

tepav

Türkiye Ekonomi Politikaları Araştırma Vakfı

TURKEY'S ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EU

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Status of the Relationship

Turkey is a negotiating country by a unanimous decision of the EU Council of Ministers, given on the 3rd of October 2005.

The negotiation framework for Turkey, adopted on the same date states that “**the shared objective of the negotiations is accession**” but it also points out the inherent “**open nature**” of the process.

However

- According to the latest "Transatlantic Trends" 55 per cent of Turkish citizens have an unfavourable opinion of the EU and only 38 per cent of them think that Turkey's EU membership "is a good thing" down from 73 per cent in 2004.
- In a recent article written by the Turkish Prime Minister for the *Newsweek* magazine in January 2011, EU was branded as "near geriatric" and "comatose" and was warned that the country's relations with it were "fast approaching a turning point" as it was no longer a country that would wait at the door as a "docile applicant".

However

- Warning of Foreign ministers of the four EU member states (Foreign Minister of Finland Alexander Stubb, Foreign Minister of Italy Franco Frattini, Foreign Minister of Sweden Carl Bildt and Foreign Minister of Great Britain William Hague) :

“The crucial question is not whether Turkey is turning its back on Europe, but rather if Europe is turning its back on the fundamental values and principles that have guided European integration over the last 50 years”.

NEGOTIATION CHAPTERS

2) Freedom of Movement of Workers

15) Energy

24) Justice, Freedom and Security

4) Free Movement of Capital

16) Taxation

25) Science and Research

5) Public Procurement

18) Statistics

26) Education and Culture

6) Company Law

19) Social Policy and Employment

27) Environment

7) Intellectual Property Law

20) Enterprise and Industrial Policy

28) Consumer and Health Protection

8) Competition Policy

21) Trans-European Networks

31) Foreign, Security and Defence Policy

10) Information Society and Media

23) Judiciary and Fundamental Rights

32) Financial Control

12) Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary

Chapters related with the "Cyprus problem"

Chapters under French blockage

1) Free Movement of Goods

17) Economic and Monetary Policy

3) Right of Establishment and Freedom to Provide Services

11) Agriculture and Rural Development

22) Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments

9) Financial Services

13) Fisheries

14) Transport Policy

29) Customs Union

30) External Relations

33) Financial and Budgetary Provisions

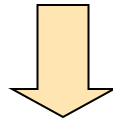
34) Institutions

35) Other Issues

Chapters Opened and Provisionally Closed	Chapters where Turkey was invited to submit its "Negotiation Position Paper"	Chapters Whose Screening Reports Were Approved by the Council of the European Union (with opening benchmarks)	Draft Screening Reports are to be Approved by the Council of the European Union	
			Council	Commission
25. Science and Research (12 June 2006) Opened	17. Economic and Monetary Policy (Negotiation Position Document submitted on : 9 March 2007) / <i>blocked by France</i> 26. Education and Culture (Negotiation Position Document submitted on : 25 May 2006) / <i>blocked by Cyprus</i>	<u>1. Free Movement of Goods / (OB 4)</u> <u>suspended at the end of 2006</u> <u>3. Right of Establishment and Freedom to Provide Services / (OB:1) (suspended at the end of 2006)</u> 5. Public Procurement / (OB:3) 8. Competition Policy / (OB:6) <u>9. Financial Services (suspended at the end of 2006)</u> <u>11. Agriculture and Rural Development / (OB:5)</u> <u>suspended at the end of 2006 / blocked by France</u> 19. Social Policy and Employment / (OB:2) <u>29. Customs Union / (OB:1)</u> <u>(suspended at the end of 2006)</u>	2. Free Movement of Workers <i>blocked by : Germany/Austria/ Cyprus</i> 13. Fisheries <u>suspended at the end of 2006</u> 14. Transport Policy <u>suspended at the end of 2006/</u> 15. Energy/ <i>blocked by Cyprus</i> 22. Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments/ <i>blocked by France</i> 23. Judiciary and Fundamental Rights/ <i>blocked by Cyprus</i> 24. Justice, Freedom and Security/ <i>blocked by Cyprus</i> 30. External relations <u>/suspended at the end of 2006</u> 33. Financial and Budgetary Provisions / <i>Blocked by France</i>	31. Foreign, Security and Defense Policy <i>blocked by Cyprus</i>
4. Free Movement of Capital (18 December 2008) 6. Company Law (12 June 2008) 7. Intellectual Property Law (12 June 2008) 10. Information Society and Media (18 December 2008) / 16. Taxation (30 June 2009) 18. Statistics (26 June 2007) 20. Enterprise and Industrial Policy (28 February 2007) 21. Trans-European Network (19 December 2007) 28. Consumer and Health Protection (19 December 2007) 32. Financial Control/ (26 June 2007) 27. Environment/ (21 December 2009) 12. Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy (30 June 2010)				

General Closing Benchmark for all chapters

With the exception of Science & Research Chapter



➤ *“Implementation of Additional Protocol”*

REMAINING CHAPTERS THAT CAN BE OPENED

1- Social Policy and Employment

2- Competition

3- Public Procurement

CHAPTERS THAT SHOULD BE OPENED ACCORDING TO THE OBJECTIVE TECHNICAL CRITERIA

- 1- Education and Culture**
- 2- Economic and Monetary Policy**
- 3- Financial Services**
- 4- Free Movement of Workers**
- 5- Energy**
- 6- Financial and Budgetary Provisions**

“If Turkey fulfils the membership criteria, it is entitled to be member of the EU”: pacta sunt servanda

EU should leave the existential-philosophical debate on the “*European borders*”

or

comments like “ *that country is in Europe but not European enough*”

“Reflection Group” (2010): “*The EU must stay open to potential new members from Europe, assessing every candidacy on its own merits*

and compliance with the membership criteria. These are in fact the “true limits of Europe”. In line with this policy of engagement and inclusiveness, the Union must honour its commitments with regard to the current official candidates, including Turkey, and carry on with the negotiation process. At the same time, it should offer far-reaching agreements to potential future candidates as an intermediate stage prior to the launch of accession negotiations.”

EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN ENLARGEMENT STRATEGY PAPER OF 2007

“ Turkey’s EU membership prospect dates back to 1963, when it signed an association agreement with the EEC. This agreement explicitly envisages accession, both in its preamble and in Article 28. This reflects Turkey’s major strategic role from the early foundations of the European Union. Turkey is now the only country with which the EU has established a customs union in 1995. It received the status of a candidate country in 1999.”

“ It is essential that the EU honours its commitments and keeps the negotiation process on track and chapters are opened as soon as the technical conditions are met”

Vision and political courage is required on both sides for the period ahead of us to be successful and these should be translated into policies as :

“vision without implementation is hallucination”