Basic information

2000/2014(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Turkey: membership application, 12 April 1987 **Subject** 8.20.01 Candidate countries **Geographical area** Türkiye	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	OOSTLANDER Arie M. (PPE-DE)	11/09/2002

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	MORILLON Philippe (PPE-DE)	25/01/2000
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	LAMASSOURE Alain (PPE-DE)	20/03/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	15/11/2000
CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	SMET Miet (PPE-DE) ETTL Harald (PSE)	12/12/2001 12/12/2001
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
PETI Petitions		

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	BÖSCH Herbert (PSE)	29/05/2001
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	OOSTLANDER Arie M. (PPE-DE) BERGER Maria (PSE)	29/05/2001 29/05/2001
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	GLANTE Norbert (PSE)	21/03/2001
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	SMET Miet (PPE-DE)	12/04/2000
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	GÖRLACH Willi (PSE)	27/03/2001
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	ANDREASEN Ole (ELDR)	11/04/2001
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	KARAMANOU Anna (PSE)	20/03/2001

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/12/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1998)0711	Summary
13/10/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0513	Summary
21/01/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/05/2000	Additional information		Summary
10/10/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
10/10/2000	Committee interim report tabled for plenary	A5-0297/2000	
14/11/2000	Debate in Parliament		
15/11/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0509/2000	Summary
15/11/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		

10/10/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
10/10/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0343/2001	
24/10/2001	Debate in Parliament		
25/10/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0568/2001	Summary
09/05/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		
12/05/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
12/05/2003	Committee interim report tabled for plenary	A5-0160/2003	
04/06/2003	Debate in Parliament		
05/06/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0265/2003	Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	2000/2014(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148 Rules of Procedure EP 57_o
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/5/15433 AFET/5/13961 AFET/5/12327

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary		A5-0297/2000 OJ C 223 08.08.2001, p. 0004	10/10/2000	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament		T5-0509/2000 OJ C 223 08.08.2001, p. 0105-0182	15/11/2000	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0343/2001	10/10/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0568/2001 OJ C 112 09.05.2002, p. 0205-0308 E	25/10/2001	Summary
Committee interim report tabled for plenary		A5-0160/2003	12/05/2003	
Interim resolution adopted by Parliament		T5-0265/2003 OJ C 068 18.03.2004, p. 0334-0592 E	05/06/2003	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary

Non-legislative basic document	COM(1998)0711	17/12/1998	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(1998)0712	17/12/1998	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0500	13/10/1999	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0513	13/10/1999	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2000)0700	08/11/2000	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0713	08/11/2000	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0700	13/11/2001	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	SEC(2001)1756	13/11/2001	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0700	09/10/2002	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2002)1412	09/10/2002	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2003)0144	26/03/2003	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0325/2002 OJ C 128 29.05.2003, p. 0056-0062	12/02/2003	

Turkey: membership application, 12 April 1987

2000/2014(COS) - 25/10/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament voted to adopted a resolution by Mr Alain LAMASSOURE (EPP-ED, F) on Turkey's progress in view of its application for membership to the European Union, in which it calls for the immediate abolition of capital punishment. (Please refer to the previous text).

Turkey: membership application, 12 April 1987

2000/2014(COS) - 13/11/2001

In line with the previous strategy documents presented by the Commission which aim to set out the steps to be followed for the next enlargement, the Commission has published a new general document setting out the progress made by each of the candidate countries in view of accession. If for certain countries substantial progress has been made, considerable efforts still need to be made in the case of Turkey in order to ensure the effective application of the "acquis communautaire" and certain other fundamental criteria set out at Copenhagen. With regard to this country, the Commission proposes a new phase based on a more detailed preparation for EU membership requirements in particular the policy criteria (respect for democracy, rule of law, minorities and human rights of citizens). In this context, Turkey is encouraged to intensify and accelerate the process of political and economic reforms in line with the Accession Partnership priorities. It is also requested that it make fuller use of the enhanced political dialogue to further stimulate progress on key issues which are priorities of the Accession Partnership (adopted in March 2001), such as Human Rights, Cyprus and the peaceful settlement of border disputes. In addition, Turkey must also contribute to finding a comprehensive solution of the "Cyprus problem" and on

the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). Moreover, the Commission proposes a detailed scrutiny of Turkish legislation and its timetable for alignment with the acquis. More attention should be paid to the capacity of the Turkish administration and judiciary to implement and enforce the acquis effectively. The Commission notes that the considerable parts of its economy are already competing on the EU market under the framework of the Customs Union. In conclusion, Turkey does not yet meet the Copenhagen political criteria and should not be included as one of the countries ready for accession to the European Union in 2002. In the meantime, Turkey should consider its reforms in line with the 2001 Accession Partnership and concentrate more on ensuring that human rights and fundamental freedoms are fully protected in law and practice, for all citizens, throughout the country.

Turkey: membership application, 12 April 1987

2000/2014(COS) - 09/10/2002 - Document attached to the procedure

The European Commission has published its last Strategy Paper which highlights the processes to be accomplished before the integration of 10 new Member States. The Commission considers that Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia fulfil the political criteria and will have fulfilled the economic and acquis criteria within the timeframe foreseen for accession by the European Council. These countries will be ready for membership from the beginning of 2004. Turkey shall not be part of this first wave of accession countries. It should be ntoed however that Turkey has made considerable progress towards meeting the Copenhagen political criteria. The death penalty has been lifted except in case of war and important steps have been taken to permit broadcasting and education in languages other than Turkish. The state of emergency has been lifted in two of the four provinces where it had applied Nonetheless, Turkey does not fully meet the political criteria. The reforms contain a number of significant limitations, which are set out in the Regular Report, on the full enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms, many of the reforms require the adoption of regulations or other administrative measures and a number of important issues arising under the political criteria have yet to be adequately addressed. Turkey is encouraged to pursue the reform process to strengthen democracy and the protection of human rights, in law and in practice. The Commission recommends that the European Union should enhance its support for Turkey's pre-accession preparations. In order to help accelerate the implementation of Turkey's pre-accession strategy, increased financial assistance should be provided from 2004 under heading 7 of the budget devoted to pre-accession support. This increase is intended to enable Turkey to strengthen its public administration, support the adoption of the acquis, and to facilitate Turkey's integration into the European economy.

