

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1288/04
by Philip Claeys (NI)
to the Commission

Subject: Recognition of the Armenian genocide by Turkey

In 1915 almost one million people lost their lives in a genocide of the Armenian people. Over the period 1915-1918 the Turkish army evacuated virtually all Armenian villages in the Ottoman Empire, hundreds of thousands of people were massacred or died later in terrible conditions during hunger marches to Syria. This was the first case of genocide in the 20th century.

To date Turkey has refused to admit responsibility for this genocide.

Does the Commission intend to ask Turkey formally to admit to the Armenian genocide?

To what extent can a candidate country which refuses to admit to a genocide it carried out be considered to have a credible human rights policy today?