Glossary

Accession Criteria (Copenhagen Criteria) - Критерії вступу до Європейського Союзу (копенгагенські критерії членства в ЄС)

In June 1993, the Copenhagen European Council recognized the right of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to join the European Union when they have fulfilled three criteria: 1) political: stable institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for minorities; 2) economic: a functioning market economy; 3) incorporation of the Community acquis: adherence to the various political, economic and monetary aims of the European Union. These accession criteria were confirmed in December 1995 by the Madrid European Council, which also stressed the importance of adapting the applicant countries' administrative structures to create the conditions for a gradual, harmonious integration. However, the Union reserves the right to decide when it will be ready to accept new members.

Accession Negotiations – Переговори про вступ до Європейського Союзу

The accession negotiations examine the applicants' capacity to fulfill the requirements of a Member State and to apply the body of Community laws (the «acquis») at the time of their accession, in particular the measures required to extend the single market, which will have to be implemented immediately. The negotiations also look at the issue of the pre-accession aid the European Union may provide in order to help with the incorporation of the acquis. The negotiations can be concluded even if the acquis has not been fully transposed, as transitional arrangements can be applied after accession. The negotiations proper take the form of bilateral Intergovernmental Conferences (European Union/applicant country), bringing the ministers together every six months and the ambassadors every month. The common negotiating positions have been defined by the Commission for each of the chapters relating to matters of Community competence and approved unanimously by the Council. The results of the negotiations are incorporated in a draft accession treaty. This must be approved by the Union and ratified by the Member States and the applicant countries. The applications of ten Central and Eastern European countries were given a favorable reception at the Luxembourg European Council (December 1997). The official accession negotiations then proceeded in two phases. On 30 March 1998, negotiations began with six «first wave» countries (Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovenia). The «second wave» candidate countries (Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania and Slovakia) began negotiations in February 2000, when it was felt that their reforms had made rapid enough progress. Before negotiations opened, an evaluation of each applicant country's legislation was carried out to set up a work programme and define negotiating positions. At the Copenhagen European Council (12 and 13 December 2002), the Commission concluded the negotiations with ten applicant countries: the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, thus enabling them to join the Union on 1 May 2004. The accession negotiations with Bulgaria and Romania were concluded successfully and they joined the EU on 1 January 2007. The accession negotiations with Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey for future membership in the EU are opened.

Accession of New Member States to the European Union - Вступ нових держав-членів до Європейського Союзу

Accession of new Member States to the European Union is provided in Article 49 of the EU Treaty. The Council must agree unanimously to open negotiations, after consulting the Commission and receiving the assent of the European Parliament. The conditions of admission, any transition periods and adjustments to the Treaties on which the Union is

founded must be the subject of an agreement between the applicant country and the Member State. To enter into force, the agreement requires ratification by all the contracting States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. Treaty of Amsterdam, they may take part in some or all of the provisions of this acquis if the 13 Member States which are parties to the agreements and the representative of the government of the country concerned vote unanimously in favour within the Council.

Accession Partnership - Вступне партнерство

The accession partnerships brings together in one document the aid provided by the European Community to each applicant country and set priorities for each sector in transposing Community law (the acquis). Following the accession partnership, each country draws up a detailed programme for the adoption of the Community acquis so as to organize the implementation of these priorities, committing itself to a timetable and indicating the human and financial resources needed lo achieve it. These programmes and the accession partnerships are adjusted over time by the Commission and the country concerned. The accession partnerships have served as a support for other pre-accession instruments, including the joint assessment of medium-term economic policy priorities, the pact on organized crime, the national development plans and other sectoral programmes necessary for participation in the Structural Funds after accession and for the implementation of ISPA (Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accession) and SAPARD (Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development). They have also been the starting point for the development of action plans to improve administrative and judicial capacities in the applicant countries.