Turkey: membership application, 12 April 1987

2000/2014(COS) - 13/10/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: Presentation of the 1999 Report from the Commission on Turkey's progress towards accession. CONTENT : This Regular Report takes account of the conclusions of the Copenhagen European Council and: - describes the relations between Turkey and the Union, particularly in the framework of the Association Agreement; - analyses the situation in respect of the Copenhagen political criteria (democracy, rule of law, human rights, protection of minorities) - Assesses the situation with regard to the economic criteria set by the Copenhagen Council (functioning market economy, capacity to cope with competitive pressures and market forces within the Union.) - Addresses the question of Turkey's ability to assume the acquis communautaire - Gives a general evaluation of Turkey's situation and prospects on the road to accession with particular reference to the European strategy set out in the Commission communication of March 1998. - Covers judicial and administrative capacity as requested by the Madrid European Council. Since the adoption of the last Regular Report, bilateral relations have developed without any major change. Although the Luxembourg European Council's conclusions on Turkey's candidacy brought political dialogue to a halt, regular meetings take place on the implementation of the European Strategy. Given the deadlock on the political level, the Association Council has not been able to hold a meeting since April 1997. Despite the EU Presidency's efforts the European Council of Cologne has not been able to agree conclusions on Turkey's candidacy. The arrest and trial of the PKK leader, Abdullah Ocalan, as well as the death sentence pronounced by Ankara State Security Court in June 1999 have also marked EU-Turkey relations. Other factors affecting bilateral relations include the earthquake in August 1999, when financial assistance was offered to Turkey, and recent positive developments in relations between Turkey and Greece. Analysis shows that although the basic features of a democratic system exist in Turkey, it still does not meet the Copenhagen political criteria. There are serious shortcomings in respect of human rights and minorities. Torture is not systematic but is still widespread and the authorities regularly restrict freedom of expression. The National Security Council has a major role. Despite some improvements in terms of judicial independence, the emergency courts system remains in place. Some new laws regulating the justice system and human rights have recently been adopted, and the Commission hopes that their positive impact will be extended to the Kurdish minority and will not be undone by the carrying out of the death sentence against Abdullah Ocalan. Turkey should be able to cope, albeit with difficulties, with competitive pressures and market forces within the Union, but there needs to be further progress towards the implementation of a structural and legal reform programme. Public deficit and inflation have been reduced, the latter through a change in wageand price indexation. Revenue collection procedures have improved. The constitution has been changed to permit international arbitration, which should facilitate privatisation of the electricity sector and remove an important impediment to foreign direct investment. Priority should be given to the reduction of inflationary pressures and fiscal deficits in order to reduce real interest rates and the high financing needs of the public sector, which are crowding out private sector investment. The uneven distribution of income and the huge regional disparities impede sound economic development. Turkey's economic performance within the customs union has been smooth. With regard to adoption of the acquis, the Report looks at sectors covered by the customs union, by the European strategy and by other sectors. The customs union continues to form the backbone of the relationship between the EU and Turkey. As a result of an unfavourable external environment, Turkey has experienced difficulties in sustaining its exports to some of its major trading partners. Turkey's exports to the EU posted growth of 2.4% partly compensating for the loss in exports to some other destinations. Alignment efforts on the acquis continue in most of the areas identified in the European strategy. Much needs to be done in fields such as the internal market, particularly as regards public procurement, agriculture, transport and environment. As regards sectors not covered by the customs union or the European strategy, effective alignment on the acquis cannot be expected at this stage. Turkey's administrative capacity to apply the acquis in the context of the customs union remains very satisfactory. Further efforts are needed in terms of modernisation of the structures and staff training.

Turkey: membership application, 12 April 1987

2000/2014(COS) - 08/11/2000 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

