant countries, to fulfil the acqui communautaire, to perform a modern state based on rule of law. It has always been the goal for Denmark to include the applicant countries, so that we will not do the same mistakes as for 100 years ago, where peace and stability had to give in to nationalistic competition.

The discipline, as an example, so far given the applicant countries a better immigration-/minority legislation and a hard and challenging way to market economy including high social costs. All these impressive steps need an acknowledgement, so that there will be a goal for the tough efforts.

Today's Europe is an Europe with common problems, where it no longer is possible to solve the problems isolated and national, the applicant countries are aware of that, and they also wants to be a part of that responsibility, Mr. Helveg Petersen ends.

Just after the Helsinki Summit the Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen wrote an article to the magazines of the applicant countries.³

Mr. Helveg Petersen is emphasising the policy of Denmark always have been to invite all the applicant countries to be a part of the negotiations, in order to prevent second class membership for

¹ Source: [http://www.ft.dk/samling/19991/salen/f28_behl__30_2_\(nb\).htm](http://www.ft.dk/samling/19991/salen/f28_behl__30_2_(nb).htm)

² Source: http://www.um.dk/cgi-bin/um/nyt/taler_og_indlaeg/udenrigsminister/presse/bos3.display.pl?mode=indlaeg&id=65

³ Source: http://www.um.dk/cgi-bin/um/nyt/taler_og_indlaeg/udenrigsminister/presse/bos3.display.pl?mode=indlaeg&id=66

anyone, so Europe not will ruin their possibility for a strong and equal Europe. The applicant countries are doing a hard work, which can be hard to see the end of, and for this reason the end objective may never be lost. If trust in the perspective of membership is lost the EU as a provider of security, stability and prosperity will become illusive - and the populations will turn back on Europe, just as they did 100 years ago.

On the 24th of January 2000, the Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen wrote on work done in EU in the Danish Magazine "Erhverbsbladet"¹

Mr. Petersen expressed satisfaction about the Portuguese priorities on the **IGC 2000 to be a narrow agenda** only on institutional matters, so that the enlargement process not will be slowed down, which a wide agenda easily could do.

In the beginning of February the Danish Government presented their positins paper on the Intergovernmental Conference 2000.¹

The main aim for the Danish Government at the IGC 2000 will be to make institutional changes, so that the EU will be tuned to the enlargement process. The weighting of the votes still has to be so by majority. Half of the European population is still behind. Changes to the Treaty still have to be done by unanimity, which also should concern the basic institutional changes and the system of the EU income. The Commission will still need to have one commissioner from each country.

In order to have a successful enlargement, stability and welfare must be in progress, or otherwise there will be a risk of instability in the EU. The IGC must be ended in December 2000, in order for the EU to be ready to accept the first new member states in 2002.

On the 21st of February 2000, the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Niels Helveg Petersen, published an article in the Danish magazine "Erhverbsbladet" on the EU-enlargement and its benefits for Danish industry.²

Mr. Helveg Petersen is elaborating on the **possibilities for Danish industry** in the new EU member states. The mere fact of the presence of the EU has secured these countries' reform processes in the direction of European Values, distance from nationalistic forces, respect for human rights, minority protection, abolishment of death penalty, old enmities being solved by negotiation. These countries are transforming themselves very fast, not only politically but indeed also economically.

In these years, **Danish industry has to take the chance of getting into the markets**, like we already have done in the Baltic countries, in spite of the economic crisis of Russia. Especially in areas of industry, environment and energy we are selling a lot of know-how and equipment.

The **extended enlargement** is also of high importance to us in a wider perspective. It will be easier to enter the markets, when they have a closer link to the EU. The GDP in these countries might not be very high now, but there is a growth and a big potential market, which in a couple of years will develop rapidly, for the good of the citizens and for the good of the firms having invested money in these countries.

¹ Source: <http://stm.dk/publik/regeringskonf%202000/default.htm>

¹Source: http://www.um.dk/cgi-bin/um/nyt/taler_og_indlaeg/udenrigsminister/presse/bos3.display.pl?mode=indlaeg&id=51

² Source:http://www.um.dk/cgi-bin/um/nyt/taler_og_indlaeg/udenrigsminister/presse/bos3.display.pl?mode=indlaeg&id=71

Germany

On the 7th of May 1999, the German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder was asked about the perspectives of joining the European Union for the countries of the Balkan region during a press conference in occasion of the triple summit of Weimar's Triangle in Nancy, France.

Mr. Schröder points out that all countries of the Balkans need a European prospect. In order to achieve permanent peace in this region, an economical and political development following the European way is necessary. But until now a concrete schedule or program for these countries has not been developed. The German Chancellor gives the example of Albania and Macedonian which with the European Union have agreements of co-operation. Germany supports the Commission in its negotiations of association with these two countries. This perspective provides concrete measures for them to come closer to Europe. Finally Mr. Schröder highlights that the prospects for the Balkan countries to join the European Union are real and without ambiguity, but on a medium-term basis.

