

Turkey must fulfil all criteria to get visa-free travel to the EU, say MEPs

[21-04-2016 - 17:59]

Turkey must fulfil all the requirements laid down by the EU in order to be granted visa-free access to the Schengen area, stressed Civil Liberties Committee MEPs in Thursday's debate on Ankara's progress in delivering on its visa liberalisation roadmap.

A majority of MEPs rejected the idea of relaxing the criteria and called on the EU Commission to verify Turkey's compliance with care.

As part of the EU-Turkey deal reached on 18 March to better manage migration and refugee flows, EU leaders offered to accelerate visa liberalisation, with a view to granting Turkish citizens visa-free travel in the EU by June 2016, provided that all benchmarks were met.

The next progress report assessing the situation will be presented on 4 May. Once the Commission approves a legislative proposal to exempt Turkey from visa requirements, the Parliament will have to decide upon it, together with the Council, under the co-decision procedure.

You can catch up with the debate via [VOD](#).

Further information

- EU-Turkey statement, 18 March 2016 (European Council):
<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/03/18-eu-turkey-statement/>
- EP TV: Questions on Turkey visa liberalisation:
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/player.aspx?pid=1167a672-72b2-457e-a050-a5e100ae92dc&utm_source=webcomm&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ep_media_network
- Turkey: need of urgent reforms in key areas, say MEPs (Press release after plenary vote, 14.04.2016):
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160407IPR21789/Turkey-need-of-urgent-reforms-in-key-areas-say-MEPs>
- Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs:
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/libe/home.html>

Contact

Estefania NARRILLOS

BXL: (+32) 2 28 31324

STR: (+33) 3 881 73661

PORT: (+32) 498 98 39 85

EMAIL: libe-press@europarl.europa.eu

TWITTER: EP_Justice