

# 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	September 2005	
Lebanon	November 1995	January 2002	June 2002	**-	
Syria	March 1998	October 2004		-	

\* Interim agreement signed by the EU and the PLO (representing the Palestinian National Authority).

\*\* In March 2003, an intermediate trade agreement came into force, making it possible to apply the commercial provisions of the Association Agreement before full ratification.

- So that Association Agreements may come into force, they must be ratified by the European Parliament, the parliament of the partner state, and by the parliaments of the twenty-five member states of the European Union.
- The Association Agreement between Algeria and the European Union, signed in Valencia on April 22nd 2002 and ratified by the Algerian parliament in April 2005, comes into force in September 2005.
- 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		Stabilization and Association Agreements with the Western Balkans Countries			
Country	Negotiations started	Agreement signed	Comes into force (interim agreement)	Comes into force	
Albania	January 2003	-	-		
Bosnia Herzegovina	November 2005	-	-		
Croatia	November 2000	October 2001	March 2002	February 2005	
Macedonia	March 2000	April 2001	June 2001	April 2004	
Serbia and Montenegro	October 2005	-	-		

- The EU's relations with the countries of the western Balkans are channelled through the Stabilization and Association Process (SAP). The SAP is the framework within which various instruments are applied, including the CARDS programme. The SAP helps countries to implement the political and economic transition which can prepare them for a new contractual relationship with the EU: the Stabilization and Association Agreements (SAA) through which they will be able to progress towards a closer association with the EU. The SAA focus on respect for democratic principles and reinforcing ties with the European single market. The purpose of these agreements is to establish a free trade area with the EU. At the present time Croatia and Macedonia have already signed SAAs with the EU.
- The European Council meeting at Thessalonica in June 2003 reconfirmed the EU's perception of the countries of the Western Balkans as potential candidates to join the Union. In March 2003 Croatia presented its application to join the EU. In April 2004 the European Commission recommended opening negotiations for Croatia's entry into the Union. The European Council meeting at Brussels in June 2004 recognized Croatia as a candidate for membership. In December the European Council decided that negotiations would begin in March 2005, although this was conditional upon the full collaboration of Croatia with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The lack of collaboration on the part of the Croatian authorities resulted in the beginning of negotiations being delayed until October 2005.
- On March 22nd 2004 the Republic of Macedonia presented its application to become a member of the EU. In May the same year the European Commission was asked by the European Council to prepare a reply concerning this application. The Commission presented its opinion in November 2005, recommending that Macedonia should be considered as a candidate to join the EU. This decision was reaffirmed by the European Council in December 2005.