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# EU Prepares For Poland, Hungary and 4 Other Lands

*Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches*

STRASBOURG — The European Commission agreed Tuesday that Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and Estonia should join Cyprus for talks on being part of the European Union's first expansion into Eastern Europe.

The Commission's Agenda 2000 document, adopted without much discussion by the EU executive, will be presented Wednesday to the European Parliament.

The decision came as no surprise after the 20 commissioners settled differences last week over how many East European countries should join Cyprus in the EU's most ambitious expansion since its creation.

The Agenda 2000 document sets out the expansion plan and the policy changes the EU will have to make to accommodate radically different countries.

It also says that five other applicants — Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia — should be left to prepare to join at their own pace.

Each will have so-called contractual accession partnerships.

Cyprus had already been promised membership talks next year.

The Commission also called for the EU to develop closer links with Turkey, extending beyond the current EU-Turkish customs union.

In a brief statement, it stopped short of suggesting a start of membership

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talks with Ankara.

But it said it had identified areas for cooperation after a request by EU foreign ministers in April.

The document tells the East European applicants they have to make more economic efforts before they cross the threshold.

The changes prescribed in the paper for the existing 15-nation EU involve a new intergovernmental conference soon

after 2000 to overhaul the decision-making procedures to avert constitutional paralysis in a 20-nation bloc.

The EU's summit meeting in Amsterdam on June 16 and 17 focused on how to revise the way decisions are made before enlargement, but a major overhaul would be necessary if the EU is expanded to more than 20.

A radical reform of the EU's Common Agriculture Policy is also discussed in the document, with cuts of