This Regular Report for 2000 on Turkey differs from that used in previous years on three points. Firstly, the part of the present report assessing Turkey's abilty to assume the obligations of 29 chapters covering the acquis. Secondly, this part has been broadened to cover also Turkey's administrative capacity to apply the acquis under each of the chapters (previously discussed in a separate section of the report). Thirdly, the report includes, for the first time, a section assessing the progress made by Turkey in translating the acquis into its offical language. This report takes into consideration progress since the 1999 Regular Report and looks at whether intended reforms referred to in the 1999 regular report have been carried out, and examines new initiatives. With regard to the relations between the European Union and Turkey, the Association Council met in April 2000 for the first time in three years and was chaired by Turkey. It adopted two important political decisions, one on the establishment of eight sub-committees of the Association Committee and other on the opening of negotiations for an agreement aiming at the liberalisation of services and the mutual opening of procurement markets between the EC and Turkey. A first round of negotiations was held. Trade volumes between the EU and Turkey have continuously increased, with the exception of the contraction of 1999. Since the establishment of the Customs Union, the importance of the two parties in each other's trade has been continuously increasing. In 2000, the EC has provided 52.9% of Turkish imports and has absorbed 53.1% of Turkish exports. After the reduction in trade which occurred in 1999, 2000 has seen as renewed increase in the Turkish current account deficit with the EC which might bring it to around EUR 9 billion by the end of the year (6% of GDp). Tourist revenues rose by about 5% in the first half of 2000, after a poor result in 1999. In general, manufactured goods circulate freely within the Customs Union territory although certain non-tariff barriers exist on the Turkish side. Some long-standing trade disputes are not being solved. In particular, the access for alcoholic beverages is restricted and lengthy and burdensome testing is carried out on certain products (e.g. ceramics and tiles). The trade in agricultural products is inter alia still hampered by the Turkish ban on imports of live bovines and beef from the Community. This constitutes a violation of the relevant decision under the Association Agreement. It nullifies the concessions on those products granted by Turkey to the EC, in exchange of the important concessions granted by the EC on Turkish agricultural products. The issue of the application of rules of origin for Turkish tuna products is also still outstanding. As far as Community aid is concerned, as requested by the European Councils of Helsinki and Feira, a single framework for cooperating all sources of EC pre-accession financial assistance for Turkey was adopted by the Commission in July 2000. This Regulation also provides the basis for the Accession Partnership for Turkey. Further steps imply that all funds available for Turkey should be put into one single budget. The Commission has just made such a proposal in theframework of the 2001 draft budget to support pre-accession assistance for Turkey. As part of the pre-accession strategy, there will also be a doubling of the yearly financial (grant) assistance to Turkey. From 2000 onwards the yearly allocation to Turkey has been set at 15% of the MEDA bilateral envelope, in addition to the EUR 50 million annual average allocation foreseen in the framework of the two European strategy/pre-accession strategy regualtions. The first regulation adopted in April 2000 foresees EUR 5 million per year for 3 years; the second regulation is at present in the process of being adopted. It will provide EUR 45 million per year for 3 years. Overall the annual allocation to Turkey in 2000 will therefore amount to EUR 177 million. A positive development since the last regular report is the launching of the Turkish society of a wide-ranging debate on the political reforms necessary with a view to accession to the EU. Two important initiatives have been taken in this context: the signing of several international human rights instruments and the recent endorsement by the government of the work of the Supreme Board of Coordination for Human Rights. However, compared to last year, the situation on the ground has hardly improved and Turkey still does not meet the political Copenhagen criteria. Many aspects of the overall human rights situation remain worrying with freedom of expression and freedom of association and assembly still restricted. Turkey has made considerable progress in addressing the most urgent imbalances in the economy, yet the process of achieving a functioning market economy is not completed. It has on the other hand made substantial progress in macroeconomic stabilisation. The privatisation of state enterprises has been successful and important steps for the reform of the agricultural sector, the social security system and the financial sector have been taken. Overall, Turkey's alignment with the Community acquis in the areas covered by the Customs Union is most advanced. Turkey has to start making substantial progress in alignment with the acquis in all other fields.

Turkey: membership application, 12 April 1987

2000/2014(COS) - 08/11/2000

The Commission has presented for the first time a 'strategy document for enlargement' which seeks to be more analytical and forward-looking than its previous versions issued in 1998 and 1999. In the first part, the Commission recalls the challenges of the future enlargement, in particular in geopolitical and strategic terms, which go far beyond those faced in previous enlargements: Europe's improved security, stability and prosperity will be top priority in the complex negotiations which will result in the membership of between 10 and 13 new member states. The Commission also discusses the new potential candidates for membership from the Balkans area which will be declared in the relatively near future. A process in parallel to that started in 1989 for the current candidates from Central and Eastern Europe is under way in this region so as to prepare the countries of the former Yugoslavia and Albania for future membership: this involves a stabilisation and association process coupling financial and technical support, as well as strengthening the political dialogue between the parties. In recalling the various elements that comprise the pre-accession strategy (accession partnerships; national programmes for the adoption of the acquis communautaire; more than 3 billion euros per year of financial assistance with PHARE, ISPA and SAPARD; association agreements that set the institutional framework and the structural objectives of pre-accession; involvement of the candidate countries in the various Community programmes and agencies), the Commission presents a state of play sector-by-sector of the progress made by the candidates on the path to accession. The Copenhagen criteria (political, economic, adoption of the acquis) are reviewed in the second part of the document in order to determine for each country concerned the work that remains to be done before becoming a member of the Union. The Commission describes, in a third and important part of the section, the negotiation strategy that it intends to implement in the course of the next two years (2001-2002). In this regard, the Commission stresses the need to respect the timetable for the negotiations, considering that it is not in the interests of either the Union or the candidate countries to see the enlargement process get bogged down indefinitely. This is why a strategy in stages is proposed in order both to encourage the candidate countries to intensify their preparation efforts and to give them greater confidence in the process under way. This strategy involves the following stages: 1) the drawing up of a lists of candidate countries' requests for transitional measures and negotiation of these measures by making, on the EU side, a clear distinction between measures considered acceptable (basically transitional measures in the short term of a technical nature that do not pose a particular problem), negotiable (measures having an effect on competition or the internal market and a longer duration), and unacceptable (posing very fundamental problems in the context of membership); 2) the drawing up of a detailed 'road map'for each country laying down clearly the order in which pending questions should be dealt with in 2001-2002. The road map is, without doubt, the most innovative aspect of the planned negotiation method since it involves for all the parties an undertaking to finishnegotiations

within a realistic timescale. The approach favoured by the Commission is one in two phases: 2001 will see the majority of the pending questions raised (mainly, the internal market, social questions, environment) with the exception of those which have the most important financial implications; these latter will be dealt with in the course of the first six months of 2002, with the 'institutional questions' chapter and the other unresolved matters (agriculture, in particular). A clear list of chapters for negotiation that must be tackled is presented in the Commission's document, breaking down the most important questions to be resolved into 3 semesters (up to June 2002); 3) the opening of negotiating chapters: it is up to the candidate countries to open negotiating chapters as a function of the timing proposed by the Commission in its road map. Certain countries that are already well advanced would be able, by virtue of the principle of differentiation, to pursue their negotiations at a more sustained rhythm and hope to be part of the first cluster of new member states. However, where the number of remaining problems is very limited, these can be put aside provisionally to be revisted in order to find a solution to the few remaining issues at the appropriate moment. In conclusion, and in virtue of the method proposed in this working document, the Commission considers that Union should be in a position to welcome new Member States from the end of 2002.

