

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0955/04  
by Philip Claeys (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject: Statements by Commissioner Verheugen concerning Turkey's possible accession to the Union

According to the 24 February 2004 edition of the German newspaper 'Die Welt' Commissioner Günter Verheugen informed the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, two weeks before that date that in the autumn the Commission will formally recommend to the Council that accession negotiations be opened with Turkey.

Is this information correct?

If so, has the Commission made sufficient progress with its report on the issue of accession negotiations with Turkey to be able to draw conclusions of this kind?

If not, has the Commission, or the Commissioner, formally denied the report in 'Die Welt'? Why not (if applicable)?

Does the Commission regard it as desirable that its Members or government leaders from the current Member States should make public statements concerning the conclusions of a significant report which has not yet been drawn up, let alone published?