



## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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

### FACTSHEET

**SLOVAKIA**

**Chapter 16 - Small and medium-sized Enterprises**

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

This chapter covers the area of enterprise policy, distributive trades, tourism and social economy. The *acquis* consists largely of decisions setting up consultation procedures and Community programmes, or of recommendations. These do not require transposition into the national legal order nor implementation and enforcement measures, except in respect of the Directive on tourism statistics (95/97/EC).

The subject of the chapter is important in the context of economic development and the capacity to withstand competitive pressure. Three areas are of particular significance:

- overall enterprise/SME policy formulation and implementation;
- the general business environment in the country concerned;
- the adoption and application of the definition of SMEs.

In April 2002, the candidate countries endorsed the 'European Charter for Small Enterprises' which was adopted in June 2000.

#### 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**      May 2000  
**Status**                closed in December 2002 (provisionally closed in May 2000)  
**Transitional arrangements:** none

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

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

In its 1997 Opinion, the Commission concluded that the conditions for sustainable SME growth were basically in place in Slovakia. However, there was room for further improvement in several fields, including simplification of legislation, strengthening support infrastructure, improvement of the tax environment and development of SMEs' access to financing.

Since the Opinion, Slovakia has made further progress in formulating SME policy and in improving the business environment. Its policy towards SMEs is generally in line with the approach promoted at EU level.

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

In order to complete preparations for membership, Slovakia's efforts now need to focus on consolidating and streamlining the institutional framework in order to prevent fragmentation and lack of co-ordination.

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<sup>1</sup> European Commission, Regular Report on Slovakia 2002, p. 92:  
[http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/report2002/sk\\_en.pdf](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/report2002/sk_en.pdf)