

European Parliament resolution on the prospects of enlargement of the Community (18 January 1979)

Caption: On 18 January 1979, the European Parliament adopts a resolution in which it expresses its support for the enlargement of the European Communities to include Greece, Spain and Portugal.

Source: Official Journal of the European Communities (OJEC). 12.02.1979, No C 39. [s.l.]. "Resolution on the prospects of enlargement of the Community (18 January 1979)", auteur:European Parliament , p. 47-49.

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European Parliament resolution on the prospects of enlargement of the Community Part One: political and institutional aspects (18 January 1979)

The European Parliament,

— considering that, in the preamble to the EEC Treaty, the Member States of the Community declare themselves ‘determined to lay the foundations of an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe’ and ‘resolved by thus pooling their resources to preserve and strengthen peace and liberty’, and call upon ‘the other peoples of Europe who share their ideal to join in their efforts’,

— considering that the observance and defence of democratic principles form one of the essential cornerstones of that Community,

— having regard in this connection to the statement made in December 1973 by the Heads of State or Government of the Community Member States on the European Identity, the common declaration of April 1977 by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission of the European Communities on the protection of fundamental rights ⁽¹⁾ and the declaration made by the European Council in April 1978 on democracy,

— having regard to the applications for accession to the Community made by Greece on 12 June 1975, by Portugal on 28 March 1977 and by Spain on 28 July 1977,

— expressing its satisfaction at the fact that, following the Council of Ministers meeting of 20 December 1978 and the positive results it achieved, negotiations with Greece have nearly been completed,

— welcoming the fact that Greece, Portugal and Spain have evolved from dictatorships into pluralist, parliamentary democracies,

— expressing, conscious of its responsibilities in this respect, its support for the maintenance and strengthening of pluralist democratic systems,

— having regard to the documents drawn up by the Commission on this subject ⁽²⁾,

— having regard to the report of the Political Affairs Committee (Doc. 479/78),

1. Expresses its political will to see Greece, Portugal and Spain join the Community;
2. Calls upon the present Member States of the European Community, together with the applicant States, to give a formal undertaking, in line with Parliament’s resolution of 16 November 1977 ⁽³⁾, to uphold the provisions governing civil and political rights and pluralist democracy embodied in their respective national laws and in the international treaties to which they are signatories; and asks that failure to respect those provisions, to be established by the Court of Justice, should constitute incompatibility with membership of the Community;
3. Calls for the adoption of all necessary measures to ensure that the accession of a country to the Community contributes to the strengthening and progress of both the Community and the applicant State, particularly in political, institutional, economic and social terms;
4. Considers, therefore, that the accession negotiations conducted separately with each applicant State should be pursued on the basis of an overall approach to the conditions and principles governing the enlargement of the Community;
5. Requests that temporary conditions be laid down reflecting the need for the applicant State to be integrated into the Community as rapidly and fully as possible without creating political, institutional,

economic or social difficulties;

6. Requests that during an interim stage from the signing of the accession treaties up to their ratification, the applicant States should be informed and consulted on Community procedures on the same terms as were applied on the occasion of the Community's first enlargement;

7. Notes with satisfaction the information and consultation mechanisms at present applied within the framework of European political cooperation from which the candidate States will begin to benefit as soon as the accession negotiations open;

8. Trusts, however, that the applicant States will begin forthwith to adapt their policies and laws to those in force in the Community, and will undertake to consult the Commission in advance on all measures they may wish to adopt which are likely to affect the Community's sphere of activities after enlargement;

9. Insists that the accession treaties contain an unequivocal undertaking by all the signatory States to defend and extend the existing achievements of the Community in their entirety;

10. Is firmly convinced of the need to improve the decision-making mechanisms of the Community's institutions and bodies within the framework of the Treaties;

11. Insists that, on the question of the institutional implications of accession, account should be taken, in the case of Parliament, of the terms of the Act of 20 September 1976, and as regards the Commission, of the considerable increase in its workload and the consequent need to increase the number of its Members;

12. Considers that the European Parliament should be consulted on all studies concerning the Community's decision-making processes with a view to enlargement;

13. Expresses the wish that the numerous links currently existing between the institutions of the Community, the Member States, the applicant States and, in particular, their Parliaments, will be developed and strengthened forthwith; hopes that regular relations may be established with the Spanish and Portuguese Parliaments, and instructs its Political Affairs Committee to follow closely the development of these relations and the existing relations with the Greek Parliament under the EEC-Greece Association;

14. Instructs its Political Affairs Committee to submit to it, as soon as possible, the second part of this report dealing with the sectoral aspects of enlargement, on the basis of the opinions of the committees consulted;

15. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.

(1) OJ No C 103, 27.4.1977, p. 1.

(2) COM(78) 120 fin.: General considerations on the problems of enlargement.

COM(78) 190 fin.: The transitional period and the institutional implications of enlargement.

COM(78) 200 fin.: Economic and sectoral aspects.

(3) OJ No C 299, 12.12.1977, p. 26.