



TURKISH INDUSTRIALISTS' AND BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION
WASHINGTON OFFICE

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THE E.U. RELEASES ACCESSION PARTNERHIP DOCUMENT ON TURKEY

TUSIAD welcomes the adoption of the Accession Partnership document by the European Commission. The document "identifies short and medium term priorities, intermediate objectives and conditions on which accession preparations must concentrate in the light of the political and economic criteria and the obligations of a Member State to adopt, implement and enforce the (European) Community acquis".

The political and economic reforms set forth by the Accession Partnership document are primarily based on individual liberties as well as cultural and citizenship rights, which are already on the agenda of Turkey. Full implementation of those liberties and rights is the primary target of the Turkish business community as well.

In this respect, TUSIAD is strongly convinced that both the EU and Turkey should continue to undertake the following responsibilities in the accession process.

In this new context, the EU should:

- Unequivocally include Turkey in policies regarding enlargement and future of Europe; fairly disseminate information; promote new channels of communication; and actively pursue a constructive approach in its accession strategies towards Turkey so as to overcome difficulties arising from harmonization process of Turkey with the acquis.
- Increase financial cooperation with Turkey to a level compatible with the Accession Partnership objectives.
- Efficiently allocate financial cooperation funds to the projects relevant to the accession to the EU with an emphasis on the areas of education, judicial reform, infrastructure, and regional development.
- Urgently provide additional financial resources aimed at including Turkey in the EU agencies and programs, and reformulate the undelivered funds under the Customs Union in a manner to add to these resources.

Besides, Turkey should:

- Reach a consensus on the principles of the Accession Partnership document and the National Program so as to implement sound policies to harmonize with the EU acquis.
- Maintain political stability in order to undertake political and economic reforms, and adhere to the calendar defined in the National Program.
- Urgently include short-term regulations into the agenda of the Turkish Parliament in order to form a solid base for the Copenhagen political criteria and economic restructuring.
- Ensure that political authorities and bureaucrats act on the tenets of transparency and accountability.
- Cooperate with the Turkish private sector in the harmonization process with the EU acquis.