For the Association Agreements to come into force they must be ratified by the European Parliament, the Parliament of the partner country and by the parliaments of the twenty-five member states of the European Union.

Turkey is governed by the customs union which came into force in January 1996, based on the first generation agreement 1963, until its accession to the EU.

The relations of the EU with the countries of the Western Balkans take place within the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP). The SAP is the framework in which several instruments are developed and it assists countries to implement the political and economic transition that prepares them for a new contractual relation with the EU: the Stabilisation and Association Agreements (SAA) to advance towards a stronger association with the EU.

The negotiations with Serbia were interrupted in May 2006 due to lack of advances in cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). In early 2007 the new Belgrade gov-
The government implemented a plan and a National Council for Cooperation with the ICTY, which opened the door to resumption of negotiations on 13 June 2007.

- After its declaration and recognition as a sovereign and independent state, the EU has developed relations with Montenegro as an independent state. Once the negotiation guidelines for a SAA with Montenegro were approved in July 2006, the negotiations were concluded in April and signed on 15 October 2007. Completion of the national ratification procedures is pending.

- In October 2005, the European Council approved the start of negotiations for the accession of Croatia to the EU. Croatia adopted its national programme for adhesion to the EU in January 2007, and ministerial meetings took place in June and July 2007 to continue the political and economic dialogue.

### TABLE D3 Action Plans of the European Neighbourhood Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Israel</th>
<th>Jordan</th>
<th>Tunisia</th>
<th>Palestinian Territories</th>
<th>Morocco</th>
<th>Egypt</th>
<th>Lebanon</th>
<th>Algeria</th>
<th>Libya</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adoption by the country</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- The action plans allow the European Union to have a progressive and differentiated policy towards its neighbouring countries, through the different levels of cooperation they permit.
- The plan, prepared after the signing of Association Agreements, establishes the priorities of the political and economic reforms and a calendar. The action plans are the operational tools of the legal framework represented by the Association Agreements.
- Annually, assessment reports analyse the progress made. In function of the advances, expansion of cooperation and greater access to the European market will be decided upon.