

## **XXIIIrd COSAC - Versailles - 16-17 October 2000**

### **ANSWERS OF THE HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ADDRESSED TO THE APPLICANT STATES**

#### **Information of the European integration committee**

The Committee on European Integration Affairs of the Hungarian Parliament receives the necessary information mainly from the Government and the respective ministries. This is natural, because the committee exercises parliamentary control over the Government's activity in the field of the European integration. In the regular committee meetings we get written and oral information from the responsible ministerial officials about the different aspects of the integration process.

As regards the European Commission and the European Parliament we obtain usually the necessary information about these institutions by the Internet. The European Parliament frequently sends us the working papers prepared by the Directorate General for Research. Some national parliaments ( e.g. French National Assembly and the Senate) forward their publications to our committee. Additionally we subscribed to some newspapers dealing with European issues (European Voice, Single Market News) as well as the Integration Newsletter issued by the Hungarian News Agency.

#### **Integration of European legislation**

There is no special proceedings for implementing the EC legislation into the Hungarian law. Thus our parliament transposes the Community legislation through the standard legislative process. Our committee in most of the cases discusses the bills implementing the Community law, but it does not mean a specific role.

#### **Accession negotiations**

The Committee on European Integration Affairs follows the accession negotiations thoroughly and comprehensively. In the course of the screening process we have heard regularly the officials participating in the *acquis* screening. During the accession negotiations either the foreign minister or the responsible foreign state secretary informed our committee about the position papers approved by the Government. In some sensitive cases we have discussed the position papers prior to the governmental approval. The officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs give accounts to the committee of the developments of the negotiation rounds after each round.

#### **Conformity of national law to European legislation**

Yes, pursuant to Act XI of 1987 on Legislation the Government has to verify the conformity of the proposed legislation in the explanation of the bills. This verification should be detailed and comprehensive. By this explanation Parliament and mainly the appointed standing committees are able and obliged to scrutinise the conformity of the bills submitted to Parliament. The governmental officials in the course of the committee hearings have to explain also the respective EC legislation that was taken into account in the elaboration of the bill. Yes, our committee as an appointed committee participate in the legal harmonisation process.

### **Other committees for European legislation**

The Committee on European Integration Affairs was set up by the Hungarian Parliament in June 1992. This was the first EU Committee out of the Central European applicant countries, therefore we were unable to get some experiences from other applicant states. Yes, we are eager to keep regular contacts with other integration committees both in multilateral and bilateral fora.

### **Community aid**

We receive technical assistance from the European institutions by training the parliamentary staff in different seminars. The national parliaments of the member states provide us with their experiences gained in the previous years. Yes this assistance was sufficient.