

## Iceland backs out of EU membership talks

<http://www.euronews.com/2015/03/13/iceland-turns-away-from-the-eu-as-government-ends-membership-talks/>

### Task 1 – Taking notes while listening

Watch the video. Take notes as you listen. You will need to focus your attention on the language used by the speaker, so try to write down the words/expressions as you hear them.

### Task 2 – Listen for details

Listen again and fill in the missing words.

It seems the promise of the EU has lost some of its ....., at least for Iceland, which is ..... its bid to join the Union after opening ..... in 2009.

A new eurosceptic government in 2013 ..... the promise it would break ..... the membership application, which it has now .....

It appears fishing quotas were the key ..... point as Iceland is almost entirely dependent on the sea to survive, and feared its grounds would be over-fished by EU members keen on ..... to the rich waters.

Proficiency level: **B1-B2 and above**

With the help of this short video, you will practice:

Active listening & note-taking

Talk about EU membership

Vocabulary to talk about negotiations

Recent opinion ..... suggest popular support for the EU has also ....., and membership is not a political high priority as Iceland struggles to get back on its ..... after its banking collapse in 2008 and people's minds are focused on paying off loans.

While the foreign ministry says Iceland's interests will be best ..... outside the EU the country is in the ..... and the ..... free travel zone, and has extensive links with European markets that will continue.

### Task 3 – Talking about negotiations

Which of the following words are synonymous when talking about negotiations.

enter into – resume – break off – complete - open – continue – reopen – conclude –  
conduct – facilitate – start – abandon

### Task 4 – EU membership: from applicant country to member state

Put the following steps towards EU membership in the correct order.

- Ratification of accession treaty by the candidate country and EU member states
- Application for membership addressed to the Council
- Accession negotiations begin between the EU and the applicant
- Membership
- Screening of the 'acquis' (EU legislation)
- Conclusion of accession negotiations
- Commission issues favorable opinion on the application for membership

## IMPORTANT

A special accession process was put in place for Western Balkan countries. The accession process for these countries takes place within the framework of the stabilisation and association process. This involves the conclusion of a stabilisation and association agreement between the EU and the potential candidate country.

Check out our book: EU English – Using English in EU Contexts for more information about EU terms and the language of EU institutions. For sample pages of the book go to:  
<http://www.klett.de/produkt/isbn/978-3-12-534640-6>

### ANSWER KEY

#### Task 2

glitter  
abandoning  
made  
honoured  
sticking  
access

polls  
waned  
feet  
served  
European Economic Area  
Schengen

#### Task 3

enter into – open – start negotiations  
break off – abandon negotiations  
resume – continue – reopen negotiations  
conduct – facilitate negotiations  
complete – conclude negotiations

#### Task 4

1. Application for membership addressed to the Council
2. Commission issues favorable opinion on the application for membership
3. Accession negotiations begin between the EU and the applicant
4. Screening of the 'acquis' (EU legislation)
5. Conclusion of accession negotiations
6. Ratification of accession treaty by the candidate country and EU member states
7. Membership