

STAGED ACCESSION MODEL

As a proposal for operationalisation of the revised enlargement methodology

NEW MEMBER STATE



Full participation in the EU policies and institutions, subject to certain temporary institutional limitations, such as limiting the exercise of the veto power in the Council



EU citizenship rights



Funding level equal to the corresponding amounts for conventional membership

STAGED ACCESSION MODEL

CREATING ROOM FOR DIALOGUE

EARLY INTEGRATION

- European Council - policy dialogue from Stage I
- Council of the EU - policy dialogue and selective observer participation from Stage I; participation with speaking rights from Stage II
- European Parliament - observer MEPs delegated by national parliaments from Stage I; national MPs with speaking rights in EP
- Court of Justice - staff appointments from Stage II
- Comitology - Policy dialogue, very selectively, from Stage I; observers, selectively, from Stage II
- Consultative bodies - Joint Consultative Committee(s) in Stages I and II

PRIORITISATION OF THE FUNDAMENTALS

QUANTIFIED RATINGS

- As a clear basis for progress through stages
- Not only chapters but also fundamental subareas (public administration reform, economic, and political criteria) should be quantified

FUNDAMENTALS

- Unlike other clusters which would require an average rating of 3, all chapters and sub-areas in Cluster 1 would require a minimum rating of 3 (moderate level of preparedness) to enter Stage I
- Unlike other clusters which would require an average rating of 4, all chapters and sub-areas in Cluster 1 would require a minimum rating of 4 (minimum good) to enter Stage II

DYNAMICS OF PROGRESS BASED ON ROBUST AND TRANSPARENT ASSESSMENT OF MERIT

SIX CLUSTERS

- The model keeps the clustering system
- Adding qualitative assessment for the Fundamental's subarea of functioning of democratic institutions
- Quantification of all qualitative assessments as a final step in assessing and comparing progress

CLEAR ROADMAP FOR PROGRESS THROUGH STAGES

GREATER CLARITY OF PROGRESS CRITERIA

- I stage: minimum moderate ratings of [3] for cluster averages
- II stage: mix of moderate to good ratings, minimum average rating of [4]
- III stage: Advanced levels of preparedness across all clusters; all chapters closed
- IV stage: Advanced levels of preparedness maintained

PROGRESSIVE ACCESS TO NEW FUNDING INSTRUMENTS

Progressive increase of available funding for structural and investment projects

REVERSIBILITY

- Simplifying procedures in case of serious stagnation or backsliding
- By increasing stakes, the acceding country will have much more to lose
- Clear reversibility mechanisms: freezing specific benefits in case of stagnation or mild backsliding; reversing a stage in case of serious backsliding

REVISED ENLARGEMENT METHODOLOGY

STRONGER POLITICAL STEER

POLITICAL AND POLICY DIALOGUE

Creating new opportunities for the dialogue, especially in the areas where alignment is progressing well and key criteria are being met (observers in the key EU meetings on the matters of substantial importance to them)

CREDIBILITY

MERIT BASED PROCESS

When partner countries meet the objective criteria, member states shall agree to move forward to the next stage of the process

STRONGER FOCUS ON FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS

Results on these reforms will be a requirement for deeper sectorial integration and progress



MORE DYNAMIC PROCESS

CLUSTERING CHAPTERS

This will allow for targeted dialogues and identification of opportunities for accelerated alignment and integration in all EU policy areas - clear benefits for partner countries



PREDICTABILITY

CONDITIONALITY

- Encourage real political will
- Greater clarity on what the EU expects at different stages of the process and what are the positive and negative consequences
- Conditions must be objective, precise, detailed, strict and verifiable, accompanied with third-party indicators
- Clear and tangible incentives of direct interest to citizens; increased funding and investments
- Closer integration - "phasing-in" to individual EU policies, programmes and the EU market
- Simplified procedures require for more decisive measures of sanctioning stagnation or backsliding

CREDIBLE ACCESSION PERSPECTIVE

A KEY TOOL TO PROMOTE

RULE OF LAW

DEMOCRACY

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

