



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Foreign Affairs

2012/0122(NLE)

23.4.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on the proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Turkey on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation (COM(2012)0239 – C7-0000/2013 – 2012/0122(NLE))

Rapporteur: Ria Oomen-Ruijten

PA_Leg_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

After 8 years of negotiations the European Commission and Turkey reached an agreement in June 2012 on the text of an Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Turkey on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation, subject to its signature and conclusion. The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) is the lead committee. Given its responsibility for accession negotiations (ANNEX VII of the Rules of Procedure) and its long-standing interest in Turkey, the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) requested authorisation to draft an opinion.

The proposed decision concerning the conclusion of the agreement sets out the necessary internal arrangements for the practical application of the Agreement. In the Explanatory Memorandum attached to the proposal, the Commission points out that the readmission obligations are drawn up in a fully reciprocal way, comprising own nationals as well as third-country nationals and stateless persons. A derogation for Denmark from the decision has been agreed.

Giving that a large number of irregular immigrants enter EU territory via Turkey it is important to intensify cooperation on migration management, the fight against human trafficking and border controls. The agreement should also have an impact on the gradual visa liberalisation process in a long term perspective and would be an important step on the roadmap towards a visa-free regime. Turkey is the only candidate country which does not have visa liberalisation. The Committee urges Turkish authorities to ensure that, until this agreement enters into force, existing bilateral agreements are fully implemented. It should also be noted that in its resolution of 29 March 2012 on the Commission's 'Turkey 2011 progress report' (P7_TA(2012)0116) Parliament "urged Turkey to sign and implement the EU-Turkey readmission agreement" and "took the view that, once the readmission agreement is signed, the Council should mandate the Commission to initiate the visa dialogue and define the roadmap for visa liberalisation". In the draft resolution on the Commission's 'Turkey 2012 progress report' currently under discussion in AFET this policy line is reaffirmed.

Therefore, the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Turkey on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation remains of crucial importance.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to propose that Parliament give its consent.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	23.4.2013
Result of final vote	+: 34 -: 5 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Sir Robert Atkins, Bastiaan Belder, Elmar Brok, Arnaud Danjean, Andrzej Grzyb, Anna Ibrisagic, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Jelko Kacin, Tunne Kelam, Maria Eleni Koppa, Andrey Kovatchev, Paweł Robert Kowal, Eduard Kukan, Vytautas Landsbergis, Sabine Lösing, Ulrike Lunacek, Francisco José Millán Mon, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Ioan Mircea Pașcu, Mirosław Piotrowski, Hans-Gert Pöttering, Cristian Dan Preda, György Schöpflin, Geoffrey Van Orden, Sir Graham Watson, Boris Zala
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Charalampos Angourakis, Reinhard Bütikofer, Andrew Duff, Roberto Gualtieri, Elisabeth Jeggle, Carmen Romero López, Sampo Terho, Ivo Vajgl
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Maria Badiá i Cutchet, María Auxiliadora Correa Zamora, Cornelia Ernst, Peter Šťastný