



RESOLUTION:

A PRIVILEGED PARTNERSHIP AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO A TURKISH EU MEMBERSHIP

*Adopted at the YEPP Council in Brussels, Belgium
On the 26th of September 2015*

Recognizing:

- That the EPP has repeatedly stated that it sees a privileged partnership between Turkey and the EU as a fully-fledged alternative for a Turkish EU membership;
- That on the upcoming EPP Congress (October 21st/22nd), there will be a decision on this position once again;
- That YEPP until now has no position concerning this question;
- That the Turkish government has given up or even reversed its efforts in adapting the Turkish state to the criteria for admission to the EU in recent years - notably, among many others, by restricting freedom of opinion -, and no change to this is foreseeable;
- The continuously growing political instability in the Middle East region;

Acknowledging:

- That because of its geographical situation as a link between Europe and Asia, Turkey is of strategic importance to the EU;
- That because of this link, a Turkish state conforming to the EU's *acquis communautaire* would be very helpful for both sides;
- That Turkey has been a NATO member for more than 60 years and has proved to be a reliable partner of most EU member states in military cooperation;

- That a closer cooperation of Turkey with the EU in the fields of foreign and security policies, especially in the fight against terrorism, would be of extensive mutual benefit;
- That, however, the enormous size and population of Turkey would be a considerable challenge with its integration into the EU;
- That a Turkish EU membership would result in direct EU borders with several states of the Middle East, showing substantial instability;
- That Turkey continues not to accept the Republic of Cyprus as a sovereign state and keeps more than one third of its territory occupied;
- That the EU Council froze the opening of eight chapters of the EU admission negotiation process over Turkey's rejection to open its ports and airports to traffic from Cyprus;
- That after ten years of accession negotiations, only one of the 35 chapters of Turkey's EU admission negotiation process have been successfully closed;
- That Turkey continues to deny the Armenian genocide of 1915 despite it being officially recognized and condemned by numerous states and international organisations, including the European Union and the Council of Europe, showing lack of respect also for the Armenian diaspora.

YEPP calls on:

- The European Council to offer Turkey a privileged partnership instead of pursuing Turkey's EU application process;
- The European Council to define this privileged partnership as a close cooperation, especially in foreign and security policies, clearly exceeding a mere association;
- The European Commission to stop the payment of further pre-accession aid to Turkey.