Turkey: membership application, 12 April 1987

2000/2014(COS) - 13/11/2001 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

The Commission has prepared this Regular Report on Turkey with a view to the Laeken European Council in December 2001. The structure followed by this Regular Report is the same as that used for the 2000 Regular Report. It takes into consideration progress since the 2000 Report. It looks at whether intended reforms referred to in the 2000 Regular Report have been carried out, and examines new initiatives. In addition, this Report provides an overall assessment of the global situation for each of the aspects under consideration, setting out for each of them the main steps which remain to be taken by Turkey in preparing for accession. In accordance with this approach, the assessment of progress in meeting the political and acquis criteria focuses on what has been accomplished since the last Regular Report. The Report contains a separate section examining the extent to which Turkey has addressed the Accession Partnership priorities. As regards the programming of aid, 2001 has been a transition year for bringing assistance into line with the Accession Partnership and National Programmes priorities. This should be fully achieved by 2002. In the meantime, Turkey will continue to receive a significant amount for the new EIB mandate for the Mediterranean countries (the EuroMed II Lending Mandate). This amounts to a total of EUR 6 425 billion for the period January 2000-January 2007. Moreover, Turkey was accepted by the EIB as eligible to benefit from the EIB pre-accession facility, which amounts in total to EUR 8.5 billion for the 13 candidate countries. The EIB also approved Special Action Mandate for Turkey (EUR 450 million) and the Turkey earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Assistance Facility (TERRA: EUR 600m) is also available. The EIB has also adopted a new "Mediterranean Partnership Facility" of EUR 1 billion covering the region from which Turkey may also benefit. With regard to the Copenhagen criteria for membership: 1) Political Criteria : the constitutional amendments adopted by the Turkish Parliament on 3 October 2001 are a significant step towards strengthening guarantees in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms and limiting such capital punishment. The amendments narrow the grounds for limiting such fundamental freedoms as the freedom of expression and dissemination of thought, freedom of the press and freedom of association. Attention has now turned to the effective implementation of these important changes. The Turkish Government is finalising a package of new draft legislation that is aimed at implementing a number of constitutional amendments, in particular with respect to freedom of expression and thought. It should be facilitated progress towards satisfying the Accession Partnership priorities. Despite these changes, a number of restrictions on the exercise of fundamental freedoms have remained. The extent to which individuals in Turkey will enjoy real improvements in the exercise of fundamental freedoms will depend on the details of implementing the exercise of fundamental freedoms will depend on the details of implementing legislation, and the practical application of the law. It is encouraging that a general principle of proportionality has been introduced and that stated general aim of the reform is effectively to bring to the forefront respect for human rights and the rule of law. The moratorium on the death penalty has been maintained. A number ofsubstantial prison reform have been adopted. Turkey is encouraged to ensure that these reforms are fully implemented. The reform of the judicial system has begun. The independence of the judiciary, the powers of State Security Courts and military courts and compliance with rulings of the European Court of Human Rights remain matters of concern. The basic features of a democratic system exist in Turkey, but a number of fundamental issues, such as civilian control over the military, remain to be effectively addressed. Though it is beginning to make progress in some areas. Turkey does not yet meet the Copenhagen criteria and is therefore encouraged to intensify and accelerate the process of reform to ensure that human rights and fundamental freedoms are fully protected in law and practice, for all citizens, throughout the country. Fuller use should be made of the enhanced political dialogue, to further stimulate progress on key issues which are priorities of the Accession Partnerships, such as human rights, Cyprus and the peaceful settlement of border disputes. 2) Economic Criteria : confronted with two financial crises, Turkey has been unable to make further progress towards achieving a functioning market economy. Considerable parts of its economy are, however, already competing in the EU market, under the framework of the customs union with the EC. The two financial crises brought to a halt economy recovery and put an end to the preceding economic stabilisation programme. Macroeconomic stability has been shaken, and many macroeconomic imbalances have reappeared. Turkey has adopted, and has been implementing, an ambitious economic reform programme that addresses better than its predecessor the risks and vulnerabilities of the domestic financial sector and seeks to reduce government intervention in many areas of the economy. These problems were at the heart of the crises. Priority has to be given to establishing short term macroeconomic stability, based on disinflation. However, the authorities must also continue to focus on establishing a solid basis for sustainable market-based economic development in the medium term. 3) Legislative alignment of the acquis : - internal market : various pieces of legislation on free movement of goods have been adopted including standards. The adoption of a framework for technical legislation is particularly significant. Further steps need to be taken in a number of areas. The existing regime of public procurement is not in line with the acquis. No progress can be reported in the field of free movement of persons. In the field of free movement capital important restrictions on foreign investment in various sectors have remained. Major efforts are required to further align legislation in the field of non-financial services. The implementation of legislation in the field of money laundering should be given greater attention. - agriculture : Turkey has started a substantial reform in the agricultural sector. However, some of the basic features of the new Turkish direct income policy differ from the current approach in the EU. Turkey has not established a number of basic mechanisms, such as a nation wide land register. It should focus on transposition, implementation and enforcement of EC legislation. It should focus on the transposition, implementation and enforcement of EC legislation in the veterinary and phytosanitary sectors. - environment : further new legislation needs to be adopted including an important framework law, which is pending before Parliament. - transport : Turkey should step up the legislative work necessary to adopt the Community transport acquis. The administrative capacity is still - energy : substantial progress has been achieved in the field of electricity and gas sectors. The two major laws adopted this year are important steps in preparing Turkey for the internal energy market. - employment and social affairs : steps have been taken but not all conform with the acquis. The new law on the Economic and Social Council, for example, fails to create the conditions for a genuine social dialogue. - justice and home affairs : Turkey recently signed three important conventions of the Council of Europe on Money laundering and the

fight against corruption. A bilateral agreement with Greece to combat crime has entered into force. Turkey has taken initiatives to align with the EU's visa policy and to conclude readmission agreements in the field of migration. Administrative capacity should be strengthened in the field of border controls and the fight against illegal immigration. 4) Administrative Capacity : administrative capacity in different areas needs to be strengthened to ensure that the acquis is implemented and enforced effectively. A significant reform at all levels of the administration is required. In some cases, this will entail the establishment of new structures, for example in the field of state aid and regional development. In some areas, new regulatory bodies have been set up. Their autonomy should be assured while at the same time sufficient staff and financial resources need to be made available. 5) Accession Partnership : the Accession Partnership was adopted in March 2001 and Turkey has made substantial preparatory efforts for its implementation. Turkey gained greater understanding of the acquis and the government has started an intensive process of preparation of new legislation. In the areas of free movement of goods, intellectual property protection, energy, telecom and customs, the measures taken have partially met the short term Accession Partnership priorities related to the acquis.

