

Statement by José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission on the approval of the Treaty of Lisbon by the Austrian Parliament.

I would like to welcome the positive conclusion of the parliamentary process on the Treaty of Lisbon by the Austrian Parliament today. Both the Nationalrat and the Bundesrat have now approved the Treaty. The Treaty provides for a more effective, democratic and accountable Union that is also stronger externally. I would like to thank the Austrian Government for its active contribution during the negotiations and pay tribute to the Austrian Parliament for the swift approval of the Treaty. The ratification process is now well advanced and I look forward to its successful conclusion so that the Treaty can enter into force on 1 January 2009.

Background: The Treaty of Lisbon has now been approved by the parliaments of 11 Member States: Hungary, Malta, Slovenia, Romania, France, Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia, Portugal, Denmark and Austria.