

# EASTERN ENLARGEMENT

FROM COLD WAR DIVISION TO 'REUNIFICATION' OF EUROPE

The 'CEEC' Enlargement (2004 & 2007) – 10 states



- Post-WWII all the later CEECS:
  - in Soviet sphere of influence (either satellites or part of USSR itself)
  - single-party political systems
  - state-controlled economic systems
- Move towards EU required:
  - geopolitical relocation – break with USSR
  - domestic regime change
  - double transition
    - Political transition to democracy from 1-party authoritarian state
    - Economic transition to free market from state-trading country with central control of economy → painful period of economic reform, loss of security
- for some, triple transition → independent statehood

- Existed as East European states during Cold War
  - Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria
- Part of another East European state
  - Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia
- Republics of the USSR
  - Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
- Eastern Enlargement as outcome of breakup of 3 states
  - Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia
- 6 countries going through triple transition (establishing independent statehood)
  - Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

# COPENHAGEN CRITERIA: A PROGRAMME FOR RESHAPING THE STATE

*Membership requires:*

- *(a) that the candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities*
- *(b) the existence of a functioning market economy as well as the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union*
- *(c) Membership presupposes the candidate's ability to take on the obligations of membership including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union."*

# ASSOCIATION AS A PREREQUISITE FOR MEMBERSHIP

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, COPENHAGEN, June 1993

- *“The European Council today agreed that the associated countries in Central and Eastern Europe that so desire shall become members of the European Union. Accession will take place as soon as an associated country is able to assume the obligations of membership by satisfying the economic and political conditions required”*

# THE EUROPE AGREEMENTS

COUNTRY	APPLIED	IMPLEMENTED		COUNTRY	APPLIED	IMPLEMENTED
HUNGARY	1990	1994		SLOVAKIA	1993	1995
POLAND	1990	1994		ESTONIA	1994	1995
ROMANIA	1992	1995		LATVIA	1994	1995
BULGARIA	1992	1995		LITHUANIA	1994	1995
CZECH REP.	1993	1995		SLOVENIA	1995	1996

- Free trade area to be created over 20 years, only for industrial goods
- Financial assistance
- Membership perspective

# FROM ASSOCIATION TO ACCESSION

- Accession applications
  - 1994: Hungary, Poland
  - 1995: Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia
  - 1996: Czech Republic, Slovenia
- 1997 European Commission publishes 'Opinions' on CEEC applicants
  - What is an 'Opinion'?
- Nature of accession negotiations
  - Compliance with Copenhagen criteria
  - 31 'technical' chapters
  - Asymmetrical process
  - Annual monitoring process ("doing homework")

# THE ROAD TO ENTRY

## FAST AND SLOW TRACK ENTRANTS

- European Council, Luxembourg, 1997
  - All 10 CEECs recognised as membership candidates
  - ‘Fast track’ group to start negotiations 1998
    - Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia, Cyprus
- European Council, Helsinki, 1999
  - ‘Helsinki group’: Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Bulgaria to start negotiations 2000

European Council, Copenhagen, 2002

- Eight CEECs could join EU in 2004 & hope to end negotiations with Romania & Bulgaria