

*Voice of the People*

**Manuscript**  
**EU and the Enlargement**  
**With answers from politicians at the Parliament**  
**TVSYD, Brussels**

Crew:

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Duration: 4'50

Music:

## **Translation**

### **EU and the Enlargement**

#### **With answers from politicians at the Parliament**

#### **TVSYD, Brussels**

0'02 Poul Bodholdt, Blacksmith, Denmark

“What countries are in? This is actually the only thing I would like to ask about”

0'06 SIGN:

Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Hungary will become members of the European Union the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004

0'19 Graham Watson, Member of the Parliament, UK

We have ten countries joining the European Union. It sounds like a lot, but in reality it's not a bigger expansion than when Denmark, GB and Ireland joined the Union back in 1970ties. We are increasing our land area by 35%, but our population will grow with under a quarter. It's not too much to digest. But clearly what it does is to provide opportunities for the present citizens of the European Union to visit those countries, to do business there, to travel much more easily across a much wider area. I already know of people from Denmark buying holiday homes in Estonia. This is the kind of development, that enlarging the Union allows for

1'20 Joost Lagendijk, Member of the Parliament, Netherlands

Eight of those 10 countries belong to the former Soviet block. And after 1989 after the fall of the wall we said to them, you're welcome with us. The EU is not only the Western Europe; it's the whole of Europe. Those countries have to prepare it. It takes a long time for those countries to prepare their economy, their politics, and the rule of law. And now they have finally finished that process, and they are welcome. Again the EU is not a Western European project, it's a pan European project. Those countries always wanted to be member, they couldn't do so before 1989, but fortunately for us and for them, they can now become a member

2'00 Bjarne Graversgaard, Project Manager, Denmark

“Where are things going to end? What is the final goal with this enlargement? That I would like to know. Where will they place the future borders and how about the integration, you need to do?”

2'12 SIGN:

Some countries, which applied for membership in 2004, were rejected this time by the European Union

2'21 Joost Lagendijk, Member of the Parliament, Netherlands

I can imagine that a lot of people in Europe now think, are we enlarging until goes boost. I think, that we are approaching the final borders of the European Union. With the 10 new countries in, I think we in the future are talking about the Balkan region consider former Yugoslavia, they will be in, but that could take a long time. We'll have to discuss about Turkey, I'm in favour, and I think Turkey belongs to Europe, but then we are discussing 25 years, I think. Ukraine and Belarus could be members of EU. Russia – on my part – definitely not, nor Africa it's out of the question. So we are approaching the borders, but I think people have to know, that the finalizing of the borders of Europe could take 10, 15 or even 20 years

3'21 Graham Watson, Member of the Parliament, UK

Many people are asking the questions how wide can Europe grow? To me what's important is, that the countries, which seek to join the EU, if they are European countries fulfil the criteria, which were laid down in Copenhagen at the European summit in 1993. If a country wishes to join the Union, at it's prepared to adopt the systems of government and economic management, which allow them to fit within the European single market, and the community of values, which the European Union has become, then we should consider their application seriously

4'00

“Where will the integration go to? And where will it end?”

4'04 SIGN:

The cost due to the enlargement has been set at maximum 41 billions EUR

4'11 Graham Watson, Member of the Parliament, UK

I think a lot of work needs to be done. Clearly the new member states had come a long, long way since their liberation from their yoke of communism, but there is a long further to go, too. I think, we need to proceed with firmness and with determination to bring the economies at places like Latvia and Slovakia up to the levels of our own. We must be able to offer to those people the same kind of security and opportunity, which the Union offers to our present citizens. Only in that way we will have a harmonious community of nations