

Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements

TABLE D1 Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements				
Country	Negotiations started	Agreement concluded	Agreement signed	Comes into force
Tunisia	December 1994	June 1995	July 1995	December 1997
Israel	December 1993	September 1995	November 1995	June 2000
Morocco	December 1993	November 1995	February 1996	March 2000
Palestine	May 1996	December 1996	February 1997	July 1997*
Jordan	July 1995	April 1997	November 1997	May 2002
Egypt	March 1995	June 1999	June 2001	June 2004
Algeria	June 1997	December 2001	April 2002	-
Libya	November 1995	January 2002	June 2002	**-
Syria	March 1998	October 2004		-

* Temporary agreement signed between the EU and the PLO (in benefit of the National Palestine Authority)

** In March 2003 a temporary commercial agreement came into force that permits the application of Association commercial agreements without having to wait for its ratification

- To come into force the Association agreements have to be ratified by the European Parliament, the member country's parliament and by the parliaments of the twenty-five member states of the European Union.
- The EU-Syria negotiations concluded in October 2004. In December 2003 agreement had been reached in all areas except for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). This provision was introduced by the EU in the negotiations in November 2003, as a result of a new EU strategy regarding WMD. With this agreement, the EU completed the network of Association Agreements with the member countries of the Barcelona Process.
- Turkey is governed by the customs union that took effect in January 1996, based on the 1963 first generation agreement, until its adhesion to the EU.
- Since its participation at the 1999 Stuttgart Conference, as the special guest of the EU presidency, Libya has taken part as an observer in some of the meetings of the Barcelona Process.

TABLE D2 Stabilisation and Association Agreements with the Western Balkan Countries				
Country	Negotiations started	Agreement signed	Comes into force (temporary agreement)	Comes into force
Albania	January 2003	-	-	
Bosnia-Herzegovina	-	-	-	
Croatia	November 2000	October 2001	March 2002	(anticipated) February 2005
Macedonia	March 2000	April 2001	June 2001	April 2004
Serbia and Montenegro	-	-	-	

- The relations of the EU with the western Balkans are detailed in the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP). SAP is a framework, in which various instruments are developed, such as the CARDS programme. SAP assists these countries to carry out the political and economic transition, in order to prepare themselves to have a new contractual relation with the EU: the Stabilisation and Association Agreements (SAA) move towards having a closer association with the EU. The SAAs are centred on respect for democratic principles and reinforcing the ties with the single European market. These agreements form the basis for establishing a free trade area with the EU. At the moment, Croatia and Macedonia have already signed the SAAs with the EU.
- The June 2003 European Council of Thessaloniki reconfirmed the EU perception of the Western Balkan countries as potential candidates to integrate themselves into the Union. In March 2003 Croatia presented its application to the EU. In April 2004 the European Commission recommended that negotiations should be opened for the adhesion of Croatia. The Brussels European Council conceded to Croatia the status of candidate country in June 2004. In December, the European Council decided that the negotiations would begin in March 2005, although it remained conditional on Croatia fully collaborating with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.
- On 22nd March 2004, the Republic of Macedonia presented its application for membership to the EU. In May the same year, the European Commission was requested by the European Council to prepare a response to the application.