

# European Union sets out eastward plans

The European Commission recommends that 10 applicant countries can finish entry talks by the end of this year and join the European Union by 2004. The new entrants – mostly former communist countries – will be strictly monitored to prevent large flows of migrants from the east

**1957:** Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands become founding members following ratification of *Treaty of Rome*

**1973:** UK, Ireland, Denmark accede

**1981:** Greece admitted

**1984:** Portugal, Spain join

**1994:** Norway rejects membership of EU in referendum

**1995:** Austria, Finland and Sweden join EU

**2002:** Applicants on course to join by 2004 – **Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia**

**2006:** EU to double financial aid to **Turkey**

**2007:** **Bulgaria** and **Romania** expected to join EU “superstate”