Applicant Countries - Країни-заявники про вступ до Європейського Союзу

Europe's economic and political stability is a magnet for many European countries, which have the right to apply to become members of the European Union (Article 49). The countries that have applied are: Turkey (14 April 1987), Cyprus (3 July 1990), Malta (16 July 1990), Hungary (31 March 1994), Poland (5 April 1994), Romania (22 June 1995), Slovakia (27 June 1995), Latvia (13 October 1995), Estonia (24 November 1995), Lithuania (8 December 1995), Bulgaria (14 December 1995), Czech Republic (17 January 1996), Slovenia (10 June 1996), Croatia (21 February 2003), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (22 March 2004). The countries that have applied but are not yet official candidates: Montenegro (15 December 2008), Albania (28 April 2009), Iceland (17 July 2009), Serbia (22 December 2009). Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Norway have also all applied for membership of the European Union at various times. However, Norway twice rejected accession following referenda in 1972 and 1994, while the applications by Switzerland and Liechtenstein were shelved after Switzerland decided by a referendum in 1992 not to join the European Economic Area.

Assent procedure – Процедура згоди

The assent procedure was introduced by the Single European Act. It requires the Council to obtain Parliament's assent before certain important decisions are taken. The European Parliament may accept or reject a proposal but cannot amend it. If the European Parliament does not give its assent, the act in question cannot be adopted.

The assent procedure applies to the accession of new Member States (Article 49 of the EU Treaty), association agreements and other fundamental agreements with third countries (Article 300 of the EC Treaty), and the appointment of the President of the Commission. It is also required with regard to citizenship issues, the specific tasks of the European Central Bank (ECB), amendments to the Statutes of the European System of Central Banks and the ECB, the Structural and Cohesion Funds, and the uniform procedure for elections to the European Parliament.

Since entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam, the Parliament's assent has also been required for sanctions imposed on a Member State for a serious and persistent breach of fundamental rights under the Article 7 of the EU Treaty. The Treaty of Nice has made the Parliament's assent mandatory where reinforced cooperation between certain Member States is envisaged in an area which is subject to the codecision procedure.

Civil Emergency Planning – Цивільне планування на випадок надзвичайних ситуацій
A key security task of the Alliance. The aim of civil emergency planning in NATO is to collect, analyse and share information on national planning activity to ensure the most effective use of civil resources for use during emergency situations, in accordance with Alliance objectives.

Codecision procedure – Процедура спільного прийняття рішень
The codecision procedure (Article 251 of the EU Treaty, formerly Article 189b) was introduced by the Treaty of Maastricht. It gives the European Parliament the power to adopt instruments jointly with the Council. The procedure comprises one, two or three readings. It has the effect of increasing contacts between the Parliament and the Council, the co-legislators, and with the European Commission. In practice, it has strengthened the Parliament's legislative powers in the following fields: the free movement of workers, right of establishment, services, the internal market, education (incentive measures), health (incentive measures), consumer policy, trans-European networks (guidelines), environment (general action programme), culture (incentive measures) and research (framework programme).

The Treaty of Amsterdam has simplified the codecision procedure, making it quicker and more effective and strengthening the role of the Parliament, In addition it has been extended to new areas such as social exclusion, public health and the fight against fraud affecting the European Community's financial interests. Increasing the democratic nature of Community action requires the Parliament to participate in exercising legislative power. Thus, any legislative instrument adopted by qualified majority is likely to fall within the scope of the codecision procedure. In most cases, therefore, codecision in the Parliament goes hand in hand with qualified majority voting in the Council. For some provisions of the Treaty, however, codecision and unanimity still coexist.

The Treaty of Nice partially puts an end to this situation. The Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) launched in February 2000 called for an extension of the scope of codecision, in parallel with and as a supplement to the extension of qualified majority voting in the Council. Seven provisions for which the IGC planned to apply qualified majority voting arc thus also subject to codecision. They are: incentives to combat discrimination, judicial cooperation in civil matters, specific industrial support measures, economic and social cohesion actions (outside the Structural Funds), the statute for European political parties and measures relating to visas, asylum and immigration.

