

**E.U. eastward enlargement: an ELEC vision**

Position of the Enlargement Commission (Warsaw - 15 May 1998)  
adopted by the London Central Council (19 June 1998)

**A. The rationale for enlargement**

Enlargement to include the ten applicant states of Central and Eastern Europe (CEECs) <sup>[\*]</sup>, together with Cyprus, will consolidate the ending of the cold war by helping to complete the transition of those countries from communism to democracy and from centrally planned to market economies, thus reconciling Eastern and Western Europe on a basis similar to that of Franco-German reconciliation. There are two main underlying aims of this "return to Europe". First to achieve peace throughout the whole of Europe to ensure that the 21st century in Europe is not like the 20th century, that there is not another 1914 or 1939. The second is to give Europe its due weight in world affairs.

*[\*] Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia*

**B. ELEC's vision of the enlarged EU**

A vision ELEC wishes to see become reality, as a result of EU eastward enlargement, includes:

1. a zone of peace, prosperity, democracy and respect for human and minority rights, stretching from the Atlantic to the Baltic, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea,
2. a European Union active in conflict prevention and peace-keeping, in close cooperation with the UN and NATO,
3. an evolving relationship of friendship and cooperation between the enlarged EU and Russia and, also, hinterland countries lying to the South and the East,
4. an institutionally reformed Union that can function more efficiently following enlargement with, in particular, an effective decision-making procedure based on majority voting, with, also, a more significant role for the European Parliament,
5. a Europe that is increasingly a "Europe of the Regions" - administratively, economically and culturally - in which the level of decision-making is brought as close as possible to the citizen,
6. for old EU members, a broader-based domestic market for their products, and a larger - temporarily low-cost - skilled workforce; new opportunities for investment, with economies of scale leading to a more competitive Europe in the world market: for the new members, full access to the single market and participation in a zone of economic and social cohesion,
7. a Europe that - while recognising that the WTO provides the most suitable framework for multilateral trade liberalisation - takes the lead within the WTO in insisting that world trade liberalisation be accompanied by health and social provisions aimed at preventing social degradation,

8. a Europe pledged to innovative job-creating policies,
9. a Europe that reappraises its social model and develops an effective dialogue between state, employers and employees concerning pay and social and working conditions,
10. a Europe in which rural development and a reformed CAP will ensure a useful future for Europe's agricultural population and a rational one for the countryside,
11. a Europe in which new technology provides a clean environment,
12. a European Union whose enlarged geographical area is linked by efficient networks of land, air and water communications,
13. a Europe which provides for its citizens a zone of internal security in which national authorities cooperate to suppress organised crime.

### **C. An ELEC vision for the future of the CEECs**

ELEC wishes to see the CEECs

1. **adopt** and implement the *acquis communautaire*
2. **build** and maintain stable and efficient administrative institutions at national, regional and local levels
3. **develop** a 3civil society3 with a lively 3third sector3
4. **carry through** the creation of an appropriate enabling environment to help the completion of transition
5. **complete** economic transition, which is a broader and longer-term process than accession to the EU
6. **reform** the neglected social sectors - pension systems, health care, education, etc.
7. **assist** the growth of SMEs, so helping to create an entrepreneurial society and a middle class
8. **strengthen** the financial and banking sectors
9. **restructure** their agriculture
10. **develop** their transport and other infrastructure
11. **introduce** new technology which will provide a clean environment.

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