

POSITION PAPER OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
ON CHAPTER 18
EDUCATION AND TRAINING

3. GENERAL STATEMENT

The Republic of Lithuania considers 1 January 2004, the date when it shall be ready to assume the obligations of EU membership.

The Republic of Lithuania accepts in full the *acquis* concerning Education and Training.

The Republic of Lithuania will be ready to implement the *acquis* in this chapter from the date of accession to the European Union.

The Republic of Lithuania does not request transitional periods or derogation in this Chapter.

4. LEGAL BACKGROUND

The Treaty establishing the European Community does not aim to harmonise the national legislation of member states in the field of education and training. The *acquis* requires implementation of Council Directive 77/486/EEC on the education of the children of migrant workers, and ensuring participation of young people in the EU *Socrates*, *Leonardo da Vinci* and *Youth for Europe* programmes.

Lithuania is strengthening its system as necessary for the implementation of this directive. The Law on Education of 25 June 1991, Law on National Minorities of 23 November 1989, Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners of 17 December 1998, Law on the fundamentals of protection of the rights of 14 March 1996 have been adopted and the United Nations Convention on Child Rights was ratified on 3 July 1995. Additional measures necessary for the transposition of the directive will be implemented by 2003.

Legal guarantees ensuring the application of the principles of free movement of students from the date of accession will be established in the new Law on Higher Education to be adopted in the first half of 2000.

After the adoption of Decision No 2/98 of the Association Council of 30 October 1998, Lithuania became a full member of the EU *Socrates*, *Leonardo da Vinci* and *Youth for Europe* programmes as from 1 November 1998.

5. *ACQUIS* IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

National policy in the field of education, science and studies is implemented by the Ministry of Education and Science, the Department of Science and Studies of the Ministry of Education and Science, the Centre for Quality Assessment in High Education, Methodological Centre for Vocational Education and Training, the Teacher Professional Development Centre, and the Centre of Information Technologies of Education.

The EU *Socrates*, *Leonardo da Vinci* and *Youth for Europe* programmes have been successfully administered in Lithuania by the national agencies established for this purpose in 1997.

The institutions in Lithuania will have adequate implementation capacity from the date of accession.