On the other hand, the IGC did not extend the codecision procedure to legislative measures already subject to qualified majority voting (such as agricultural or commercial policy), there is therefore no definitive link yet between qualified majority voting and the codecision procedure for all legislative decisions.

Collective defence – Колективна Оборона
The Alliance works on the principle that the security of each member country depends on the security of them all. If the security of any one is threatened, all are affected. In signing the Washington Treaty, NATO’s founding charter, every member state makes a commitment to each other to respect this principle, sharing the risks and responsibilities as

well as the advantages of collective defence. This also means that many aspects of the defence planning and preparations that each country had previously undertaken alone are undertaken together. The costs of providing the facilities needed for their military forces to train and work effectively together are also shared.

Comitology - Комітологія

Under the Treaty establishing the European Community, it is for the Commission to implement legislation at Community level (Article 202 of the EC Treaty, ex-Article 145). In practice, each legislative instrument specifies the scope of the implementing powers granted to the Commission and how the Commission is to use them. Frequently, the instrument will also make provision for the Commission to be assisted by a committee in accordance with a procedure known as «comitology».

The committees, which are forums for discussion, consist of representatives from Member States and are chaired by the Commission. They enable the Commission to establish a dialogue with national administrations before adopting implementing measures. The Commission ensures that they reflect as far as possible the situation in each country in question. Procedures which govern relations between the Commission and the committees are based on models set out in the Council Decision («comitology» Decision). The first «comitology» Decision dates back to 13 July 1987. In order to take into account the Treaty and, in particular, the Parliament's new position under the codecision procedure but also to reply to criticisms that the Community system is too complex and too opaque, the 1987 Decision has been replaced by the Council Decision of 28 June 1999.

The new Decision ensures that Parliament can keep an eye on the implementation of legislative instruments adopted under the codecision procedure. In cases where legislation comes under this procedure, the Parliament can express its disapproval of measures proposed by the Commission or where appropriate by the Council which, in Parliament's opinion, go beyond the implementing powers provided for in the legislation.

The Decision clarifies the criteria to be applied to the choice of committee und simplifies the operational procedures. Committees base their opinions on the draft implementing measures prepared by the Commission. The committees can be divided into the following categories:

– advisory committees: they give their opinions to the Commission which must take the utmost account of them. This straightforward procedure is generally used when the matters under discussion are not very sensitive politically.

– management committees: where the measures adopted by the Commission are not consistent with the committee's opinion (delivered by qualified majority), the Commission must communicate them to the Council which, acting by a qualified majority, can take a different decision. This procedure is used in particular for measures relating to the management of the common agricultural policy, fisheries, and the main Community programmes.

– regulatory committees: the Commission can only adopt implementing measures if it obtains the approval by qualified majority of the Member States meeting within the committee. In the absence of such support, the proposed measure is referred back to the Council which takes a decision by qualified majority. However, if the Council does not take a decision, the Commission finally adopts the implementing measure provided that the Council does not object by a qualified majority. This procedure is used for measures relating to Protection of the health or safety of persons, animals and plants and measures amending non-essential provisions of the basic legislative instruments.

It also provides the criteria which, depending on the matter under discussion, will guide the legislative authority in its choice of committee procedure for the item of legislation; this is meant to facilitate the adoption or the legislation under the codecision procedure.

Lastly, several innovations to the new «comitology» Decision enhance the transparency of the committee system to the benefit of Parliament and the general public: committee documents will be more readily accessible to the citizen (the arrangements are the same as those applying to Commission documents) Committee documents will also be registered in a public register. The ultimate aim with the computerisation of decision-making procedures, to publish the full texts of non- confidential documents transmitted to Parliament on the Internet. From 2000 onwards, the Commission publishes an annual report giving a summary of committee activities during the previous year.

Common position (CFSP) – Спільна позиція

The common position in the context of common foreign and security policy is designed to make cooperation more systematic and improve its coordination. The Member States arc required to comply with and uphold such positions which have been adopted unanimously at Council meetings.

Common strategy (CFSP) – Спільна стратегія

The common strategy is a new instrument introduced under the common foreign and security policy by the Treaty of Amsterdam.

