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Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2022/2205(INI)	Procedure completed
2022 Commission Report on Türkiye		
Subject 8.20.01 Candidate countries		
Geographical area Turkey		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Foreign Affairs	 SÁNCHEZ AMOR Nacho Shadow rapporteur  NISTOR Gheorghe-Vlad  AZMANI Malik  LAGODINSKY Sergey  WASZCZYKOWSKI Witold Jan  VILIMSKY Harald  DEMIREL Özlem  GEORGIU Giorgos	08/11/2022

Key events			
19/01/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/07/2023	Vote in committee		
25/07/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0247/2023	Summary
	Debate in Parliament		

12/09/2023			
13/09/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/09/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0320/2023	Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	2022/2205(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Annual report
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/9/10926

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report	PE749.125	30/05/2023	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE750.076	22/06/2023	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE750.085	22/06/2023	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A9-0247/2023	25/07/2023	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T9-0320/2023	13/09/2023	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2023)641	31/01/2024	EC	

2022 Commission Report on Türkiye

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted an own-initiative report by Nacho SÁNCHEZ AMOR (S&D, ES) on the 2022 Commission Report on Türkiye.

General assessment and latest developments

Members noted the results of the recent presidential and parliamentary elections in Türkiye and considered them a sign foretelling political continuity in the country. They regretted however, that, as reflected by the OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission, the lack of a level playing field gave an unjustified advantage to the incumbent. They regretted, further, that harsh rhetoric, inflammatory and discriminatory language, including against minorities, the continued intimidation and harassment of supporters of some opposition parties and false claims by ruling parties affiliating the opposition with terrorism undermined the process.

Expressing its profound sadness about the deadly, devastating earthquakes that shook south-eastern Türkiye and Syria on 6 February 2023, the report stated that EU should continue to support the people of Türkiye in addressing their humanitarian needs and in their reconstruction efforts.

The report welcomed Türkiye's vote in favour of condemning the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine in the UN General Assembly and its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. It regretted, at the same time, that Türkiye does not support sanctions outside the UN framework. It also welcomed Türkiye's efforts in facilitating talks between Ukraine and Russia and reiterated its appreciation for the key part played by Türkiye together with the UN in brokering and keeping alive the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

Members also urged Türkiye to ratify Sweden's NATO membership without any further delay and invited the Turkish authorities to deliver on their promise of a more constructive partnership in NATO, including in the Eastern Mediterranean. They stressed that the NATO accession process of one country can in no way be linked to the EU accession process of another, as the EU accession process of the other country remains based on its own merits.

The report welcomed Türkiye's efforts to continue hosting the largest refugee population in the world of almost 4 million people and welcomed, in this regard, the continued provision of EU funding for refugees and host communities in Türkiye and expressed its strong commitment to sustain this in the future. The Commission is called on to put forward a proposal for the continuation of financing for Syrian refugees and host communities in Türkiye after 2024.

Members are dismayed by the fact that the negative trend is far from stopping or being reversed and that the democratic backsliding in Türkiye has continued over the last year, with several laws being amended that tighten online censorship and restrict access to information under the guise of preventing misinformation. They also noted the relentless crackdown on any critical voice, particularly ahead of and during the recent

elections.

The report condemned the lack of independence of the judiciary and the political instrumentalisation of the judicial system and called on Türkiye to fully implement all judgments of the European Court of Human Rights. It also condemned the continued prosecution, censorship and harassment of journalists and independent media in Türkiye. It noted that no significant progress has been registered with regard to the protection of the rights of ethnic and religious minorities.

Members expressed their concern about the deterioration of women's rights, gender-based violence and the increase in femicides as well as the widespread hate speech and discrimination against the LGBTI+ community.

Highly concerned about the Kurdish question, Members reiterated the urgency of resuming a credible political process involving all relevant parties and democratic forces in order to lead to its peaceful settlement.

The way forward for EU-Türkiye relations

Members reiterated their firm conviction that Türkiye is a country of strategic relevance in political, economic, energy and foreign policy terms, a key partner for the stability of the wider region and an important ally, including within NATO. They reaffirmed that the EU is committed to pursuing the best possible relations with Türkiye based on dialogue, respect and mutual trust, in line with international law and good neighbourly relations.

Members considered that in the absence of a drastic change of course by the Turkish Government, Türkiye's EU accession process cannot be resumed in the current circumstances. The report urged the Turkish Government and the European Union's institutions and Member States to break the current deadlock and move forward towards a closer, more dynamic and strategic partnership. It recommended approaching this matter with the highest level of responsibility and dedication and to start a reflection process to find a parallel and realistic framework for EU-Türkiye relations that encompasses the interests of all parties involved.

The report insisted that democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights, as well as mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and respect for the rights of minorities, should remain at the heart of good neighbourly relations between the EU and Türkiye.

While commending the democratic and pro-European aspirations of the majority of Turkish society, Members expressed their utmost commitment to sustaining and increasing the support for Türkiye's independent civil society, including by regularly monitoring the situation of the right to freedom of assembly and association in Türkiye, as well as the protection of human rights defenders and shrinking civic space.

Members reaffirmed its support for an upgraded customs union with a broader, mutually beneficial scope, which could encompass a wide range of areas of common interest, including digitalisation and Green Deal alignment. Such a modernisation would need to be based on strong conditionality related to human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for international law and good neighbourly relations.

2022 Commission Report on Türkiye

The European Parliament adopted by 434 votes to 18, with 152 abstentions, a resolution on the 2022 Commission Report on Türkiye.