Turkey: membership application, 12 April 1987

2000/2014(COS) - 17/12/1998

This paper contains a synthesis of the analysis in each of the regular reports for the candidate member countries regarding their progress in respecting the Copenhagen criteria. The regular reports specific to each country focus on all the aspects of the adoption of the acquis communautaire and provide a precise evaluation of candidates' capacities to fulfil the political and economic criteria required for membership. Turkey's case is distinct from that of the other candidate countries, in that it does not comply with the Copenhagen political criteria, which serves to put a brake on its current and future chances of accession (at the Luxembourg European Council in December 1997, Turkey was not retained on the list of official candidates for membership). The main problems of a political nature relate to human rights violations and the treatment of minorities ; the absence of civil control over the army; the state of emergency with regard to populations (mainly Kurds) living in the South-East of Turkey ; and the Cypriot question. On the economic front, there are no major problems mainly because of the establishment of the EU-Turkey customs union. However, sustained efforts are needed to improve the state of the public finances and to establish a stable macroeconomic framework. The European strategy that the Commission intends setting in place with respect to Turkey in 1999 should facilitate the improvement of this favourable economic outlook.

Turkey: membership application, 12 April 1987

2000/2014(COS) - 13/10/1999

This second composite document, like the first in the series, provides a resumé of the regular reports prepared for all accession candidate countries. However, the case of Turkey is distinct from that of the other countries in that it does not yet figure on the official list of candidate countries. The many political difficulties, frequently cited, underlie the refusal of the Fifteen to consider Turkey as a country ready for EU membership. Nevertheless, the Commission considers that Turkey should now be considered as a candidate even if the negotiations cannot yet be opened until the political criteria are fulfilled. In the meantime, a series of measures are proposed, based on the European strategy in regard to Turkey to stimulate and support reforms in Turkey: - to strengthen EU-Turkey political dialogue with particular reference to human rights questions to offer the possibility for Turkey to be involved in common positions and actions defined in the context of the CFSP; - coordinate, in a single measure, all the sources of EU financial assistance for pre-accession; - enable Turkey to participate fully in Community programmes and agencies; - adopt an accession partnership together with a national programme for the adoption of the acquis; - establish mechanisms similar to those established in the Europe Agreements to follow the implementation of the accession partnership; - launch an analytical process examining the acquis with a view to the harmonisation of Turkish legislation and practices with the acquis communautaire. In addition, the Commission considers that membership can only take place if the institutional reform has taken place by the end of 2002. The Commission also considers that the Union should undertake to be in a position to decide by that date on the eventual membership of candidates that fulfil the required criteria. Lastly, during 2000, the situation of all candidates (including Turkey) from the point of view of the application of the competition regime and internal market rules should be reviewed, as well as that of the liberalisation of trade in agricultural products.

Turkey: membership application, 12 April 1987

2000/2014(COS) - 09/10/2002

PURPOSE : to present the 2002 Regular Report from the Commission on Turkey's progress towards accession. CONTENT : this Report takes into consideration progress since the 2001 Regular Report. It covers the period until 15 September 2002. In some particular cases, however, measures taken after that date are mentioned. It looks at whether planned reforms referred to in the 2001 Regular Report have been carried out, and examines new initiatives. In addition, this Report provides a global assessment of the overall situation for each of the aspects under consideration, setting out for each of them the main steps still to be taken by Turkey in preparing for accession. Furthermore, in view of the fact that the 2002 Regular Reports will provide the basis on which the Commission will formulate its recommendations as to which countries are ready to conclude negotiations, this Report includes an evaluation of Turkey's track record since the 1998 Regular Report. For the economic criteria the track record covers the period since 1997 and the report also provides a dynamic, forward-looking evaluation of Turkey's economic performance. The Report further includes a separate section examining the extent to which Turkey has addressed the Accession Partnership priorities. As has been the case in previous Reports, "progress" has been measured on the basis of decisions actually taken, legislation actually adopted, international conventions actually ratified (with due attention being given to implementation), and measures actually implemented. - PRE-ACCESSION PROCESS : the start of a process of detailed legislative scrutiny in the first half of 2002 within the eight sub-committees of the Association Committee. This committee decided in January 2002 on the subjects, on which work should focus, including a schedule of meetings. The first series of meetings were completed in July 2002. This process allowed for a more detailed dialogue on the requirements for the transposition, implementation and enforcement of parts of the acquis. Differences in Turkish legislation with the acquis in various sectors were identified. The sub-committees monitored the implementation by Turkey of the Accession Partnership priorities and discussed various trade issues. In July 2002, an extra meeting of the sub-committee dealing with Justice and Home Affairs

