



RESOLUTION:

Visa deal EU-Turkey

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Bucharest, Romania on the 21st May 2016

Acknowledging that:

- The migration deal between the European Union and Turkey, which has been signed by EU Heads of State on March 18, included the removal of the visa requirement for Turkish citizens travelling into the Schengen Area, once Turkey has met all 72 requirements as set out by the EU;
- The European Commission has announced that the removal of the visa requirement could possibly be voted on at the end of this month by all Heads of State and the European Parliament;
- According to the Corruption Perceptions Index by Transparency International Turkey scored 42/100 in 2015, which is a worse result than in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Recognising that:

- The set targets by the EU are not likely to be met anytime soon. E.g. Turkey should have passed measures to prevent corruption, illegal immigration, human trafficking, and change its anti-terrorism-law, in line with EU recommendations;
- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced that Ankara will not change its anti-terrorism law, by stating “We are going our way, you (meaning EU) are going your own way”, despite it being a condition laid down by the European Commission to ensure visa-free travel for Turks;
- Turkish Prime Minister Davutoglu, who has closed most agreements with the EU, will leave his post prematurely, presumably because of disagreements with President Erdogan, and is likely to complicate the negotiations;



- The 'success' of the migration deal is relative. One of the major reasons of the decrease of asylum seekers in e.g. Central Europe is the strict border enforcement by Balkan countries and others.

YEPP calls on:

- The European Commission, the European Parliament, the national governments and the national parliaments not to liberalise visas unless all 72 conditions are met, without making any exceptions;
- The European Commission, the European Parliament, the national governments and the national parliaments to further evaluate the risks of visa liberalisation for Turkish citizens.