

Citizen's Summary

EU report – Progress by potential new members

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

The Commission is required by EU governments to report annually on progress achieved by all countries that are official **candidates or potential candidates** for EU membership.

This monitoring process ensures that aspiring countries are admitted only when they have met all the requirements for joining.

The main reports produced are the:

- **annual strategy document** – outlining the Commission's approach to the common challenges facing the countries and setting out a way forward for each of them.
- **progress reports** – dedicated assessment for each (potential) candidate country of their progress in the last year.

WHICH COUNTRIES ARE CONCERNED?

Official membership candidates

- Montenegro (*opened formal membership negotiations in June 2012*)
- Serbia (*a decision by the EU to open formal negotiations with Serbia was taken in June 2013*)
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Turkey
- Iceland (*formal negotiations on hold following April 2013 election*)

Potential membership candidates

- Albania
- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Kosovo*

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCE OF THESE REPORTS?

At EU level

- The strategy paper will provide the basis for a **debate** among member governments in the EU Council.
- The governments will then decide at their summit in December 2013 about possible **next steps** towards EU membership on the basis of each country's merits. Any such decision has to be unanimous.

In the candidate countries

- Each will receive a clear indication of the current **state of play** regarding its efforts to join.
- The Commission will continue to help each country **implement** the necessary reforms.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.