Under the new Article 13 of the EU Treaty, the European Council defines the principles and general guidelines for the CFSP and decides on common strategies to be implemented by the Union in fields where the Member States have important interests in common.

In concrete terms, a common strategy sets out the aims and length of time covered and the means to be made available by the Union and the Member States. Common strategies are implemented by the Council, in particular by adopting joint actions and common positions. The Council can recommend common strategies to the European Council.

Community and intergovernmental methods – Метод Співтовариства та міжурядовий метод

The method is the expression used for the institutional operating mode set up in the first pillar of the European Union. It proceeds from an integration with due respect for the subsidiarity principle, and has the following salient features:

– Commission monopoly of the right of initiative;
– widespread use of qualified majority voting in the Council;
– an active role for the European Parliament;
– uniform interpretation of Community law by the Court of Justice.

It contrasts with the intergovernmental method of operation used in the second and third pillars, which proceeds from an intergovernmental logic of cooperation and has the following salient features:

– the Commission's right or initiative is shared with the Mcmber States or confined to specific areas of activity;
– the Council generally acts unanimously;
– the European Parliament has a purely consultative role;
– the Court of Justice plays only a minor role.

Community law – Право співтовариства

Strictly speaking, Community law consists of the founding Treaties (primary legislation) and the provisions of instruments enacted by the Community institutions by virtue of them (secondary legislation).

In a broader sense, Community law encompasses all the rules or the Community legal order including general principles of law, the case law of the Court of Justice, law flowing from the Community's external relations and supplementary law contained in conventions

and similar agreements concluded between the Member Stales to give effect to Treaty provisions.

All these rules of law form part of what is known as the Community acquis.

Community legal instruments – Легальні інструменти Співторвариства

The term Community legal instruments refers to the instruments available to the Community institutions to carry out their tasks under the Treaty establishing the European Community with due respect for the subsidiarity principle. They are:

– regulations: these are binding in their entirety and directly applicable in all Member States;

– directives: these bind the Member States as to the results to be achieved: they have to be transposed into the national legal framework and thus leave a margin for manoeuvre as to the form and means of implementation;

– decisions: these arc fully binding on those to whom they arc addressed;

– recommendations and opinions: these arc non-binding declaratory instruments,

Community powers – Влада Співтовариства

Community powers are those which are conferred on the Community in specific areas. The European Communities are thus able to act only within the framework of the Treaties.

There are three types of powers, which depend on the mode of attribution:

– Explicit powers: these are clearly defined in the Treaties.

– Implicit powers: where the European Community has explicit powers in a particular area (e.g. transport), it also has powers in the same field with regard to external relations (e.g. negotiation of international agreements).

– Subsidiary powers: where the Community has no explicit or implicit powers to achieve a Treaty objective concerning the single market, Article 308 allows the Council, acting unanimously, to take the measures it considers necessary.

Consultation procedure – Консультаційна процедура

The consultation procedure enables the European Parliament to give its opinion on a proposal from the Commission. In the cases laid down by the Treaty, the Council must consult the European Parliament before voting on the Commission proposal and take its views into account. However, it is not bound by the Parliament's position but only by the obligation to consult it. The Parliament should be consulted again if the Council deviates too far from the initial proposal. The powers of the Parliament are fairly limited under this procedure, in so far as it can only hope that the Commission takes its amendments into account in an amended proposal.

Apart from the cases laid down by the Treaties, the Council has also undertaken to consult the Parliament on most important questions. This consultation is optional.

In addition, this consultation procedure is used for the adoption of non-mandatory instruments, especially recommendations and opinions issued by the Council and the Commission.

Cooperation procedure – Процедура співробітництва

The cooperation procedure (Article 252 of the EC Treaty, formerly Article 189c) was introduced by the Single European Act. It gave the European Parliament greater influence in the legislative process by allowing it two «readings». Initially, the scope of this procedure was considerably extended by the Treaty of Maastricht; the Treaty of Amsterdam then reversed the trend by encouraging the codecision procedure (Article 251 of the EC Treaty). The cooperation procedure will therefore now apply exclusively to the field of economic and monetary union (Articles 99(5) and 106(2) of the EC Treaty).

