



## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH  
DIRECTORATE A  
DIVISION FOR INTERNATIONAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

### FACTSHEET

#### THE CZECH REPUBLIC

#### Chapter 26 - External Relations

##### 1. The acquis <sup>1</sup>

This chapter concerns the Community's **external economic and trade relations** with third countries and international organisations, as well as development cooperation and assistance. The main components are the Common Commercial Policy and the Development Policy.

The Community's trade policy is largely derived from WTO agreements. The basis is the common customs tariff for trade with third countries. Other provisions are rules on anti-dumping and safeguard measures, measures against subsidised imports or illicit trade practices, as well as quantitative restrictions and foreign policy-related trade bans. The community has concluded many commercial agreements with third countries. The Community's development policy complements Member States' development aid schemes

All candidate countries have accepted the acquis in this chapter and there is already a good level of alignment with the community's trade policy through the Association Agreements and close cooperation in international fora such as the WTO. As future Member States, candidate countries will have to renounce their own trade and economic agreements and adhere to those concluded by the Community

##### 2. The negotiations

The chapter has been closed with ten countries and provisionally closed with Bulgaria and Romania. There are no transitional arrangements.

**Chapter opened** first half of 1999

**Status** Closed December 2002 (provisionally closed in first half of 2000)

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<sup>1</sup> Information largely drawn from the European Commission, DG Enlargement  
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/negotiations/index.htm>

**Transitional arrangements:** none

### **3. Latest Assessment by the European Commission <sup>1</sup>**

In its 1997 Opinion, the Commission concluded that the Czech Republic was well placed to be able to meet Community requirements in this field in the medium term, provided efforts were reinforced to eliminate existing trade barriers and to align more closely with the Community trade regime.

Since the Opinion, the Czech Republic has made steady progress in aligning with the *acquis* in this area, particularly as regards export credits where compliance has been achieved. Progress has also been made with regard to strengthening administrative capacity. Overall, alignment is on track and has reached a good level and administrative capacity is satisfactory.

Negotiations on this chapter have been provisionally closed. The Czech Republic has not requested any transitional arrangements in this area. The Czech Republic is generally meeting the commitments it has made in the accession negotiations in this field.

In order to complete preparations for membership, the Czech Republic's efforts now need to focus on finishing the process of legislative alignment, on taking decisive steps, as a matter of urgency, towards the renegotiation or abrogation of its bilateral investment treaties in full conformity with its EU membership obligations, on terminating its exceptional suspension of MFN tariffs on certain civil aircraft products by December 2002 at the latest, as well as on ensuring that the administrative capacity exists to fully implement and enforce the *acquis* in this field upon accession.

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<sup>1</sup> European Commission, Regular Report 2002, pp. 122 & 123:  
[http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/report2002/cz\\_en.pdf](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/report2002/cz_en.pdf)