took place to discuss the matter of illegal immigration. - PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE : the adoption in December 2001 of a regulation on pre-accession financial assistance to Turkey. This new regulatory framework ensures an accession driven approach of the EC.s financial co-operation with Turkey. As for all candidate countries, financial assistance has to focus on the priorities identified in the Accession Partnership. Furthermore, following the decision to establish a decentralised implementation system in Turkey by the end of 2002, the government has begun to put in place the necessary structures which form an integral part of the system (National Aid Co-ordinator, Central Finance and Contract Unit, National Fund). In 2002 the total national allocation for Turkey is EUR 149 million and shall cover areas such as the fight against organised crime; drugs and fraud; a range of civil society development initiatives; SMEs and the strengthening of economic and social cohesion. Turkey is also a major beneficiary of assistance from the EIB. It benefits from up to five different mandates and facilities: the EuroMed II Lending Mandate for Mediterranean countries, the Mediterranean Partnership Facility, the Special Action Mandate for Turkey, the Turkey Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Assistance Facility and the Pre-Accession Facility. In total Turkey has received loan financing worth EUR 1020 million from 1992 to 2000. In 2001, around EUR 375m was granted by the EIB for four major investment projects. More specifically, as far as the criteria for membership are concerned : 1) Political Criteria : a major constitutional reform was adopted in October 2001 aimed at strengthening guarantees in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms and limiting capital punishment. A new Civil Code was adopted in November 2001. Three sets of reform packages were adopted in February, March and August 2002. The reform package adopted by Parliament in August 2002 was particularly far reaching. Among the amendments adopted are the lifting of the death penalty in peace time, the possibility for Radio and TV broadcasting in Kurdish, the widening of freedom of expression and greater freedom for non-Moslem religious minorities. The adoption of these reforms demonstrates the determination of the majority of Turkey's political leaders to move towards further alignment with the values and standards of the European Union. These reforms were adopted under difficult political and economic circumstances, and represent a major shift in the Turkish context. The building of political consensus around these changes was prepared by an intensive public debate concerning EU accession which took place in Turkey during the last year with the participation of political parties, civil society, business as well as academic circles. Substantial economic reforms continued, supported by the IMF and the World Bank. This contributed to the stabilisation of the Turkish economy. The banking sector underwent restructuring while efforts continued to reform the energy, telecommunications and agriculture sectors. There was, however, no significant progress in privatisation. Despite these changes, a number of restrictions on the exercise of fundamental freedoms have remained. The extent to which individuals in Turkey will enjoy real improvement in the exercise of fundamental freedoms will depend on the details of implementing legislation, and the practical application of the law. It is encouraging that a general principle of proportionality has been introduced and that the stated general aim of the reform is effectively to bring to the forefront respect for human rights and the rule of law. As far as Cyprus is concerned, the report states that the prospects for a settlement of the Cyprus problem under the auspices of the United Nations are analysed in the Regular Report on Cyprus. In the course of the enhanced political dialogue with Turkey, and at the EC-Turkey Association Council in April 2002, the Turkish government expressed its support for the current process of direct talks between the leaders of the two communities. Relations between Turkey and Greece have continued to improve, largely due to the close co-operation between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries. The restructured governmentdeclared in July that it would continue along this path. In March 2002, the foreign ministries began exploratory contacts about the Aegean. The contacts were formally launched in Istanbul in the context of the EU-OIC (European Union-Organisation of the Islamic Conference) forum on the harmony of civilisations. 2) Economic Criteria : Turkey has made progress on the functioning of its market economy which should improve its capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union, but is still undergoing the consequences of the two deeply destabilising financial crises. After several attempts to stabilise the economy, the current reform programme is producing positive results and growth has resumed. Fiscal discipline has improved and the transparency of public sector accounts has increased markedly, while inflationary pressures are declining. Political interference, a main source for Turkey's economic instability, has been reduced and structural weaknesses, such as a fragile and distorted banking sector, are being addressed. Financial market regulation and supervision have been strengthened. Important steps have been taken to liberalise key markets, such as agriculture and energy. To improve the functioning of its markets and its competitiveness, Turkey needs to continue the present reform process in order to achieve macroeconomic stability and fiscal sustainability. The inflow of FDI has to be encouraged by simplifying bureaucratic procedures and by removing remaining barriers. 3) Ability to assume the obligations of membership : overall, Turkey has achieved a good degree of legislative alignment in the areas covered by the Customs Union, while in other areas this alignment is less advanced. Major discrepancies between the acquis and Turkish legislation remain. Administrative capacity needs to be strengthened. Considerable further efforts are needed. - Regarding the internal market, in the area of free movement of goods, the framework law on the free circulation of products adopted in 2001 has entered into force. Various pieces of implementing legislation have been adopted throughout a wide range of sectors. - Turkey's alignment concerning financial services is well advanced, and further progress has taken place in 2001, in the framework of the reorganisation of the financial sector. In the field of non-financial services, there has been no progress, and much work still remains to be done in order to align Turkish legislation with the relevant acquis. In the area of company law, efforts have been made concerning the fight against piracy and counterfeiting. Implementation of the legislation should be further pursued and the Turkish Patent Institute needs to be fully independent. - On agriculture, Turkey has started the registration of land and of live bovine animals. Preparations for a plant passport system have not started. Other elements under the relevant priority of the Accession Partnership have not been addressed. Concerning veterinary and plant health, an alignment strategy is under development. No upgrading of enforcement capacity has taken place. Turkey should focus on the transposition, implementation and enforcement of EC legislation in the veterinary and phyto-sanitary sectors. Overall, progress on alignment with the acquis in the field of agriculture is limited. - On taxation, alignment on excise duties and VAT has started and some progress has been achieved with respect to rates and other exemptions. In the area of indirect taxation, significant further efforts are needed. As for direct taxation, Turkey needs to improve direct tax collection and to eliminate discriminatory measures. Overall, alignment with the acquis in the field of direct and indirect taxation is partial. - In the field of justice and home affairs, efforts have been made to raise awareness on the legislation and practices of the EU, in particular in areas such as asylum and illegal migration. Further steps have been taken to strengthen the fight against organised crime, drugs trafficking and corruption. The legal basis for combating trafficking in human beings has been established. 4) Administrative capacity in different areas needs to be strengthened to ensure that the acquis is implemented and enforced effectively. Significant reform at all levels of the administration is required. In some cases, this will entail the establishment of new structures, for example in the field of state aid and regional development. In some areas, new regulatory bodies have been set up. Their autonomy should be assured while at the same time sufficient staff and financial resources need to be made available.