The cooperation procedure is always initiated by a proposal from the Commission forwarded to the Council and the European Parliament. In the context of a first reading, Parliament issues an opinion on the Commission proposal. The Council, acting by a qualified majority, then draws up a common position, which is forwarded to Parliament together with all the necessary information and the reasons which led the Council to adopt this common position. Parliament examines this common position at second reading, and within three months may adopt, amend or reject the common position. In the latter two cases, it must do so by an absolute majority of its members. If it rejects the proposal, unanimity is required for the Council to act on a second reading.

The Commission then reexamines, within one month, the proposal upon which the Council based its common position and forwards its proposal to the Council; at its discretion it can include or exclude the amendments proposed by Parliament.

Within three months, the Council may adopt the re-examined proposal by qualified majority, amend it unanimously or adopt the amendments not taken into consideration by the Commission, also unanimously.

In the cooperation procedure, the Council may still exercise a veto by refusing to express its opinion on the amendments proposed by the European Parliament or on the amended proposal from the Commission, thereby blocking the legislative procedure.

Defence Planning Committee – Комітет оборонного планування

One of NATO's key defence decision-making bodies. The Defence Planning Committee (DPC) is the senior decision-making body on matters relating to the integrated military structure of the Alliance.

Delimitation of competences – Розмежування компетенцій

The delimitation of competences between the European Union and its Member States is one of the main points for consideration identified by the Declaration on the Future of the Union annexed to the Treaty of Nice and by the Laeken Declaration. The aim is to establish a clear and precise distribution of the Union's competences, respecting the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality whilst meeting, as far as possible, the expectations of European citizens. The system for monitoring compliance with this delimitation must also be stepped up. The aim is to better identify what comes under Community, regional or even local competence.

The idea of a separate title on competences in a future constitutional treaty is being studied. The Issue is whether it is necessary to draw up an exhaustive list of the Union's competences, making a precise distinction between exclusive, shared and complementary competences. In any event, this delimitation must not be allowed to hinder the flexibility provided under Article 308 of the EC Treaty, which grants the Community subsidiary powers.

Economic and Monetary Union - Економічний і валютний союз

Economic and monetary union (EMU) is the name given to the process of harmonizing the economic and monetary policies of the Member States of the Union with a view to the introduction of a single currency, the Euro. It was the subject of one of the two Intergovernmental Conferences (IGCs) which concluded their deliberations in Maastricht in December 1991. The Treaty provides that EMU is to be achieved in three stages: First stage (1 July 1990 to 31 December 1993): free movement of capital between Member States, closer coordination of economic policies and closer cooperation between central banks; Second stage (1 January !994 to 31 December 1998): convergence of the economic and monetary policies of the Member States (to ensure stability of prices and sound public finances) and the creation of the European Monetary Institute (EMI) and, in 1998, of the

European Central Bank (ECB); Third stage (from 1 January 1999): irrevocable fixing of exchange rates and introduction of the single currency on the foreign-exchange markets and for electronic payments, followed by the introduction of euro notes and coins from 1 January 2002. The third stage of EMU was launched in eleven Member States, which were joined two years later by Greece. Three Member States have not adopted the single currency: the United Kingdom and Denmark, both of which benefit from an opt-out clause, and Sweden, which does not at present meet all of the criteria regarding the independence of its central bank. On 1 January 2002 euro notes and coins were introduced in the Member States, gradually replacing the national currencies («legacy» currencies). On 28 February 2002 the transitional stage of dual circulation of the legacy currencies and the euro came to an end. The euro is now the sole currency for more than 300 million Europeans. The challenges facing the long-term success of EMU are continued budgetary consolidation and closer coordination of Member States' economic policies.

