



EU-TURKEY JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

**Draft recommendation
of the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee
on the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)**

Draftspersons:

Mr Andrew Duff
Mr Cüneyt Yüksel

The EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee,

- having regard to the Agreement of 12 September 1963 establishing an Association between the European Economic Community and Turkey,
- having regard to the Additional Protocol to that Agreement of 23 November 1970,
- having regard to Decision No 1/95 of the EC-Turkey Association Council of 22 December 1995 on implementing the final phase of the Customs Union (96/142/EC),
- having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2500/2001 of 17 December 2001 concerning pre-accession financial assistance for Turkey and amending Regulations (EEC) No 3906/89, (EC) No 1267/1999 and (EC) No 555/2000,
- having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 of 17 July 2006 on establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA),
- having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 718/2007 of 12 June 2007 on implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 on establishing the IPA,
- having regard to Commission Regulation (EU) No 80/2010 of 28 January 2010 amending Regulation (EC) No 718/2007 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 establishing the IPA,
- having regard to the Prime Ministry Circular dated November 2009 regarding the Decentralized Implementation System (DIS) on envisaging the implementation and controlling different phases of financial cooperation by different institutions and persons,
- having regard to Memorandum of Understanding dated 4 February 2003 regarding the establishment of Central Finance and Contracts Unit and National Fund and construction of the structure of the financial cooperation between EU and Turkey,
- having regard to the Strategic Coherence Framework issued by the State Planning Organisation regarding 3rd and 4th components of the IPA,
- having regard to the National Programmes for IPA component I and the Operational Programmes for IPA component III, IV and V,
- having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament IPA Multi-Annual Indicative Financial Framework for 2011-2013,
- having regard to the Multi-Annual Indicative Planning Document (MIPD) 2009-2011 issued by the Commission on determining priorities, targets and expectations to be financed in Turkey in the framework of the IPA's 5 components,
- having regard to the EU's Accession Partnership and Turkey's National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis and the 9th Development Plan,

Whereas

- A. the Customs Union with Turkey remains one of the most advanced and close commercial relationships that the EU has with any non-EU country,
- B. Turkey has become the EU's seventh largest trade partner and the EU is Turkey's largest trade partner,
- C. Turkey begins to be assessed equally on a legal and technical basis with the other candidate countries and assistance granted to Turkey is collected under a single budget,
- D. a new single framework for the implementation of pre-accession assistance has been initiated and the legal structure of this mechanism is determined,
- E. closer cooperation between the EU Commission and Turkish institutions is a crucial necessity in terms of increasing effective and efficient use of EU funds as well as preparation for the EU's Structural and Cohesion Policy;
- F. the IPA is composed of five components: (1) Transition Assistance and Institution Building, (2) Cross Border Co-operation, (3) Regional Development, (4) Human Resources Development, and (5) Rural Development,
- G. total IPA funds allocated to Turkey between 2007 and 2010 amount to € 2,256 million,
- H. the aim of IPA assistance is to support Turkey's efforts for reform and towards compliance with EU law in order that it may become fully prepared to take on the obligations of membership to the European Union, particularly with regard to institutional capacity, harmonisation of law and economic and social cohesion,
 - 1. Calls for an increase in capacity and acceleration of contracting procedures with respect to both the national authorities and the ex-ante approval of the projects by the EU Delegation in order to comply with the deadlines set for contracting and execution of payments and to avoid the decommitment of funds;
 - 2. Calls for the preparations for the waiver of ex-ante control on contracting to be expedited, and for the transition process of setting up Operating Structures for components III and IV to be finalised as soon as possible with close cooperation between the EU and Turkish sides;
 - 3. Considering the fact that under the respective EU financial assistance programmes Turkey gets the least amount of financial support per capita when compared with other candidate countries, calls on Turkey and the Commission to maximize the impact, efficiency and effectiveness of the financial assistance through strengthening their cooperation so that Turkey benefits more effectively from the IPA funds;
 - 4. Calls for a review of how absorption capacity can be increased and implementation accelerated so that Turkey can adapt fully to the methods and

objectives of the Europe 2020 programme and be in a position to exploit the potential of a larger financial framework after 2013;

5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Government of Turkey.