



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 15 May 2000

8338/00

LIMITE

**EVAL 19
ELARG 56**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : Collective Evaluation Working Party
date : 5 May 2000

I. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as set out in telex no. 1799 of 19.4.2000 was adopted, subject to a modification in the order of discussion of the items.

I. Thematic analysis and discussion on existing material concerning justice in Romania
(doc. 7915/00 EVAL 17 ELARG 47)

Delegations welcomed the analysis but were unable to comment the document in depth due to its late arrival in the capitals. A number of delegations promised to submit their comments in writing before the next meeting.

II. Preliminary draft country report on Romania (doc. 7732/00 EVAL 14 ELARG 42 RESTREINT)

The Presidency underlined the very preliminary nature of this document which was drafted under considerable time-pressure and on the basis of material which is in the process of being updated but was not yet at the disposal of the Council Secretariat.

Additional information was requested by the French delegation in the area of border control (statistics), immigration and asylum (notably illegal immigration and smuggling of people).

The replies from the Embassies in Bucharest to the Presidency questionnaire, received on 5 May, will, after translation, be incorporated into the revised version of the document in time for the next meeting together with the comments made during the meeting (A, F, I, S, Commission) and promised before the next meeting (F, I, S, Commission).

III. Preliminary draft country report on Slovakia (doc. 7878/00 EVAL 16 ELARG 46 RESTREINT)

The Presidency underlined the very preliminary nature of this document also, which was drafted under considerable time-pressure and on the basis of material which is in the process of being updated but was not yet at the disposal of the Council Secretariat.

On border control, the Italian delegation informed the Group of a Twinning Project to be launched shortly involving the training of border police. The Austrian delegation informed the Group of recent developments in Austria resulting in Slovakia's deletion from the list of safe third countries (Viz also Austria's written contribution in the background documents).

Contributions were promised by the French and Austrian delegations on customs.

A revised version of the document will be drafted for the next meeting.

IV. Thematic analysis and discussion on existing material concerning justice in Slovakia
(doc. 7916/00 EVAL 18 ELARG 48)

Delegations welcomed the analysis but were unable to comment the document in depth due to its late arrival in the capitals. A number of delegations promised to submit their comments in writing before the next meeting.

V. Any other business

A. German proposal for a table outlining Member States' bilateral assistance to candidate countries (doc. 6184/00 EVAL 9 ELARG 18)

The Group welcomed the German proposal, a corrected version of which will be annexed to all future Country Reports. Delegations are requested to send their contributions for the completion of this list / table to the Council Secretariat (attn. of Mrs. L. Bot).

B. Tentative timetable and agenda for future meeting

- 24 May : REV 1 of the preliminary draft country reports on Romania and Slovakia; summary-analyses of information on these two countries; a first document on Malta
- 28 June

Delegations were requested to submit as much information as possible on Romania, Slovakia and Malta to the Council Secretariat (attn. of Mrs. L. Bot) well before the next meeting, as well as details on all forms of bilateral assistance / co-operation between their countries and candidate countries in general.

*C. Ongoing discussions in the Enlargement Working Party on the draft EU negotiating positions
(doc. 7568/00 EVAL 13 ELARG 41 restraint: "Accession Negotiations – Comments on the DCP's on Chapter 24 JHA
based on the work of the Collective Evaluation Working Group")*

A number of delegations (E, F, NL) drew attention to the ongoing discussions in the Enlargement Working Party and the important role of the document cited in the heading. Questions were raised as to whether the experts of the CEWG should not play a more prominent role in those discussions, e.g. by presenting concrete drafting proposals, or through direct contact between the chairmen of the two groups. It was concluded that the document in question is presently functioning very satisfactorily inasfar as it influences the discussions and inspires the members of the Enlargement Working Party.

D. Preliminary Country Reports on Cyprus and Slovenia

Translations of these two preliminary country reports, deemed to have been agreed upon at the last meeting, are underway and expected by mid-May. They will be forwarded to Council through the appropriate channels.