



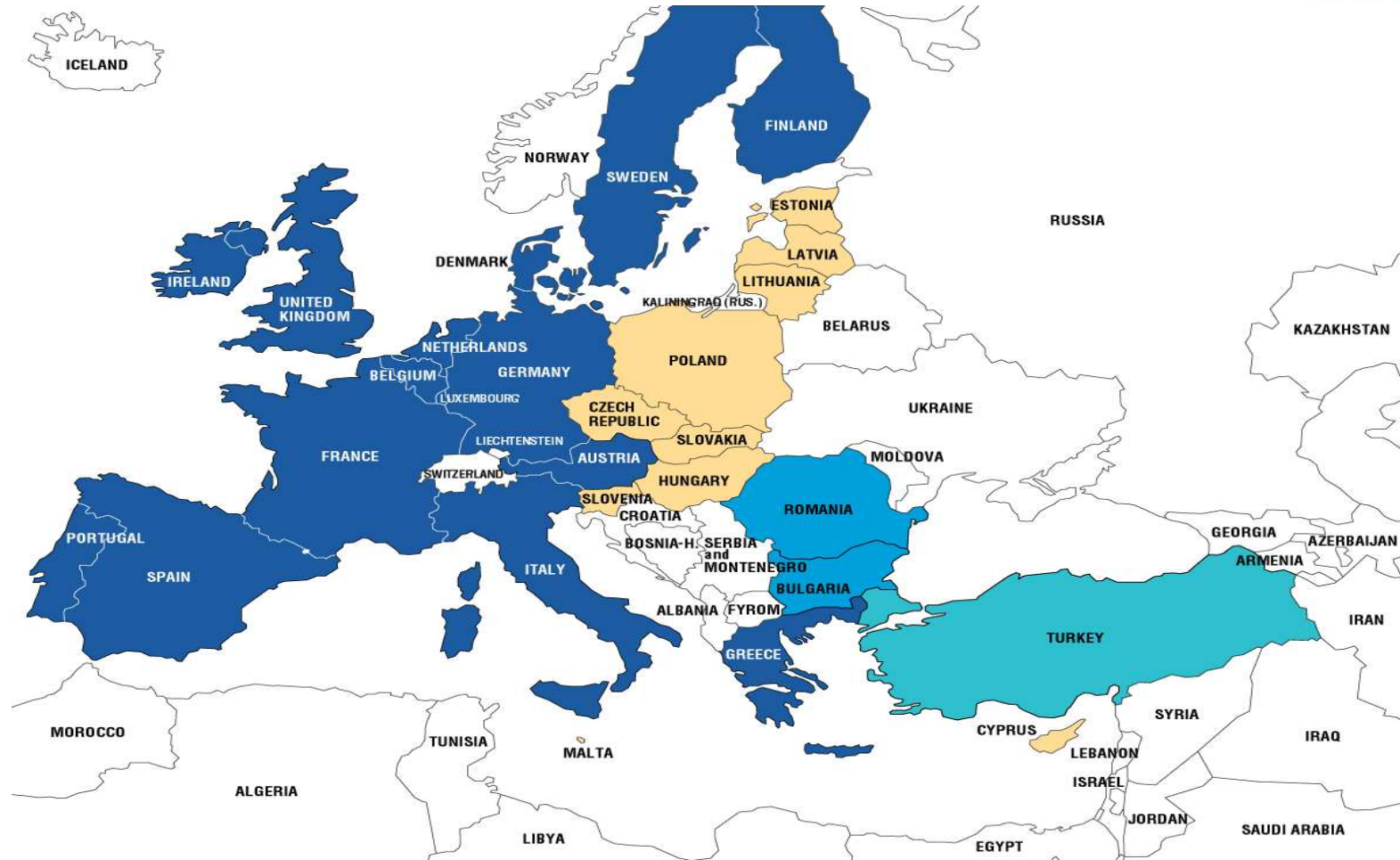
# The EU and its policies towards the neighbours

Seminar "Let's meet our neighbours and the world"  
Marly le Roi - France  
31 May – 3 June 2007

**Giorgio Guazzugli Marini**  
European Commission - Directorate General for Education and Culture



## 2004...and 2007 - 5th and 6th enlargement





## New challenges ahead

- EU's 5th and 6th Enlargements (2004 / 2007) are changing political geography of Europe
- EU 27 now has 493 Mio citizens
- EU gains new borders
- New opportunities – new challenges
- Need for greater engagement with neighbours East & South





# European Neighbourhood Policy

- ✓ Sharing the benefits of enlargement, not creating new dividing lines
- ✓ Promoting reform & good governance
- ✓ Creating a “ring of friends”, an area of peace, stability and prosperity based on shared values and common interests





## ENP partner countries

- Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine.
- Specific case - Strategic Partnership with Russian Federation via "Common Spaces"





## Content of the policy

- Significant economic integration and deepening political co-operation
- Based on common values and common interests
- Assistance for reforms





# Principles

- ENP is not about enlargement
- ENP opens doors; it does not close any
- Differentiation
- Partnership & joint ownership
- Build on existing contractual framework (PCA\*, AA\*\*, Barcelona)

\*PCA : Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

\*\*AA : Association Agreement



# Added value from ENP



- More focused policy approach, bringing together various policy instruments
- Upgrade scope and intensity of cooperation
- Encourage reforms, economic, political, and social development
- Increased financial and technical assistance





