



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council Conclusions on The Mechanism on Cooperation and Verification for Bulgaria and Romania

*2888th GENERAL AFFAIRS Council meeting
Brussels, 15 September 2008*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"Reaffirming its conclusions of 17 October 2006, 23 July 2007 and 10 March 2008, the Council welcomes the Commission's reports on progress in Romania and Bulgaria under the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism. The Council commends the Commission on its work and fully shares the objective and balanced analysis contained in those reports.

The Council acknowledges the efforts made by both Member States to make the progress needed to meet the objectives set under the mechanism, and notes their current cooperation with the Commission and the other Member States. It recalls the importance of the political will to take the necessary steps and welcomes the commitment to do so, reaffirmed by Bulgaria and Romania.

The Council calls on Bulgaria and Romania to intensify their efforts by taking all the necessary steps without delay and by demonstrating tangible and lasting results, especially in the areas highlighted in the reports. The existence in each Member State of an impartial, independent and effective administrative and judicial system, with sufficient resources, is indeed indispensable for enabling EU policies to function properly and for ensuring that citizens have access to all the benefits and opportunities offered by membership of the Union.

P R E S S

The Council notes that Romania has put in place the fundamental elements of the administrative and judicial system. Now what is needed is to consolidate the reforms undertaken, and to produce results which are more convincing and more lasting, so as to demonstrate that the system actually functions effectively in all areas.

While noting the efforts already made on the path to reforms, the Council invites Bulgaria to work steadfastly in order to make decisive progress rapidly in all areas. In this respect, it is important that Bulgaria should without delay achieve substantial and convincing results, and that it should implement the far-reaching reforms which are needed in order to have effective institutions and procedures and thus enable Bulgaria's citizens to take full advantage of the assistance provided by the EU.

In cooperation with Bulgaria and Romania, the other Member States are ready to continue to grant every necessary assistance.

The Council notes that the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism is an appropriate tool, and that it will remain in place pending the results expected in this framework. The Council will continue to pay careful attention to developments in this area."
