

EN
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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.9.2021)

In July 2018¹, the Council indicated that accession negotiations with Turkey had come to a standstill and that no work would be done on opening or closing negotiation chapters. This was reconfirmed in 2019². In its latest annual report on Turkey³, the Commission noted that Turkey was moving further away from the EU. The underlying facts, leading to this assessment, still hold, despite the government's repeated commitment to the objective of EU accession. Any decision to formally end accession negotiations would be for the EU Member States to take according to the provisions of the Negotiating Framework⁴.

The June 2021 European Council⁵ recalled the EU's strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and in the development of a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with Turkey. It welcomed the de-escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean which needs to be sustained in line with the statement by the Members of the European Council of 25 March 2021⁶. The European Council reiterated the EU's readiness to engage with Turkey in a phased, proportionate and reversible manner to enhance cooperation in a number of areas of common interest, subject to the established conditionalities set out in March and in previous European Council conclusions. It also took note of the preparatory work for high level dialogues with Turkey on issues of mutual interest, such as migration, public health, climate, counterterrorism and regional issues. The European Council will remain seized of the matter.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/06/18/council-conclusions-on-enlargement-and-stabilisation-and-association-process/>

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/06/18/council-conclusions-on-enlargement-and-stabilisation-and-association-process/>

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020SC0355&from=EN>

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/turkey/st20002_05_tr_framedoc_en.pdf

⁵ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/50763/2425-06-21-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/48976/250321-vtc-euco-statement-en.pdf>