

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2503/06
by Marie Isler Béguin (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Reopening of the border between Armenia and Turkey

In 1994, Turkey closed its border with Armenia, blocking all road and rail traffic between the two countries ever since.

This closure has had a direct economic and social impact on the border regions of both countries but has also considerably slowed development in the area as a whole, isolating Armenia further in the South Caucasus.

Does the Commission consider the opening of the Armenian-Turkish border a priority issue in the accession negotiations launched between the EU and Turkey on 3 October 2005?

Would the Commission agree to admit a new Member State that kept the border with one of its neighbours closed?

What reasons does Turkey give to justify this closure to the European Union? Does the Commission consider them valid arguments?