Enlargement - Розширення

Enlargement was originally the term used to refer to the four successive waves of new members joining the European Community. Twenty one countries have so far joined the six founder members — Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands — at the following times: 1973 (Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom), 1981 (Greece), 1986 (Portugal and Spain), 1995 (Austria, Finland and Sweden), 2004 (the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia), 2007 (Bulgaria and Romania). The last waves of accessions has turned enlargement into a unique opportunity to bring peace, stability and prosperity to the entire continent of Europe. It is an unprecedented enlargement in terms of its dimension and diversity and involves 10 applicant countries from Central and Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) as well as two Mediterranean countries (Malta and Cyprus).

Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre – Євроатлантичний центр з координування надзвичайних ситуацій

The Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) is a «24/7» focal point for coordinating disaster relief efforts among NATO member and partner countries.

Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council – Євроатлантична Рада Партнерства

The 50-nation Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) is a multilateral forum for dialogue and consultation on political and security-related issues among Allies and Partner countries. It provides the overall political framework for NATO's cooperation with Partner countries in the Euro-Atlantic area, and for the bilateral relationships developed between NATO and individual Partner countries under the Partnership for Peace programme.

Europe Agreement - Європейська угода

The Europe agreement is a specific type of association agreement concluded between the European Union and certain Central and Eastern European states. Its aim is to prepare the associated state for accession to the European Union, and is based on respect of human rights, democracy, the rule of law and the market economy. The Europe agreement is concluded for an indefinite period and is made up of a number of elements: 1) a political aspect, providing for bilateral and multilateral consultations on any questions of common interest; 2) a trade aspect, in order to set up a free trade area; 3) economic, cultural and financial cooperation; 4) alignment of legislation, particularly on intellectual property and competition rules. As regards to the institutional arrangements, the general management of a Europe agreement is the responsibility of an Association Council, made up of

representatives of the Council and the Commission on the one hand and representatives of the associated state's government on the other. An Association Committee, made up of members of the Association Council, follows up the work and prepares the discussions of the Association Council. Finally, a Parliamentary Association Committee, made up of Members of the European Parliament and of the national parliament of the Associated State, may make recommendations to the Association Council.

European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) - Європейська політика безпеки і оборони

The European Union's European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) includes the eventual framing of a common defense policy which might in time lead to a common defense. Established in 1999 at the Cologne European Council, the ESDP aims to allow the Union to develop its civilian and military capacities for crisis management and conflict prevention at international level thus helping to maintain peace and international security, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The ESDP, which does not involve the creation of a European army, is developing in a manner that is compatible and coordinated with NATO. With the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam, new tasks have been included in the Treaty on European Union (Title V). This important innovation relates to humanitarian and rescue operations, peacekeeping operations and the use of combat forces in crisis management, including peacemaking operations (known as the «Petersberg tasks»). In addition to these civilian and military crisis management operations, the ESDP includes a conflict prevention component. The Political and Security Committee (PSC), the EU Military Committee (EUMC) and EU Military Staff (EUMS) are the permanent political and military structures responsible for an autonomous, operational EU defense policy. The Helsinki European Council established the «global objective», in other words that the Union must be able to de-Ploy, up to 60 000 persons within 60 days and for at least one year.

Membership Action Plan (MAP) – План щодо вступу

The Membership Action Plan (MAP) is a NATO programme of advice, assistance and practical support tailored to the individual needs of countries wishing to join the Alliance. Participation in the MAP does not prejudge any decision by the Alliance on future membership.

Military Committee – Військовий Комітет

NATO's senior military authority. The Military Committee (MC) is the senior military authority in NATO, providing NATO's civilian decision-making bodies – the North Atlantic Council, the Defence Planning Committee and the Nuclear Planning Group - with advice on military matters.

North Atlantic Council – Північно-Атлантична Рада

NATO's key political decision-making body. The North Atlantic Council is the principal decision-making body within NATO. It brings together high-level representatives of each member country to discuss policy or operational questions requiring collective decisions. In sum, it provides a forum for wide-ranging consultation between members on all issues affecting their security.

