

## Joint Statement of the Parties represented in the National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary (11 September 2000)

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## Joint Statement of the Parties represented in the National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary and of the Government on the current issues of the accession process (11 September 2000)

The Heads of Parliamentary Groups of the Parties represented in the National Assembly and the representative of the Government – in the framework of their regular consultations on the issue of European integration – reviewed the current state of the accession negotiations and the prospects of the accession process. They concluded that developments in the forthcoming period will determine the whole of the accession process of historic significance. The Parliamentary Parties and the Government agree that:

1. It is the fundamental national interest of the Republic of Hungary to join the European Union at the earliest possible date and under the attainable most favourable conditions.
2. It is the essential precondition of the accession to meet entirely the Copenhagen criteria. Progress at the accession negotiations should depend only on the individual performance of the applicants. The European Union should conclude the negotiations with the most prepared countries as soon as possible so that they can accede at the first possible date.
3. Both the European Union and the Republic of Hungary made the commitment that they will, on their part respectively, create the internal preconditions for the start of the enlargement by the end of 2002 at the latest.
4. The Parliamentary Parties and the Government are convinced that the member states of the European Union will successfully conclude the Intergovernmental Conference on the institutional reforms by the end of 2000, thus meeting on their part the last precondition for the start of the enlargement process.
5. The Republic of Hungary is committed to conclude the internal preparations, which is implemented as planned, by the end of 2002 in all areas where no transitional periods are requested.
6. In parallel with this, it is of outstanding importance that the accession negotiations could enter a qualitatively new phase. Relying on the results of the negotiations of the last two years and the conclusion of the first negotiating stage, as well as on the programme of the French Presidency, substantive negotiations should start in the following months in order to solve a part of the issues on the negotiating table, and to prepare the final stage of the negotiations both technically and in substance.
7. The Parties represented in the National Assembly and the Government are convinced that if there is the political will, the European Council in Nice in December 2000 could adopt decisions that could make the enlargement strategy predictable and credible in the long run. In their view these decisions could include the adoption of an accession scenario containing a road map for the completion of the remaining tasks which would allow any prepared candidate country to conclude the accession negotiations by the end of 2001.
8. The Parliamentary Parties support the Government's commitment to conclude the internal preparations by the end of 2002, and they are ready to support it with their parliamentary means as well as to provide continuously its parliamentary monitoring. The Parties agree that the Committee on European Integration Affairs will hold on a monthly basis an extended meeting with the participation of the members of the Committee on European Integration Affairs, the Chairman and the Deputy Chairmen of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Chairpersons of the Integration Sub-Committees of the Permanent Committees of the National Assembly. The purpose of such meetings is to provide detailed information to the Parties represented in the National Assembly on the negotiating positions of both sides, and to discuss the development of the Hungarian negotiating positions.
9. The Government and the Parliamentary Parties attach high importance to ensuring the transparency of the accession negotiations, and to a broad and substantive social dialogue on issues related to European integration.

