



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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

FACTSHEET

Estonia

Chapter 8 - Fisheries

1. The *acquis* ¹

The *acquis* under this chapter consists of regulations, which do not require transposition into national legislation. However, the applicant countries are encouraged to introduce legislation before accession to prepare the administration and the operators in this sector for participation in the Common Fisheries Policy and to provide for implementation of the *acquis* on accession.

Although it does not prescribe a specific administrative structure, the *acquis* lays down detailed requirements in terms of the tasks to be carried out and the ways and means to be used in the areas of market policy, conservation, inspection and control of resources, and fleet registration.

2. The negotiations

The chapter has been closed with ten countries and provisionally closed with Bulgaria and Romania. Specific transitional arrangements have been requested by Latvia, Malta and Poland.

Chapter opened: April 1999

Status: Closed December 2002 (provisionally closed in April 2000)

Transitional arrangements: none

3. Position of the European Parliament

In its resolution of 20 November 2002 ², Parliament notes the Riigikogu's awareness that the adoption of the *acquis* has recently been slower than expected in some areas, such as.... fisheries policy, and invites the Government to accelerate its preparation of bills.

¹ Information largely drawn from the European Commission, DG Enlargement:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/negotiations/index.htm>

² Resolution on the progress of the candidate countries towards accession, § 67: [A5-0371/2002](#)

4. Latest Assessment by the European Commission ¹

In its 1997 Opinion, the Commission concluded that the field of financial control did not appear to present major obstacles for accession in the medium term, although considerable preparations would be required to establish the necessary management and control mechanisms for the satisfactory implementation of the Community policies.

Since the Opinion, significant steps forward have been taken. The legislation in the field of financial control appears to be largely in line with the *acquis*, while the necessary administrative structures are generally in place.

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

In order to complete preparations for membership, Estonia's efforts now need to focus on in particular, completion of implementation of the Public Internal Financial Control system (especially at the local level), further implementation of internationally recognised auditing standards and sound management of Structural Funds upon accession, and the reinforcement of its legal framework and administrative capacity to prevent and combat fraud affecting the Communities' financial interests.

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¹ European Commission, Regular Report on Estonia 2002, p. 115:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/report2002/ee_en.pdf