

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

- **The Turkish Government regards EU membership as a new step forward, a milestone confirming the founding philosophy of and Atatürk's vision for the Republic.**
- **Turkey is fully resolved to adopt and implement the EU acquis.**
- **Turkey can assume a fundamental role in the process of European unification through concrete and distinct contributions she can offer.**

Cyprus

Turkey will continue to support the efforts of the UN Secretary General, in the context of his good-offices mission aiming at a mutually acceptable settlement with a view to establishing a new partnership in Cyprus based on the sovereign equality of the two parties and the realities on the island.

Greece

Turkey will continue to undertake initiatives and efforts towards the settlement of bilateral problems with Greece through dialogue.

POLITICAL CRITERIA

The Turkish Government plans to undertake the following measures in the short and medium term:

Freedom of Thought and Expression

Short term

- **Review the Turkish Constitution and relevant provisions of other legislation, in the light of the criteria referred to in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms**

- **Review Article 312 of the Turkish Criminal Code and Articles 7 and 8 of the Anti-terrorism Act, without prejudice to values protected therein**
- **Review the Act on the Establishment of Radio and Television Enterprises and Their Broadcasts and Act on Press**

Medium term

- **Review the Political Parties Act**
- **Review the Act on the Duties and Competences of the Police, the Act on the Organization, Duties and Competences of the Gendarmerie and the Act on the Coast Guard Command,**
- **Review the Act on Cinema, Video and Musical Works**

Freedom of Association and Peaceful Assembly and the Civil Society

Short term

- **Enhance constitutional safeguards for non-governmental organizations**
- **Enact the draft law on the Economic and Social Council**
- **Enact the Draft Law on Job Security**

Medium term

- **Review the legislation on the freedom of association and peaceful assembly**
- **Review any restrictions there may be in the area of trade union rights**

Torture

Short term

- **Undertake arrangements to modernize the Forensic Medicine Institution**

Medium term

- **Enact the new Turkish Criminal Code and the new Code of Criminal Procedure**
- **Explore the availability of financial resources for training law-enforcement personnel for the prevention of human rights violations**
- **Introduce legal provisions on the joint and several liability of perpetrators of torture**

Improving the Functioning of the Judiciary

Short term

- **Review constitutional provisions on the State Security Courts and the Act on the Establishment and Procedures of the State Security Courts**
- **Review provisions in the constitution and other legislation which may be infringing upon the independence of the Judiciary**

Medium term

- **Establish Specialised Courts for Intellectual and Industrial Property Courts, Appellate Courts and Turkish Union of Chambers of Arbitrators and Expert Witnesses**
- **Review the Military Penal Code, the Act on the Establishment and Procedures of Military Courts and the Act on Military Administrative High Courts**

Death Penalty

“According to the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey, only the Turkish Grand National Assembly is authorised to take the decision to enforce a final sentence of capital punishment. The Turkish Government respects the practice of not infringing upon the essence of the right to life, sustained by the Turkish Grand National Assembly since 1984.

The abolition of the death penalty in Turkish criminal law, its form and its scope, will be considered by the Turkish Grand National Assembly in the medium term.”

Cultural Life and Individual Freedoms

“The official language and the formal education language of the Republic of Turkey is Turkish.

This, however, does not prohibit the free usage of different languages, dialects and tongues by Turkish citizens in their daily lives. This freedom may not be abused for the purposes of separatism and division.”

Full Enjoyment by All Individuals of All Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

Short term

- **Reinforce in the Constitution the principle that men and women have equal rights**
- **Enact the Draft Turkish Civil Code which envisages improvements in gender equality**
- **Put into effect the National Action Plan on child labour**

Medium term

- **Conclude international conventions in the field of human rights to which Turkey is not yet a party**
- **Take further practical measures to facilitate the practice by non-Muslim foreign nationals residing in Turkey the requirements of their religions, and in relation to other practices concerning them**

Prisons

Short term

- **Create the institution of the Enforcement Judge**

Medium term

- **Reorganise prisons and detention houses**

The National Security Council

“The National Security Council, which is a constitutional organ, has the status of a consultative body in areas of national security. Relevant articles of the Constitution and other legislation will be reviewed in the medium term to define more clearly the structure and the functions of this Council.”

State of Emergency

“The lifting of the State of Emergency, introduced to fight terrorism, in the remaining four provinces is an integral part of the comprehensive strategy for economic, social and cultural development in the area. The State of Emergency will be lifted with due regard to threat assessment and developments on the ground with respect to security.”

ECONOMIC CRITERIA

Short Term

- **Give momentum to the privatisation process and structural reforms in the areas of financial sector, agriculture and social security.**
- **Prepare a pre-accession fiscal surveillance procedure.**

Medium Term

- **Alleviate the harmful effects of long term inflation via eliminating macro-economic instabilities; especially maintaining public deficits at a sustainable level.**
- **Finalise the structural reforms and privatisation.**

THE CAPACITY TO ASSUME THE OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP (ADOPTION OF THE ACQUIS)

Free Movement of Goods

Short Term

- **Complete the alignment of European standards, certification and conformity assessment and marking; towards this end enact the Draft “Framework Law” on the Preparation and Implementation of Technical Legislation of Products.**
- **Activate the Turkish Accreditation Authority.**

Medium Term

- **Amend the current Public Procurement Law in order to achieve transparency and objectivity in line with the international norms and secure widespread competition and public scrutiny.**

