

An 'eForesee' Meeting

ARI - Agricultural Research Institute, Cyprus
21-22 March 2002

Annex 1: Elaboration of a Role for Foresight in the Accession Process

The first eFORESEE pilot in Cyprus is a unique experiment on the use of foresight as a tool for dealing with the structural changes that accompany the accession process. As there are no previous experiences to draw upon in this area, we require a framework to 'guide the experiment' so to speak. Without such a framework we cannot measure success and we cannot progressively improve our tools over time. What follows is a first attempt to provide such a framework based on the discussions held in Cyprus on 21-22 March 2002.

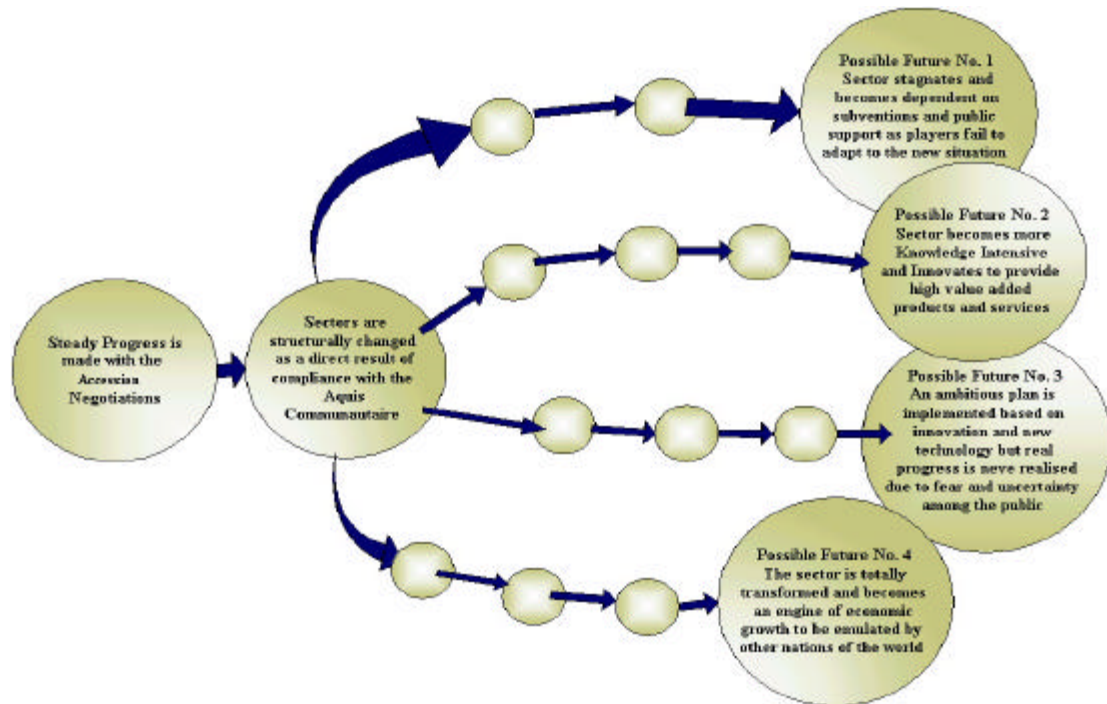
The current situation in Cyprus, and arguably that in most accession countries can be summarized more or less as follows:



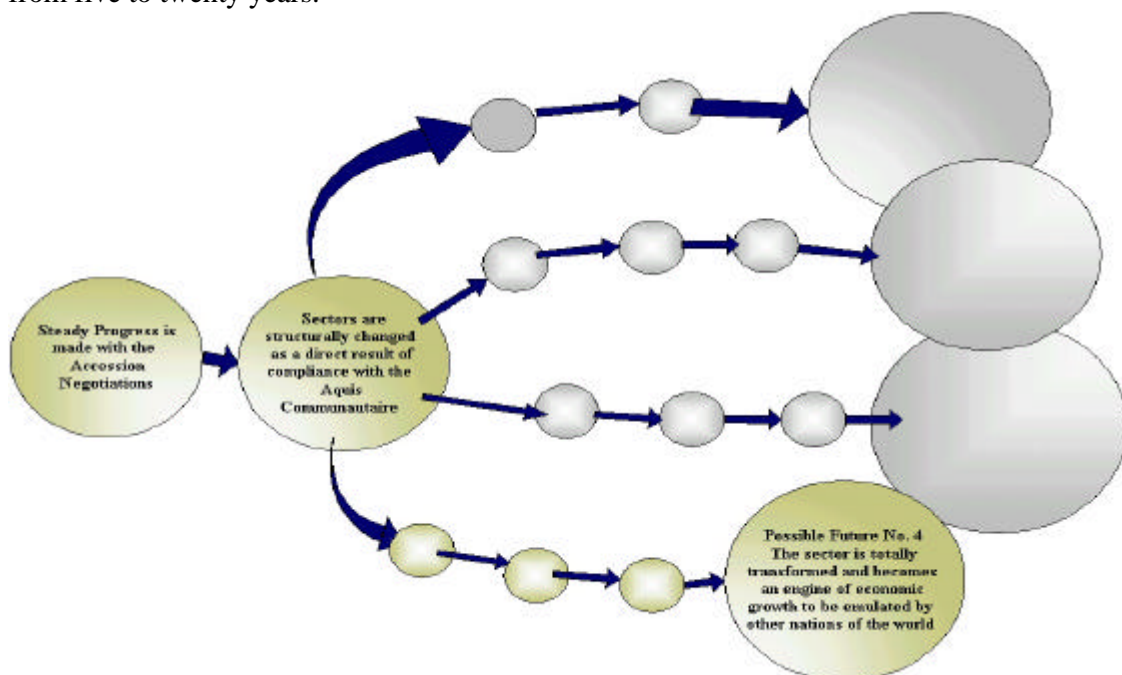
Accession negotiations are underway and will be completed in due course. The immediate or short-term consequence of compliance with the aquis communautaire is well understood on the basis of studies that have been conducted for that purpose. However there is:

- No integrated plan as to how to deal with the structural changes that will occur as a result of compliance with the aquis communautaire,
- No guiding vision as to what the future could be, and
- No strategy as to how to arrive at such a future starting with the post compliance scenario.

In reality many futures are possible:



A foresight activity could illuminate the future by revealing a range of possible visions. In the case of Cyprus the outcome of an ideal foresight activity would be a convergence of minds on a preferred vision of the future, achieved via dialogue with stakeholders, based on a realistic appraisal of immediate challenges arising from the accession process, using the input of world class experts and visionaries in fields that will emerge and converge with agriculture, natural resources and the environment over a period ranging from five to twenty years.



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Foresight is this 'vision building' process, that explodes and lays bare a range of alternatives based on the collaborative gathering of intelligence, leading to choices regarding a feasible preferred future. Once the 'choice' has been made:

- The work of the policy maker is facilitated in that they have an end-point for plotting developmental trajectories for the sector,
- The challenge for stakeholders is to redefine themselves by their role in the feasible preferred future, knowing that this is a target or a vision shared by all.

In summary the foresight process applied to accession related vision building could be summarized as follows:

