

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	BULGARIA	Population: 7.7 million
	GNI per capita: \$3,830 Unemployment: 7.0% <i>Prime Minister Calin Tariceanu praised by EU for his fight against corruption – numerous criminal investigations</i>		GNI per capita: \$3,450 Unemployment: 13.7% <i>Government of Prime Minister Sergei Stanishev has faced criticism for failing to make sufficient</i>
	<i>into activities of senior officials and members of judiciary underway</i>		<i>progress in campaign against corruption and organized crime</i>