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Arguments Compiled Based on the Statements by
the Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik
No: 2

TURKEY-EU RELATIONS

ARGUMENTS
COMPILED BASED ON THE STATEMENTS BY
THE MINISTER FOR EU AFFAIRS
AND CHIEF NEGOTIATOR ÖMER ÇELİK



TURKEY

**EU
RELATIONS**

*Turkey has much to contribute to
the EU and the world.*

Ömer Çelik



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The European Union project is a state policy for Turkey, for the sake of its national interests.

Visit to Belgium- Press Conference at the Permanent Representation of Turkey to the European Union-Date: 01/06/2016, 15:37

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We are determined to carry out reforms, but not just for the European Union project. We carry out reforms for the welfare of our citizens so that they can benefit from high democratic standards.

Visit to Belgium- Press Conference at the Permanent Representation of Turkey to the European Union -Date: 01/06/2016, 15:37

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Turkey-EU relations should not be based on competition. The steps and reforms undertaken by Turkey towards EU membership should be appreciated and promoted further. This transformation in Turkey is characterised by a growing economy and developing democracy, and should be taken into consideration as well.

Visit to Belgium- Press Conference at the Permanent Representation of Turkey to the European Union -Date: 01/06/2016, 15:37

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Turkey has much to contribute to the EU and the world.

*Visit to Adana - A Statement at the Airport
Date: 04/06/2016*

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Turkey-EU relations should be considered within a broader framework. Turkey’s sensitivity to protect the balance between freedom and security through the reforms undertaken so far and to be carried out in the future, even under this massive terrorist attack, is significant.

Meeting with Pedro Agramunt, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe-Date: 07/06/2016, 14:01

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The EU should consider Turkey as a part of its “enlargement policy” rather than its “neighbourhood policy”.

*Visit to the Netherlands- Press Conference
Date: 10/06/2016, 13:18*

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EU values do not belong to the European continent alone. It is true that these values are rooted in Europe; however, they are the gains of all humanity. All these values, including democracy, rule of law, free market economy, human rights and fundamental rights are universal gains and the results of the major experiences of humanity. Both as a country with ties to the Balkans, Caucasus, the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and the Middle East, and as a European power and democracy, Turkey has always played a crucial role in protecting these values.

*Visit to the Netherlands- Press Conference
Date: 10/06/2016, 13:18*

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We should not sit at the table facing each other but sit on the same side. The method by which these reforms are carried out is important, but what is more, we should strengthen the common mechanisms for the future of Europe, the future of the EU, the future of the European democracy and the future of European values with regards to peace.

*Visit to the Netherlands - Press Conference
Date: 10/06/2016, 13:18*

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This period harbours major challenges for Turkey, European geopolitics and European democracies. It is therefore wrong to exclude Turkey from European geopolitics.

Visit to Slovakia- Press Conference Date: 14/06/2016, 16:14

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Considering this atmosphere, Turkey's accession to the EU, as an important European power and a big democratic state, is essential both for Turkey's national interests and the European vision so that Europe can create new mechanisms and new alliances against these major crises.

Visit to Slovakia- Press Conference Date: 14/06/2016, 16:14

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Turkey is a large European power and a strong European democracy. We should therefore collaborate much more to protect and strengthen these universal political values represented in the EU, but which belong to all humanity, not just the European continent alone.

Visit to Slovakia- Press Conference Date: 14/06/2016, 16:14

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Turkey and Europe, or Turkish democracy and European democracy, are parts of a whole. They are inseparable.

Visit to Slovakia- Press Conference Date: 14/06/2016, 16:14

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I believe that European values do not belong to the European continent alone. These values are universal since they are the results of major experiences of mankind. Starting from Europe, the more the feeling of unity based on these universal values expands, the more this would be beneficial for our region and the world. In other words, this unity will develop and strengthen when Turkey, a European democratic country, becomes a part of it.

Joint Press Conference with Paolo Gentiloni, Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs-Date: 21/06/2016, 19:43

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We do not call to Europe, we call as Europeans. We do not offer solutions for Europe, we find solutions as Europeans.

Joint Press Conference with Paolo Gentiloni, Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs-Date: 21/06/2016, 19:43

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The European Union and Turkey should not be regarded as two actors competing with each other. From a realistic point of view, there is not a competitive relationship between Turkey and the European Union. Although not an EU Member State, Turkey is and has been a large European state throughout history; Turkey is a big European democracy and power. Turkey makes comments or takes action as a Mediterranean, a Middle Eastern and an Asian country, but more importantly, as a European country.

Joint Press Conference with Paolo Gentiloni, Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs-Date: 21/06/2016, 19:43

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Turkey's potential can only ensure gains for the EU region and democracy that we also belong to. This potential cannot create a burden or any negativity at all.

Joint Press Conference with Paolo Gentiloni, Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs-Date: 21/06/2016, 19:43

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Turkey is a European democratic country, and so its comments should not be regarded as foreign. Turkey makes these comments as a European state and a country from the European landscape. From this point of view, I believe that Turkey-EU relations should not be based on competition, but on cooperation.

Joint Press Conference with Paolo Gentiloni, Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs-Date: 21/06/2016, 19:43

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When we make comments, we do not speak to Europe. We make comments as Europeans.