# Action plans



- Key operational instrument
- Country-specific, tailor-made political documents
- Jointly defined priorities for political and economic reforms
- Short & medium term priorities
- Guidance for assistance programming

**Main areas:** Political Dialogue; Economic reforms; Co-operation in Justice and Home Affairs; Transport; Energy; Information society; Environment; **People-to-people exchanges**; R&D; Civil society



## State of play of ENP Action Plans

ENP partner countries	Entry into force of contractual relations with EC	ENP Country Report	ENP Action Plan	Adoption by EU	Adoption by partner country
<b>Algeria</b>	AA – Sept 2005	--	--	–	–
<b>Armenia</b>	PCA – 1999	March 2005	Agreed autumn 2006	13.11.2006	14.11.2006
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	PCA – 1999	March 2005	Agreed autumn 2006	13.11.2006	14.11.2006
<b>Belarus</b>	--	--	--	–	–
<b>Egypt</b>	AA – Jun 2004	March 2005	Largely agreed autumn 2006	06.03.2007	06.03.2007
<b>Georgia</b>	PCA – 1999	March 2005	Agreed autumn 2006	13.11.2006	14.11.2006
<b>Israel</b>	AA - Jun 2000	May 2004	Agreed end 2004	21.02.2005	11.04.2005
<b>Jordan</b>	AA - May 2002	May 2004	Agreed end 2004	21.02.2005	11.01.2005 02.06.2005
<b>Lebanon</b>	AA - April 2006	March 2005	Agreed autumn 2006	17.10.2006	Pending
<b>Libya</b>	--	--	--	–	–
<b>Moldova</b>	PCA - Jul 1998	May 2004	Agreed end 2004	21.02.2005	22.02.2005
<b>Morocco</b>	AA - Mar 2000	May 2004	Agreed end 2004	21.02.2005	27.07.2005
<b>Palestinian Authority</b>	Interim AA - Jul 1997	May 2004	Agreed end 2004	21.02.2005	04.05.2005
<b>Syria</b>	--	--	--	–	–
<b>Tunisia</b>	AA – Mar 1998	May 2004	Agreed end 2004	21.02.2005	04.07.2005
<b>Ukraine</b>	PCA – Mar 1998	May 2004	Agreed end 2004	21.02.2005	21.02.2005

\* AA: Association Agreement

\*\* PCA: Partnership and Cooperation Agreement





# The European Union and the Western Balkans



# The European perspective



« The future of the Western Balkans is within the European Union. (...) Preparation for integration into European structures and ultimate membership into the European Union, through the adoption of European standards, is now the big challenge ahead »

**EU-Western Balkans Summit  
Thessaloniki Declaration, June 2003**



# Candidates in the Western Balkans

## State of play



- accession negotiations with Croatia officially launched at GAERC in Luxembourg on 3 October 2005.
- In December 2005, the European Council decided to grant candidate country status also to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with whom accession negotiations have not started yet.
- All the Western Balkans have a European perspective.
- Future enlargements will go at the pace dictated by each country's performance in meeting the rigorous standards, to ensure the smooth absorption of eventual new members.
- Dates of application for EU Membership:
  - Croatia: 21.02.2003
  - The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: 22.03.2004



# Youth in Action – Different status



- ENP countries (EECA and Meda): Partner Countries
- Western Balkans (SEE):
  - in the future: Programme Countries (art. 5.1, lett. d of YiA legal basis)
  - now: Partner Countries, "*until they fulfil the requirements of Article 5(1) (d).*"



# YiA - Specific measures for SEE



- Possibility for SEE org. To apply directly to the EACEA
- Western Balkans Window
- Preparatory measures for potential NAs in SEE countries (how to cooperate?)





# More info...



## <http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/>

The Policy: Welcome! - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by European Commission

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Address [http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/welcome\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/welcome_en.htm)

**European Neighbourhood Policy** English (en)

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**The policy**

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- Conferences & seminars
- Academic and other research

**The Policy: Welcome!**



*Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner*

The European Union is enjoying an unprecedentedly high standard of living, and the longest peace in its history - but what about the states just outside its borders? Just at a time when we have ended the division of our continent, it is important that the outer perimeter of the EU should not become a new dividing line.

The European Neighbourhood Policy is all about working together with those states who share a land or sea border with the EU, to increase their prosperity and stability too.

Neighbours who want to carry out reforms to improve their standards of democracy and human rights, to increase their access to the Union's single market, to improve the environment or to step up their co-operation with the EU on issues like energy, transport or migration, have the chance to work on a joint Action Plan with the EU, and can look forward to substantial assistance: technical help, political support, and more aid money.

The European Neighbourhood Policy is just two years old, and is already bearing fruit. [Progress reports which the Commission presented on 4 December](#) show the very concrete advances being made thanks to the European Neighbourhood Policy.

The Commission also [proposed to increase the offer the European Union makes to its neighbours still further](#), for instance by:

- Increased economic and trade integration, beyond free trade in goods and services, and including on products of particular importance to our partners
- making it easier for some categories of visitors to get visas e.g. students, business people, NGOs, journalists, officials
- more exchange between citizens - on education (including an ENP scholarship)





and further info



<http://www.ec.europa.eu/enlargement>

