

Abstract

European Community has experienced different kinds of development. Deepening of political integration and member states enlargement are examples of the most important ones. The question of enlargement about central European and eastern European countries came over the programme of the day with the eruption of the USSR in 1989. The new European democratic states manifested their wish to join the West European integration as soon as possible. Even the European Community, since 1993 called European Union, declared the right of these (central European) states to become members of the institution. The view of the process of enlargement differentiated from one state to another.

In my work I consider the example of the Czech Republic (candidate) and France (one of the founders of EC). The attitudes of the Czech Republic and France on the question of the process of enlargement were the problems of the work.

The Czech Republic succeeded in negotiation and got the look of a country which seriously tends to become a member state. It really did in 2004 with other 9 countries. They were able to pass all necessary requirements to become the full-value member. It succeeded to keep the national course of this question along all 90'. The only strong development in opinion of the Union experienced the political party of Civic Democrats whose leader became the strongest national critic of the politics of the Union.

France experienced difficulties on how to treat the process of enlargement. It never stood officially against this challenge but the views of time-horizon and approach to candidates varied. The Socialist president Mitterand approved the enlargement but saw it as the question of dozens of years before the political integration of the Union finishes fully. His successor, president Chirac, was on the contrary in favour of rapid enlargement.