Nuclear Planning Group – Група Ядерного планування

One of NATO's key defence decision-making bodies. The Nuclear Planning Group (NPG) takes decisions on the Alliance's nuclear policy, which is kept under constant review and modified or adapted in the light of new developments.

NATO Parliamentary Assembly – Парламентарна Асамблея НАТО

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly is an interparliamentary organization, which brings together legislators from NATO member countries to consider security-related issues of common interest and concern.

NATO Secretary General – Генеральний Секретар НАТО

The Secretary General is the Alliance's top international civil servant. He or she is responsible for steering the process of consultation and decision-making in the Alliance and ensuring that decisions are implemented.

Parliamentary committees – Парламентські комітети

Various committees have been set up within the European Parliament to organise its work. The members of each committee are elected at the beginning of and halfway through each parliamentary term, according to their political affiliation and their expertise.

Parliament's Rules of Procedure specify that the Members of Parliament set the number of committees and determine their powers. At present there are seventeen specialised permanent committees in which the Commission's proposals are discussed.

Parliament can also set up sub-committees, temporary committees and committees of inquiry if it considers it necessary. Two committees of inquiry have been set up so far: on the Community transit procedure in 1996 and on the bovine spongiform encepalopathy (BSE) epidemic in 1997.

The main task of the permanent committees is to debate proposals for new legislation put forward by the European Commission and to draw up own-initiative reports. For any proposal for legislation or other initiative, a rapporteur is nominated according to an agreement between the political groups which make up Parliament. His or her report is discussed, amended and voted on within the parliamentary committee and then transmitted to the plenary assembly, which meets once a month in Strasbourg, and which debates and votes on the basis of this report.

As preparation for Parliament's vote of approval of the European Commission, the parliamentary committees also hear the proposed Members of the Commission in their specialised areas.

Post-Cold War enlargement – Розширення після Холодної війни

The first post-Cold War round of enlargement was not a foregone conclusion and the decision required unanimity among all existing member countries. Paramount considerations were to preserve the Alliance's ability to take decisions based on consensus and to ensure that enlargement would strengthen European security. A Study on NATO Enlargement, commissioned in 1994 and published a year later, concluded that the admission of new members and the political, military and economic implications of enlargement would further the Alliance's basic goal of enhancing security and extending stability throughout the Euro-Atlantic area. In parallel with developing the Alliance's relationships with Russia, Ukraine and other Partner countries, the process would serve the interests of the whole of Europe.

Pre-accession Strategy - Передвступна стратегія

On the basis of the Europe Agreements (association agreements with Central and Eastern European countries), in 1993 the Commission proposed that there be a 'structured dialogue' between the associated countries and the institutions of the Union in the form of meetings at which the different partners could consult each other. In December 1994 the Essen European Council adopted a pre-accession strategy based on: 1) deepening relations between the associated countries, the Member States and the institutions of the Union

(strengthening the structured dialogue); 2) implementation of the Europe Agreements; 3) adaptation of the financial assistance provided by Phare, launched for the ten Central and Eastern European applicant countries. It is based on the Europe Agreements, the accession partnerships and the national programmes for the adoption of the acquis and participation in certain Community programmes, agencies and committees. For Cyprus, a special pre-accession strategy was put in place the same year. In 1998 a strategy was adopted for Malta, and the last strategy is now taking shape for Turkey. Pre-accession strategies for Malta and Turkey are based on: 1) the association agreements; 2) the accession partnerships and the national programmes for the adoption of the acquis; 3) participation in Community programmes, agencies and committees.

Presidency of the Union (rotation of the Presidency) – Головування Союзу (ротація головування)

The Presidency of the Union is held in turn on a six-monthly basis by each Member State. A stint in the Presidency is a duty and a contribution that each Member State makes to the proper functioning of the Community institutions. At present a Member State holds the Presidency every seven and a half years.