Turkey: membership application, 12 April 1987

2000/2014(COS) - 26/03/2003 - Document attached to the procedure

PURPOSE : to propose an update of the Accession Partnership and a significant increase of pre-accession support for Turkey. CONTENT : the Commission has proposed a revised Accession Partnership for Turkey as well as a significant increase of the EU pre-accession financial support. This partnership sets out the priority areas for further work as identified in the Commission's 2002 Regular Report on Turkey, such as the fight against torture, the alignment with the European Court of Human Rights judgements and the respect of fundamental freedoms (expression, association, religion). On the basis of this revised Accession Partnership, it is expected that Turkey will adopt a revised national programme for the adoption of the acquis (NPAA). The Accession Partnerships are policy documents adopted by the Council of the European Union, on a proposal by the Commission, which identify short and medium term priority objectives on which the candidate countries should focus their efforts in order to comply with the EU accession criteria. Concerning the enhanced political dialogue and political criteria, the priorities build on the Accession Partnership from 2001. They reflect the recent progress made in Turkey. Priorities include fight against torture in practice, the alignment with the European Court of Human Rights judgements and the respect of fundamental freedoms (expression, association, religion). As far as the economic criteria is concerned, the priorities from the previous AP largely remain valid. Concerning the third criterion, which requires Turkey to assume the obligations of the acquis, the priorities have been made more detailed to reflect the developments which have taken place since the adoption of the last Accession Partnership in March 2001. In addition, the Commission has adopted a communication on the strengthening of the Accession Strategy for Turkey. This communication presents the Commission's follow up to the recommendations of the Strategy Paper and the conclusions of the Copenhagen European Council of December 2002. As part of the strengthening of the Accession Strategy for Turkey, the Commission proposes to substantially increase financial assistance for the period 2004-2006. Pre-accession financial assistance should reach EUR 250 millions in 2004, EUR 300 millions in 2005 and EUR 500 million in 2006. In line with the approach followed for all candidate countries, financial assistance will be linked to the priorities set out in the Accession Partnership. The communication also proposes to enhance co-operation in other areas such as the political dialogue, the economic dialogue, justice and home affairs, maritime safety, the process of legislative scrutiny, extending the scope of the Customs Union as well as deepening of trade relations.

Turkey: membership application, 12 April 1987

2000/2014(COS) - 05/06/2003 - Interim resolution adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted a resolution welcomes the reforms made by Turkey since October 2001. The rapporteur was Arie OOSTLANDER (EPP-ED, NL). These reforms have been perceived by the Turkish population as a major improvement and are important signals of Turkey's willingness to make further progress towards fulfilling the Copenhagen criteria. There is concern, however, about the army's central position in the Turkish state and society. This slows down Turkey's development towards a democratic and pluralist system. There must be a new political and constitutional system, which guarantees the principles of a secular system without military supremacy above civil institutions, so that the traditional power of the bureaucracy and the army (the 'deep State') can resume the forms which are customary in the Member States. Parliament noted that, in the light of the Copenhagen decision (December 2002), the conditions for the opening of accession negotiations with Turkey have not been satisfied. Those conditions will be met if the Turkish government pursues with constancy and determination the necessary ongoing reforms. The two financial aid programmes adopted by the Commission in 2002 must be spent, as a priority, on compliance with the political criteria. With regard to the specifics of reform, Parliament felt that Turkey must abolish the National Security Council in its current form in order to align civilian control of the military with the common practice in EU Member States. Military representatives should withdraw from civilian bodies such as the high councils on education and the audio-visual media, in order to ensure that these institutions are fully independent. There must be full Parliamentary control over the military budget as a part of the national budget. Parliament welcomed Prime Minister Erdogan's intention to establish a new Constitution emphasising the rule of law and a pluralist, participatory democracy. The Turkish concept of the nation and the secular state has to be based on tolerance and non-discrimination of religious communities and minority groups. A new Constitution must facilitate the implementation of these principles. Parliament stated that the political values of the European Union are chiefly based on the Judaeo-Christian and humanist culture of Europe, but that no-one has a monopoly on the universal values of democracy, the rule of law, human and minority rights and freedoms of religion and conscience. These values which can perfectly well be accepted and defended by a country where the majority of the population is Muslim. Therefore, there are no objections of principle to Turkey's membership of the EU. On matters relating to the rule of law and democracy, Parliament called upon Turkey to accede to the statutes of the International Criminal Court. This is a fundamental element in the relations between Turkey and the EU. Turkey is the only member of the Council of Europe who has not yet signed this statute. Parliament welcomed the reopening of the trial against European Parliament Sakharov Prize winner Leyla Zana and three other MPs of the former Democracy Party (DEP), imprisoned for more than 9 years. Parliament stressed the importance of an independent and competent judiciary. It went on to call for the electoral system to ensure that the composition of the parliament fully reflected the principle ofrepresentative democracy, especially with regard to the representation of Kurdish population and other minorities. Turkey must take further steps- within the context of the country's territorial integrity- to comply with the legitimate interests of the Kurdish population and members of other minorities in Turkey and to ensure their participation in political life. Parliament expressed its concern by the recent directives of the Turkish Ministry of Education demanding that primary and secondary schools in the country take part in a denial campaign concerning the oppression of minorities during Turkish history, in particular in relation to the Armenian community. Turkish authorities at all levels (national, regional, local) must ensure an immediate halt to any discriminatory activities which cause difficulties for the lives of religious minorities in Turkey, including in the field of ownership of property, donations, building and maintenance of churches and freedom of action for school boards. Parliament condemned the decision of the Turkish Constitutional Court to ban HADEP, and noted with concern that torture practices still continue, despite promises of zero tolerance for torture. It also expressed concern about reports of women in detention being subjected to frequent sexual violence and rape committed by state security agents. Women of Kurdish origin and women holding political beliefs, which are unacceptable to the military, are particularly at risk of such violence. On Turkey's international relations, Parliament urged Turkey to be fully committed to its status of candidate country and to withdraw its troops from northern Cyprus so as to pave the way for the reunification of the island and facilitate the resumption of talks. Turkey must also cooperate with its neighbours Iran, Syria and Iraq in order to respect the borders while enabling their respective citizens of Kurdish origin to develop their human, cultural and economic relations. The Turkish Government should continue to respect the territorial integrity of Iraq and the competence of Iraq in rearranging its own administrative organisations. Finally, on the important question of water resources, Parliament recommended that Turkey arrive at a settlement, based on the findings of the UN General Assembly's International Law Commission, of the disputes with its neighbours, Iraq and Syria, concerning water.