General assessment and latest developments

Parliament took note of the results of the recent presidential and parliamentary elections in Türkiye and considered them a sign foretelling political continuity in the country. It welcomed the high turnout and notes that the elections were largely peaceful, despite isolated instances of violence primarily against opposition supporters.

Expressing its profound sadness about the deadly, devastating earthquakes that shook south-eastern Türkiye and Syria on 6 February 2023, Parliament welcomed the swift activation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism to assist affected areas and stated that EU should continue to support the people of Türkiye in addressing their humanitarian needs and in their reconstruction efforts.

Russian war of aggression against Ukraine

Parliament welcomed Türkiye's vote in favour of condemning the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine in the UN General Assembly and its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. It regretted, at the same time, that Türkiye does not support sanctions outside the UN framework.

Stressing that trade between Türkiye and Russia has nearly doubled since the start of the war in Ukraine and that there is an elevated risk that sanctioned goods and technologies, such as semiconductors, could pass through Turkish territory, Members deplored the fact that circumvention of EU sanctions by Türkiye undermines collective efforts. They called on the Commission to examine the increase in trade between Russia and Türkiye and assess the relevant trade flows that could indicate circumvention of sanctions.

Sweden's NATO membership

Parliament urged Türkiye to ratify Sweden's NATO membership without any further delay and invited the Turkish authorities to deliver on their promise of a more constructive partnership in NATO, including in the Eastern Mediterranean. It stressed that the NATO accession process of one country can in no way be linked to the EU accession process of another, as the EU accession process of the other country remains based on its own merits.

Refugees

Parliament welcomed Türkiye's efforts to continue hosting the largest refugee population in the world of almost 4 million people and welcomed, in this regard, the continued provision of EU funding for refugees and host communities in Türkiye and expressed its strong commitment to sustain this in the future. The Commission is called on to put forward a proposal for the continuation of financing for Syrian refugees and host communities in Türkiye after 2024.

Democracy and human rights

Members are dismayed by the fact that the negative trend is far from stopping or being reversed and that the democratic backsliding in Türkiye has continued over the last year, with several laws being amended that tighten online censorship and restrict access to information under the guise of preventing misinformation. They also noted the relentless crackdown on any critical voice, particularly ahead of and during the recent

elections.

The resolution condemned the lack of independence of the judiciary and the political instrumentalisation of the judicial system and called on Türkiye to fully implement all judgments of the European Court of Human Rights. It also condemned the continued prosecution, censorship and harassment of journalists and independent media in Türkiye.

Members expressed their concern about the deterioration of women's rights, gender-based violence and the increase in femicides as well as the widespread hate speech and discrimination against the LGBTI+ community.

Furthermore, no significant progress has been registered with regard to the protection of the rights of ethnic and religious minorities, including those of the Greek Orthodox population of the islands of Gökçeada (Imbros) and Bozcaada (Tenedos); calls on

The way forward for EU-Türkiye relations

Parliament reiterated their firm conviction that Türkiye is a country of strategic relevance in political, economic, energy and foreign policy terms, a key partner for the stability of the wider region and an important ally, including within NATO. It called for the EU-Türkiye relations to be based on a long-term vision and built upon cooperation and not confrontation.

Members considered that in the absence of a drastic change of course by the Turkish Government, Türkiye's EU accession process cannot be resumed in the current circumstances. They urged the Turkish Government and the European Union's institutions and Member States to break the current deadlock and move forward towards a closer, more dynamic and strategic partnership. They recommended approaching this matter with the highest level of responsibility and dedication and to start a reflection process to find a parallel and realistic framework for EU-Türkiye relations that encompasses the interests of all parties involved.

Parliament insisted that democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights, as well as mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and respect for the rights of minorities, should remain at the heart of good neighbourly relations between the EU and Türkiye.

While commending the democratic and pro-European aspirations of the majority of Turkish society, Members expressed their utmost commitment to sustaining and increasing the support for Türkiye's independent civil society, including by regularly monitoring the situation of the right to freedom of assembly and association in Türkiye, as well as the protection of human rights defenders and shrinking civic space.

Parliament reaffirmed its support for an upgraded customs union with a broader, mutually beneficial scope, which could encompass a wide range of areas of common interest, including digitalisation and Green Deal alignment. Such a modernisation would need to be based on strong democratic conditionality from the outset of any negotiations, as Parliament will not give its consent to the final agreement if no progress is made in this field.

Transparency				
SÁNCHEZ AMOR Nacho	Rapporteur	AFET	09/06/2023	Mayor of Nikosia
SÁNCHEZ AMOR Nacho	Rapporteur	AFET	07/06/2023	Heinrich-Böll-Foundation
SÁNCHEZ AMOR Nacho	Rapporteur	AFET	06/06/2023	Better Justice Association
SÁNCHEZ AMOR Nacho	Rapporteur	AFET	06/06/2023	Permanent Delegate of Greece to the European Union
SÁNCHEZ AMOR Nacho	Rapporteur	AFET	05/06/2023	Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Türkiye to the European Union
SÁNCHEZ AMOR Nacho	Rapporteur	AFET	05/06/2023	Civil Society organizations
SÁNCHEZ AMOR Nacho	Rapporteur	AFET	31/05/2023	UNDP Resident Representative in Türkiye
SÁNCHEZ AMOR Nacho	Rapporteur	AFET	20/04/2023	CoE Commissioner for Human Rights
SÁNCHEZ AMOR Nacho	Rapporteur	AFET	13/04/2023	Turkish Permanent Ambassador to the EU
SÁNCHEZ AMOR Nacho	Rapporteur	AFET	12/04/2023	Women NGOs Türkiye