

Crunch time for EU aspirants

The European Commission is expected to recommend that Bulgaria and Romania be allowed to join the EU on January 1, but Brussels will likely impose so-called "safeguard clauses" – limiting their access to EU markets, border regimes and other common EU policies

COUNTRIES WAITING TO JOIN THE EUROPEAN UNION



ROMANIA Population: **21.6 million**

GNI per capita: **\$3,830**

Unemployment: **7.0%**

*Prime Minister **Calin Tariceanu** praised by EU for his fight against corruption – numerous criminal investigations*

into activities of senior officials and members of judiciary underway

BULGARIA Population: **7.7 million**

GNI per capita: **\$3,450**

Unemployment: **13.7%**

*Government of Prime Minister **Sergei Stanishev** has faced criticism for failing to make sufficient*

progress in campaign against corruption and organized crime