Programme of Community Aid to the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe (Phare) - Програма допомоги Співтовариства країнам Центральної і Східної Європи

The Phare programme was launched in 1989 following the collapse of the communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe. It was intended to help these countries rebuild their economies. Originally, it concerned only Poland and Hungary but it has gradually been extended to cover ten Central and Eastern European countries today (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia). At the same time, Phare is the main financial instrument for the pre-accession strategy for the ten Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs) which have applied for membership of the European Union. Since 1994, Phare's tasks have been adapted to the priorities and needs of each CEEC. The revamped Phare programme with a budget of over EUR 10 billion for the period 2000—2006 now has two specific priorities, namely institution building and investment financing. Following the proposals put forward by the Commission in its Agenda 2000 communication in July 1997, new forms of pre-accession aid have been added to that already provided by Phare. These are: structural measures to bring the level of environmental protection and of transport infrastructure development in the applicant countries closer to that of the European Union (Ispa); aid to agriculture (Sapard).

Schengen (Agreement and Convention) – Шенгенська угода і конвенція

By the Agreement signed at Schengen on 14 June 1985, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands agreed that they would gradually remove their common frontier controls and introduce freedom of movement for all individuals who were nationals of the signatory Member States, other Member States or third countries. The Schengen Convention was signed by the same five States on 19 June 1990 but did not enter into force until 1995. It lays down the arrangements and guarantees for implementing freedom of movement. The Agreement and the Convention, the rules adopted on that basis and the related agreements together form the «Schengen acquis». In order to provide a legal basis, incorporation entailed dividing the Schengen acquis under the first pillar (new Title IV — Visas, asylum, immigration and other policies related to the free movement of persons) of the Treaty establishing the European Communities or the third pillar (Title VI — Provisions on police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters) of the Treaty on

European Union. The legal incorporation of Schengen into the Union was accompanied by integration of the institutions. The Council took over the Schengen Executive Committee and the Council's General Secretariat took over the Schengen Secretariat. The protocol annexed to the Treaty of Amsterdam states that the Schengen acquis and the rules adopted by the institutions on the basis of that acquis must be adopted in their entirety by all applicant countries. Schengen has gradually expanded: Italy signed up in 1990, Spain and Portugal in 1991, Greece in 1992, Austria in 1995 and Denmark, Finland and Sweden in 1996. Iceland and Norway are also parties to the Convention. Ireland and the United Kingdom are not parties to the agreements, but, under the protocol to the Treaty of Amsterdam, they may take part in some or all of the provisions of this acquis if the Member States which are parties to the agreements and the representative of the government of the country concerned vote unanimously in favour within the Council. In March 1999 the United Kingdom therefore asked to take part in certain fields of Schen-gen-based cooperation, including police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, the fight against drugs and the Schengen Information System (SIS). The Council adopted the decision approving the request in May 2000. In June 2000 and November 2001 Ireland asked to take part in certain fields of Schengen activity, including all the provisions on the implementation and working of the SIS. The Council adopted the decision approving Ireland's request in February 2002.

Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee (SCEPC) – Головний Комітет з планування надзвичайних ситуацій

The Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee is the top NATO advisory body for the protection of civilian populations and the use of civil resources in support of NATO's objectives.

Subsidiarity - Субсидіарність

The subsidiarity principle is intended to ensure that decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizen and that constant checks are made as to whether action at Community level is justified in the light of the possibilities available at national, regional or local level. Specifically, it is the principle whereby the Union does not take action (except in the areas which fail within its exclusive competence) unless it is more effective than action taken at national, regional or local level. It is closely bound up with the principles or proportionality and necessity, which require that any action by the Union should not go beyond what is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Treaty.

Troïka - Трійка

The «Troïka» consists of the Member State which currently holds the Presidency of the Council, the Member State which held it for the preceding six months and the Member State which will hold it for the next six months. The Troïka is assisted by the Commission and represents the Union in external relations coming under the common foreign and security policy.

The Troïka in its present form has been altered by the Treaty of Amsterdam and replaced by a system whereby the Presidency is assisted by the Secretary-General of the Council, in his capacity as High Representative for the common foreign and security policy, and by the Commission.