Turkey: membership application, 12 April 1987

2000/2014(COS) - 17/12/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: Regular report prepared by the European Commission concerning Turkey's progress towards accession. CONTENT: In line with the AGENDA 2000 timetable and the guidelines laid down by the Cardiff European Council, the Commission presents its report on Turkey's progress towards accession. The report: - describes relations between Turkey and the EU, in particular in the framework of the Association Agreement; - analyses the situation and the prospects with regard to the political conditions referred to by the European Council (democracy, rule of law, human rights, protection of minorities); - assesses the situation and the prospects for Turkey with regard to the economic conditions referred to by the European Council (market economy, capacity to cope with competitive pressure within the EU); - examines Turkey's ability to take on the obligation of membership, i.e. the EU acquis as set out in the EU Treaty, secondary law and policies. In the conclusions of its report, the Commission perceives Turkey's results on a political level as chaotic. There have been important shortcomings in the respect of human rights and difficulties in relation to the Cypriot question are aspects that have thwarted progress in relation to Turkey's bid for EU membership. With AGENDA 2000, the Commission proposed strengthening relations between the Union and Turkey by consolidating the customs union set in place in 1995 (see COS/1997/2193). However, Turkey has not wished to deepen its political dialogue with the Community since the Luxembourg European Summit (December 1997) when the Union took the decision to postpone Turkey's candidacy to an unspecified date. With regard to compliance with the Copenhagen political criteria, the situation in Turkey is somewhat behind the other candidate countries in terms of the respect for basic rights (poor treatment of prisoners, incomplete freedom of expression,.) and the rights of minorities (the Kurd problem). The economy has considerable potential for growth and has shown great adaptability, particularly in the context of the customs union, which has contributed significantly to its modernisation. Nevertheless, serious efforts are needed to overcome important disparities in regional development. With respect to the acquis communautaire, Turkey has shown its ability to adopt and implement the bulk of the legislation stipulated in the Customs Union Decision by the deadlines. It must now show a similar determination in particular in the field of internal market (public procurement, agriculture and the environment). Conclusion: even if Turkey's results are good in the economic sphere, the outcome of its membership bid remains inextricably linked to the resolution of various political matters, as well as human rights priorities. During the second half of 1999, the Commission will propose the re-examination of Turkey's situation. In the meantime, it suggests that a strategy for closer relationswith Turkey with the purpose of strengthening the EU-Turkey customs union (see AVC/1995/0813). This strategy is the subject of two proposals currently under examination (CNS/1998/299 and COD/1998/300).

Turkey: membership application, 12 April 1987

2000/2014(COS) - 15/11/2000 - Interim resolution adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted, the resolution on Turkey's application for accession to the EU, with amendment by 429 votes to 24 with 78 abstentions. The Parliament endorsed the views of Mr Philippe MORILLON (EPP/ED, F) that Turkey does not currently meet all the Copenhagen political criteria and reiterated Parliament's proposal that discussion fora should be established consisting of political leaders and representatives from civil society from the EU and Turkey. However, the resolution welcomes the resumption of political dialogue in the Assocation Council and the establishment of eight subcommittees responsible for setting priorities for the incorporation of the acquis communautaire. The Turkish Government is encouraged to step up its efforts towards democratisation, and to implement the UN conventions on political, civil, social and cultural rights, which Ankara has recently signed. The resolution welcomes the adoption by the Turkish Council of Ministers as a 'reference and working document' of the report drawn up by the Turkish Supreme Co-ordination Council for Human rights, which proposes major constitutional reforms. However, concrete measures should be added to protect the rights of minorities. There is also a welcome for the adoption of the law suspending the prosecution of, and sanctions for, press and broadcasting offences. Pending from the criminal code to make it compatible with the principle of freedom of expression, the resolution calls for an amnesty for breaches of the law committed by the press. The death penalty should be abolished as soon as possible and, pending such abolition, the current moratorium on executions should continue. Turkey is urged to respect the rights of minorities such as the Armenians. An amendment that was adopted calls for the Turkish authorities to publicly recognise the genocide suffered by that minority before the establishment of the modern state of Turkey. There is also a need for a specific solution to the Kurdish people and an amendment that was adopted urges the Turkish authorities to engage in dialogue with the political representatives of the Kurdish community. The need to end political, social and cultural discrimination was highlighted. The European Parliament also demands the release of LEYLA ZANA, winner of the European Parliament Sakharov prize, and also of the former MEPs of Kurdish origin imprisoned because of the view they hold. The Turkish Government is called upon to take part in, without preconditions, talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot parties, with view to reaching a settlement that complies with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the recommendations of the UN General Assembly. It is also urged to withdraw its occupation forces from Northern Cyprus. Finally, there is a call for the continuation of the efforts to step up implementation of pre-accession aid and Council and the Commission are asked to reassess the volume of the EU financial assistance to Turkey. There is also a welcome for Turkey's willingness to contribute to improving European capabilties under the European security and defence policy, and an amendment welcomes the confidence-building measures recently agreed by the Greek and Turkish foreign affairsministers.