On May 26th 1999 the German Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, Mr. Günther Verheugen delivered the speech “ Development projects and perspectives of German foreign policy” on the occasion of the colloquium “ 50 years of Federal Republic of Germany” in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Mr. Verheugen commences his speech by proclaiming that an Europe of integration brings security, freedom and wealth. That is why the completion of the European integration process is a principal German interest.

He continues by pointing out that the southern- European enlargement was a political and economical success, an investment in democratic stability. This success must be repeated in central and eastern Europe. It would be absurd if the Europeans were to delay the enlargement process on economical grounds or in order to maintain living standards. This would be against their interest. Germany is for these reasons in favour of a fast enlargement process.

In any case, the German Minister of State underlines that the new enlargement of the EU will be very difficult because there are different levels of development and the transformation process is not yet complete in every applicant country. At the same time it is also a big challenge because the previous enlargements were very different both in their extension and quality. From his point of view, the enlargement is necessary because the people in central and eastern Europe were promised the chance to join European stability and wealth. Germany in particular has immense responsibility in this context. The enlargement of the EU is a historical chance and its realisation requires a lot of preparation: The applicant countries have to take over and to use the “acquis communautaire” in order to qualify for membership and the EU has to carry out financial and institutional reforms to enable enlargement. On this occasion Mr. Verheugen points out that it is a principal requirement for the EU to use the same objective criteria for every candidate which hopes to join the EU. Membership must be a real possibility for each applicant country and must not be constantly delayed. This predictability is

important for the enforcement of reforms and for the stability of the political and economical position in the applicant countries.

Finally Mr. Verheugen gives some remarks concerning the effects of the Kosovo crisis for the integration process: because of the war in Kosovo, Europe has moved closer together and this has consequences for the dynamism of the enlargement process. Furthermore, in his opinion the strongest impulse for a permanent stabilisation of south-eastern Europe is the prospect of joining the EU. In the EU enlargement process the security policy dimension is in the foreground.

On May 27th 1999, the German Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Joschka Fischer held a speech during the conference preparing the south-eastern Europe Stability Pact in Petersberg, Germany.

Mr. Fischer asserts that the south-eastern Europe Stability pact is a measure that brings lasting peace into this region. This pact is based on the idea of integration, his final aim is a permanent integration of all countries of south eastern Europe in a modern Europe.

There is extensive proof that the European idea of integration brings peace. That is why the prospect of joining the EU for all succession countries of Yugoslavia and Albania is necessary in order to establish lasting peace in south-eastern Europe. Of course the realisation of this aim will be a long-term process. But Mr. Fischer stresses that each country has at the same time its own responsibility for joining the EU: The Treaty of Amsterdam and the criteria of Copenhagen are the only legal basis for entering the EU. It is for this reason the south-eastern Europe Stability Pact must not be interpreted as a short cut for the countries of the Balkan in joining the EU. Through inner reforms and close collaboration of neighbouring countries it lays the foundations for eventual EU membership.

On the 28 May 1999, the German State Secretary, Foreign affairs, Mr. Dr. Hans - Friedrich von Ploetz delivered the speech “ EU – Russia: Partnership for the 21th century “ during the session of the council for foreign and security policy in Moscow, Russia.

Mr. Dr. von Plotz commences by acknowledging that Russia should be included in the European co-operation and not be isolated in the 21th century. It is not the intention of the EU to create new divisions in Europe. Russia should thus not be in a worse position as a result of eastern enlargement of the EU. But Mr. Dr. von Plotz points out that Russia can also profit from enlargement, especially economically.

He proceeds to assert that the enlargement will force the EU and Russia to develop a neighbourly partnership because of the geographically situation. The requirement of co-operation between the EU and Russia will increase yet further as a result of the future accession of the Baltic States to the EU where lots of Russian speaking minorities will thus become EU citizens.

On the 8th of June 1999, the German Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ludger Volmer delivered a speech in the German “Bundestag” about the German Presidency in the Council of the European Union.

The German Government is convinced that the enlargement of the EU is not an obligation resulting from contractual commitments. It is a principal interest of the German policy to abolish any instability which could arise in Eastern Europe after the decay of Soviet Union by exporting European standards and principals to the East. Mr. Vollmer entitles this an “export of stability”. But he remarks that the enlargement can only be successful in the event of fundamental structural reforms of the EU.

During a conference of the Foreign Ministers concerning the South-eastern Europe Stability Pact in Cologne, Germany, on June 10th 1999 the German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer held a speech.

The EU is the central “impulse transmitter” in order to promote democracy, wealth and peace in south-eastern Europe. The EU possesses special instruments, especially the prospect of joining her, and can thus encourage countries in south-eastern Europe. The EU would like to secure this prospect of membership but, and this Mr. Fischer stresses, the Treaty of Amsterdam and the criteria of Copenhagen are the only legal bases for joining the EU. The Foreign Minister is convinced that the realisation of the enlargement process with the south-eastern countries will take a long time because of their different levels of economical and social development. It is on this basis that the EU is going to establish a new type of contractual relation which takes into consideration the individual situation of each country.

Finally Mr. Fischer highlights that reinforcement of regional co-operation between south-eastern European countries can also spur progress towards European integration.