



Enlargement Contribution to the States that joined the EU in 2004 and 2007

June 2013

Switzerland is making its contribution to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the enlarged European Union (EU). Despite high growth rates in the years immediately following their accession, the level of affluence in the new EU member states is relatively low and the difference between them and the old EU member states is relatively large. Some of the new EU states have been severely affected by the consequences of the financial and economic crisis and Switzerland's contribution is therefore greatly appreciated. Switzerland's contribution in the framework of the enlarged EU is an expression of solidarity. At the same time, Switzerland is establishing a vital basis for solid economic and political relations with the EU and its member states. The partner states of the Enlargement Contribution are the 10 states that joined the EU on 1 May 2004, plus Bulgaria and Romania, which acceded to the EU on 1 January 2007.

Switzerland's contribution to the 12 states that most recently joined the EU¹, which amounts to more than CHF 1.257 billion, is implemented by Switzerland autonomously. It is not part of the EU's cohesion policy. Switzerland has concluded individual framework agreements with all twelve partner states; the agreements govern the procedures and obligations concerning the Enlargement Contribution. The legal basis for the Enlargement Contribution is the Federal Act of 24 March 2006 on Cooperation with the States of Eastern Europe, which the people of Switzerland approved in a referendum on 26 November 2006.

With this commitment, Switzerland acknowledges the importance of the EU enlargement for overcoming the division of Europe and for ensuring security, stability and prosperity across the whole continent.

Project financing applications can be submitted for approval for a maximum period of five years (commitment period). The period during which projects

will be implemented and paid for however is expected to extend over a period of ten years.



¹ Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

Key data

- 1 May 2004: Accession of Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Hungary and Cyprus (the EU-10) to the EU.
- 27 February 2006: Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning the EU-10
- 26 November 2006: Approval of the legal basis (Eastern Europe Cooperation Act) by the people (53.4 % majority)
- 4 June 2007: Approval of the Framework Credit for the EU-10 by Parliament (CHF 1 billion)
- 1 January 2007: Romania and Bulgaria join the EU.
- 20 December 2007: Signing of the Bilateral Framework Agreements with the EU-10
- 20 February 2008: Federal Council decides to extend Switzerland's Enlargement Contribution to Bulgaria and Romania.
- 25 June 2008: Signing of the Addendum to the Declaration of Intent concerning Bulgaria and Romania
- 7 December 2009: Approval of the Framework Credit for Bulgaria and Romania by Parliament (CHF 257 million)
- 7 September 2010: Signing of the Bilateral Framework Agreement with Bulgaria and Romania
- 14 June 2012: End of the commitment period for the EU-10
- 7 December 2014: End of the commitment period for Bulgaria and Romania
- 14 June 2017: End of the project implementation for the EU-10
- 7 December 2019: End of the project implementation for Bulgaria and Romania

Further information

Swiss enlargement contribution:
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