

# Brussels, 5 March 2002

## **Pat COX calls for frank and realistic dialogue with Poland**

Addressing a joint meeting of the Sejm and Senate European Affairs Committees in Warsaw earlier today Pat Cox said:

"My visit to Poland - the first of my Presidency - illustrates the overriding priority I attach to enlargement and to creating a European Union on a truly continental scale. In our detailed discussions we should not lose sight of the big picture. It is not in Poland's national interest to unbundle the financial arrangements and risk unbundling the timetable for enlargement, with all the negative consequences that would entail. The transition period is a two-way process and we need to make the necessary changes one step at a time. Convergence over time may even happen quicker than has been foreseen."

"As politicians, we have to build Europe together. It is therefore my commitment to bring 50 Polish parliamentarians as observers to the European Parliament, after the accession treaties have been signed. We need a healthy, open and honest dialogue, just as Polish politicians need to communicate with political conviction the message of Poland's contribution to the new Europe."

"In the European Parliament we want enlargement to be a great success and we want Poland to be a part of it. We are ready to listen and to dialogue in this process."