Free Movement of Persons

Short Term

- **Enact new Association Council Decisions, in order to allow the legally employed Turkish workers in the EU member states to enjoy equivalent rights in the labour markets as of EU citizens.**

Free Movement of Capital

Medium Term

- **Replace the “permission system” with the “registration system” through a change in the Foreign Investment Law.**
- **Remove the provisions regarding (direct and indirect) restrictions on foreign investment existing in certain laws, respecting the national security and reciprocity principles.**

Competition Policy

Short Term

- **Enact the Law on Tobacco and Tobacco Products and the Law Amending the Law on the Monopoly of Spirits and Alcoholic Beverages in line with the EU norms so that “Turkish Monopoly” (TEKEL) can function in a competitive environment.**

Medium Term

- **Design a system similar to the EU’s “Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics” (NUTS) so that regional state aids system can become operational.**
- **Establish an autonomous administrative institution for the effective functioning of state aids system.**

Common Agricultural Policy

Medium Term

- **Develop functioning land register and animal identification systems.**
- **Enact legislation and enhance implementation in the field of veterinary and plant health systems.**
- **Develop new strategies for rural development.**
- **Enact the Draft Law on the Regulation of Agricultural Services so that scattered control in the agricultural sector and services can come under a single authority and be more effective and NGOs in the agricultural sector can be strengthened**
- **Enact the Draft Law on Agricultural Producer Unions to inform and educate farmers and enable them to adapt to the market conditions.**
- **Restructure the intervention agencies in line with the EU norms.**

Common Transport Policy

Short Term

- **Enact the Draft Law on Road Transport.**

Medium Term

- **Approximate the legislation in railroad transport to EU acquis..**
- **Restructure the railroads system.**
- **Align legislation on maritime safety standards to EU acquis.**

Taxation

Medium Term

- **Enact Excise Duty Law.**

Economic and Monetary Union

Short Term

- **Amend the Law of the Turkish Central Bank will so that:**
 - **The Bank's main objective becomes price stability,**
 - **The Bank becomes institutionally independent,**
 - **The Treasury's share in the Bank is limited.**

Medium Term

- **Revise the Law on the Protection of the Value of the Turkish Currency in order to start preparing for having a "single currency".**

Statistics

Short Term

- **Harmonisation in areas like collection of data and methodology.**
- **Realise necessary institutional arrangements.**
- **Enhance the coordination between institutions and cooperation with the EU's Statistics Office; EUROSTAT.**

Medium Term

- **Modify the laws of all public institutions so that statistical methodologies can be inserted in the legislation, since there is no specific**

provision regarding the creation and publication of statistics in Turkish legislation.

Social Policy and Employment

Short Term

- **Enact the Law on Trade Unions for Public Employees.**
- **Realise legal arrangements to achieve employment security.**
- **Implement a national action plan to eliminate child labor.**
- **Strengthen the legal basis of the Economic and Social Council.**
- **Enact the Draft Law on Work Permits of Foreigners.**

Medium Term

- **Amend The Laws on Trade Unions, Collective Bargaining Agreement and Strike and Lock-out.**
- **Adopt necessary measures to prevent discrimination on the grounds of sex in relevant laws.**

Energy

Short Term

- **Establish The Regulatory Board for the Electricity Market.**

Medium Term

- **Restructure national petroleum and natural gas markets through amendments in the Petroleum Law.**
- **Restructure the Directorate General for Petroleum Affairs as the Regulatory Board for the Petroleum Market.**

Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

Short Term

- **Participate in the Multi-annual Programs of the EU so that SMEs operating in Turkey can adapt to the conditions of the Single Market.**

Medium Term

- **Make legal arrangements in order to ameliorate the relations between the main and subsidiary industries.**

Education and Training

Short Term

- **Enact The Draft Law of the National Agency, which will be responsible for the coordination of the EU's Youth and Education Programs.**
- **Enact The Law on National Professional Standards Institution, which will establish standards in vocational training and hence facilitate the mutual recognition of vocational training documents between Turkey and the EU.**

Audio – Visual Policies

Short Term

- **Amend the Act on the Establishment of Radio and Television Enterprises and Their Broadcasts in order to conform with the EU Directive on “television without frontiers”.**

Regional Policies

Medium Term

- **Establish a system similar to the EU's “Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics” (NUTS) and determine target regions accordingly.**

Environment

Short Term

- **Increase the effectiveness of the Environmental Impact Assessment.**

- **Enhance access to environmental information.**

Medium Term

- **Align waste control regulations to those of the EU.**

Justice and Home Affairs

Medium Term

- **Perpetuate the efforts for public administration reform.**
- **Strengthen border control management.**
- **Align visa legislation implementation to that of the EU.**
- **Prevent illegal immigration by adopting EU legislation and implementation on immigration (admittance, re-admittance, expulsion).**
- **Enhance the capacity to fight organized crime, drug trafficking, corruption and money laundering.**
- **Adopt the EU legislation on corruption, fight against drugs, organized crime, money laundering.**
- **Cooperate with the EU and other relevant international organisations in the fields of criminal and civil law.**

Financial Control

Medium Term

- **Simplify the budgetary procedures.**
- **Extend the endorsements to all those who work in the budgetary process.**
- **Consolidate the widely dispersed nature of the legislation through a single framework law, so that the financial control system can become transparent and efficient.**