



TURKISH INDUSTRIALISTS' & BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
Representation to the EU and BUSINESS EUROPE - Brussels

PRESS RELEASE

The French Government Should Cease Its Hostility Against Turkey's EU Process.

Brussels, 11 December 2007

TUSIAD has issued a statement in response to the French government's objections to the use of the term "EU accession" in the draft conclusions prepared for the EU Council due December 14, 2007. The statement is as follows:

"EU expansion, perhaps the EU's most successful foreign policy initiative, has not only contributed to the economic, social and political reform process of candidate countries but has also increased the EU's economic dynamism and its social and cultural wealth. Turkey is on the way to EU membership on the basis of a solid institutional framework created by the EU's official policies and legal commitments.

The laws and objectives of the EU accession process are clear. Turkey-EU relations, since the signing in 1963 of the Ankara Treaty, have been based on an understanding of international law and rules of diplomacy. Membership negotiations were initiated in 2005 based on these premises. Turkey's legal and institutional achievements throughout this process cannot be taken away due to short-term political considerations of one member country's government. Based on this understanding, it is impossible to comprehend the French government's efforts to close the doors to EU membership for Turkey. For one democracy to display such unfair resistance towards another democracy contradicts the very idealism that underlies European integration.

EU-Turkey relations evolve on the basis of common interests and challenges such as global economic competitiveness, international security, trade, investment and job creation, energy supply and security, the fight against terrorism, illegal immigration and organized crime among others. In this respect, to provoke hostility towards a democratic nation and to undermine the EU's credibility is irrational. Turkey is determined to proceed on its path of economic development, and political and social reform.

We expect EU leaders to overcome such difficulties in order to maintain a constructive and progressive approach towards Turkey's EU membership process.

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