



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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

FACTSHEET

HUNGARY

Chapter 27 - Common Foreign and Security Policy

1. The *acquis* ¹

The EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) is not equipped with the legal instruments that exist for other policies. It uses instruments such as joint actions, common positions and declarations, as well as the conclusions of the Council and European Council.

As most of the *acquis* in this chapter pertains to intergovernmental cooperation, no transposition into the national legal order of the candidate countries is necessary. As Member States, they will have to undertake to give active and unconditional support to the implementation of the CFSP in a spirit of loyalty and mutual solidarity. Member States must ensure that national policies conform to the common positions and defend the latter in international fora.

All candidates have accepted the *acquis* and there is a good level of alignment to the basic principles.

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 1998

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

Transitional arrangements: none

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

3. Position of the European Parliament

In its resolution of 13 June 2002¹, Parliament calls on the new Government to ensure that the Hungarian Law of 19 June 2001 on the benefits and assistance to be granted to non-nationals of Hungarian extraction living in neighbouring countries is implemented open-mindedly and in a spirit of consensus; accordingly welcomes the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Hungarian and Romanian governments on 22 December 2001, in which the two parties endorse the conditions for applying the law; urges Hungary, together with Slovakia, to find a mutually satisfactory solution in this matter, as it is essential in order to foster good-neighbourly relations and stability in the region as a whole.

In its resolution of 20 November 2002², Parliament points out, as regards the law on the status of Hungarian minorities in neighbouring countries ('Status Law'), that negotiations need to continue with those countries, especially Slovakia and Romania, with the twofold aim of establishing good-neighbourly relations, which are crucial for the stability of the region, and achieving a satisfactory solution regarding the above law by bringing it into line with the *acquis communautaire* no later than at the time of accession.

4. Latest Assessment by the European Commission³

In its 1997 Opinion, the Commission concluded that the assessment of Hungarian foreign and security policy to date led to the expectation that as a member it could effectively fulfil its obligations in this field.

Since the Opinion, Hungary has made considerable progress in aligning its foreign policy with the Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy. Alignment is to a large extent complete.

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

In order to complete preparations for membership, Hungary's efforts now need to focus on ensuring that its foreign policy orientation remains in line with the Union's developing foreign and security policy, adopting the legislation on economic sanctions and finalising the development of the necessary administrative structures. In particular, Hungary should ensure that its national policies and practice conform to the EU's common positions, should defend these positions in international fora, and should ensure that all sanctions and restrictive measures can be duly implemented. As regards the status law, the Commission will continue to monitor the situation and will request Hungary to bring the law - at the latest upon accession - in line with the anti-discrimination provisions enshrined in the EC Treaty.

January 2003

¹ Resolution on the state of the enlargement negotiations, § 70: [A5-0190/2002](#)

² Resolution on the progress of the candidate countries towards accession, § 70: [A5-0371/2002](#)

³ European Commission, Regular Report on Hungary 2002, p. 123:
http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/report2002/hu_en.pdf