



EU-TURKEY JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

77th MEETING

**26 April 2018
Brussels**

European Parliament Statement by the Co-Chairs

The EU - Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) held its 77th meeting in Brussels on 26 April 2018 under the joint chairmanship of Mr Manolis KEFALOGIANNIS (EPP, Greece) and Mr İsmail Emrah KARAYEL (AK Party, Turkey).

The Co-Chairs underline the importance of the JPC as a main platform for inter-parliamentary debate regarding the developments in the EU and Turkey, as well as progress achieved in our relations. They welcome with satisfaction the holding of the long-awaited 77th JPC, after 3 years standstill in inter-parliamentary relations.

At this meeting, the Committee held an exchange of views with Mr Maciej POPOWSKI, Deputy Director-General in charge of Southern Neighbourhood, Turkey, Migration/Refugees and Security issues, on behalf of the European Commission, H.E Faruk KAYMAKCI, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Turkey to the EU, on behalf of the Government of Turkey, Ms Emilia KRALEVA, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, on behalf of the Presidency-in-Office of the Council of the European Union and Mr Javier NINO PEREZ, Head of Turkey Division, Europe and Central Asia, on behalf of the European External Action Service.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee exchanged views on the following subjects:

- EU-Turkey relations and state of play of the accession negotiations,
- EU-Turkey economic cooperation,
- Security challenges.

The Co-Chairs point out that the JPC will strive to make a genuine contribution to the EU-Turkey relations. They will put all their efforts to develop an open and constructive dialogue between the European Parliament and the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

Both sides acknowledge that the JPC should be meeting regularly - up to three times per year - as indicated in its Rules of Procedure, and work towards improved political relations between the EU and Turkey, the candidate country.

The Co-Chairs strongly believe that EU-Turkey cooperation on common challenges and shared priorities represents an investment in the stability and prosperity of both Turkey and the EU and look forward to an intensified cooperation in the nearest future.