

The Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements

TABLE D1		Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements			
Country	Start of Negotiations	Agreement Concluded	Agreement Signed	Entry 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	September 2005	
Lebanon	November 1995	January 2002	June 2002	April 2006	
Syria	March 1998	October 2004 / December 2008			

* Interim agreement signed by the EU and the PLO (to the benefit of the Palestinian Authority).

- To enter into force each Association Agreement must be ratified by the European Parliament, the Parliament of the Partner Country and the Parliaments of the 25 Member States of the European Union.
- Until its accession to the EU, Turkey shall be governed by the Customs Union Agreement, which entered into force in January 1996 and is based on the First Generation Agreement of 1963.
- In 2008 the Association Agreement with Syria was revised. It was planned to be ratified on 26 October 2009. However, Syria indefinitely postponed signing the Association Agreement with the European Union. The agreement will enter into force provisionally when it is signed by Syria. The definitive entry into force requires the European Parliament's evaluation and ratification by the Member States. In December 2011, Syria suspended its adhesion to UpM

TABLE D2		Stabilisation and Association Agreements with Western Balkan Countries					
Country	Start of Negotiations	Agreement Signed	Entry into Force (Interim Agreement)	Entry into Force	Candidate Country	Start of Negotiations	Entry into the EU
Albania	January 2003	June 2006	December 2006	April 2009			
Bosnia and Herzegovina	November 2005	June 2008	July 2008				
Croatia	November 2000	October 2001	March 2002	February 2005	June 2004	October 2005	July 2013
FYROM	March 2000	April 2001	June 2001	April 2004	December 2005		
Serbia	October 2005	April 2008	February 2010	January 2010			
Montenegro	October 2005 / July 2006*	October 2007	January 2008	May 2010	December 2010		

* On 21 May 2006, a referendum was held, which led to Montenegro's independence from the Federation it had formed with Serbia.

- EU relations with the Western Balkan Countries are regulated by the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP). The SAP serves as a framework for the development of various instruments and helps each country to carry out political and economic transition preparing them for a new contractual relationship with the EU: the Stabilisation and Association Agreements (SAAs), under which they aim to progress towards closer association with the EU.

- Negotiations with Serbia were interrupted in May 2006 due to lack of progress in cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). In early 2007, the new administration in Belgrade launched a plan and constituted a National Council for cooperation with the ICTY, a measure which allowed negotiations to resume on 13 June 2007. In April 2008, the European Union and Serbia signed the agreement. The Interim Agreement will not enter into force until the EU Council considers that Serbia is fully cooperating with the ICTY. In December 2009, the Council unfroze the Interim Agreement, which entered into force in February 2010. The SAA came into force in January 2011.
- After its declaration and the EU's acknowledgement of Montenegro as a sovereign and independent State, the EU has maintained relations with independent Montenegro. The SAA was signed on 15 October 2007. In January 2008, the entry into force of the Interim Agreement represented progress towards the national ratification process and closer relations with the EU. The SAA entered into force in May 2010.
- Three years after the start of negotiations between the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2005, the SAA was signed and the Interim Agreement took effect. However, despite real progress in collaboration with the ICTY, the Commission still notes numerous dysfunctions in the institutional and judiciary spheres.
- More than seven years after the start of the negotiations, Croatia will join the European Union on 1st July 2013.
- In June 2003, the Thessaloniki European Council decided that all Western Balkan countries be considered as potential candidates for EU accession. FYROM (2005) and Montenegro (2010) have already been granted candidate country status. Albania (2009) and Serbia (2009) have also applied for EU accession.

TABLE D3 European Neighbourhood Action Plans

Country	Israel	Jordan	Tunisia	Palestinian Territories	Morocco	Egypt	Lebanon	Algeria	Libya
Adoption by the country	April 2005	June 2005	July 2005	May 2005	July 2005	March 2007	January 2007	-	-

- The ENP Action Plans allow the European Union to maintain a progressive, differentiated policy towards its neighbouring countries based on the different levels of cooperation established.
- An Action Plan, developed after the signing of an Association Agreement, establishes priorities and a timetable for political and economic reform. Action Plans are the operational tools of the legal framework represented by the Association Agreements.
- Progress is analysed each year through evaluation reports. The extent of the progress made determines the levels of cooperation and access to the European Market.
- In 2011 there was no progress made by the two countries which are yet to agree an Action Plan (However on December 2011, the Foreign Affairs Minister, Mourad Medelci, affirmed that Algeria had accepted to take part in exploratory talks with the European Union on ENP)