Joint Press Conference with Paolo Gentiloni, Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs-Date: 21/06/2016, 19:43

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Some Member States of the EU are in competition with Turkey, which is misguided and a historical mistake for the future of Europe, European values and democracy. As envisaged with in the scope of Turkey-EU statement of 18 March 2016, collaboration based on a common vision is essential.

Joint Press Conference with Paolo Gentiloni, Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs-Date: 21/06/2016, 19:43

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In a period of religious conflicts and economic instability, strengthening unity with the accession of Turkey is in fact a must for the national interests of all Member States.

Joint Press Conference with Paolo Gentiloni, Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs-Date: 21/06/2016, 19:43

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The answer of the question whether Turkey needs the EU or vice-versa is that they will need each other. This has been underlined by the migrant crisis.

TRT Haber Exclusive Interview Date: 22/06/2016, 16:11

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The universal values represented by the EU do not belong to Europe alone, but to humanity. These values were established at the end of the Second World War, one of the most devastating events in human history. The EU has a unique position as a mechanism that set standards and has established its political values on a legal basis. Therefore, Turkey's accession to the EU is not a strategic target, but a state policy.

TRT Haber Exclusive Interview- Date: 22/06/2016, 16:11

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The European Union has been established several times. First, it was established by the mutual agreement of France and Germany. Then, it was established with its expansion to the Balkans through the mutual agreement of Germany and Poland. Its next establishment may be completed with the accession of Turkey in order to protect pluralism and develop a common approach and foreign policy against the extreme right and terrorist organizations such as Daesh.

TRT Haber Exclusive Interview- Date: 22/06/2016, 16:11

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The answer to the question “Does Turkey expect concessions, given the fact that it is a very large country?” is that Turkey does not expect concessions, but demands should not be increased either. We do not expect positive discrimination, but we are opposed to negative discrimination too.

TRT Haber Exclusive Interview- Date: 22/06/2016, 16:11

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Turkey has a unique position in the world as a Muslim democratic state, considering the deep ethnic and religious conflicts, and conflicting interests in the region. Therefore, Turkey’s geopolitical position, its military, economic power, foreign policy capacity and democratic structure in a region where Muslims and non-Muslims live in peace are among its most significant soft powers.

TRT Haber Exclusive Interview- Date: 22/06/2016, 16:11

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“ Throughout history, we have been a European power, and today, we are a powerful European democratic country. Since nobody can change this reality, the theory will have to conform to the reality in time if the former conflicts with the latter. ”

TRT Haber Exclusive Interview- Date: 22/06/2016, 16:11

“ What made the Roman Empire a global power was its position near Anatolia as a natural extension of the continent of Europe. This is also true today. In other words, as a global power, the EU can keep these values alive only with the help of Turkey. ”

TRT Haber Exclusive Interview- Date: 22/06/2016, 16:11

“ What we basically believe is that the values represented by Europe or the EU are common to humanity; these values cannot belong to Europe alone. These political values were developed as a result of great suffering, and through the political and philosophical approaches of visionary statesmen. Europe is founded on a “system of values”, which has made it attractive today and throughout history. ”

*Press Conference at the Ministry for EU Affairs
Date: 24/06/2016, 15:06*

“ Everyone, whether resident in the Europe or not, should take responsibility for protecting European values. ”

*Press Conference at the Ministry for EU Affairs
Date: 24/06/2016, 15:06*



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No matter how the process is undertaken, as a European power and democratic country, Turkey will never be a peripheral country. Turkey will always be a central country.”

*Press Conference at the Ministry for EU Affairs
 Date: 24/06/2016, 15:06*

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Turkey has never been away from Europe considering its geopolitical situation, geography, political structure and values. It is inside and in the centre of Europe.”

*Press Conference at the Ministry for EU Affairs
 Date: 24/06/2016, 15:06*

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As a country with ties with the Balkans, Caucasus, the Middle East, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, Turkey has been a central European power and a European country throughout history. Turkey is a European democratic state. We are not in a dilemma between watching events and reacting to them. We are confident in having a say on the future of Europe, European order and maintaining peace in our region.”

*Press Conference at the Ministry for EU Affairs
 Date: 24/06/2016, 15:06*

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Turkey is a European country and power. Turkey has always been and will be a European state. In other words, this reality will not change even if Turkey is not an EU Member State.”

*Press Conference at the Ministry for EU Affairs
 Date: 24/06/2016, 15:06*



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If you wish to protect European values and ensure that the EU survives as a landscape and union of political values, you should stop opposing Turkey. The political will in Turkey, particularly the Head of the State, the Government and Prime Minister, is attentive to the popular will and public opinion. It is certain that we continue with this work in this spirit.”

*Press Conference at the Ministry for EU Affairs
 Date: 24/06/2016, 15:06*

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European people are angry at politicians because of their failure to solve problems. Politicians have been unable to adopt a visionary approach towards the migrant crisis and are in a quandary on the economic crisis, fighting the extreme right and terrorism. This leads to pessimism and more introverted, nationalist reactions from the people.”

*Press Conference at the Ministry for EU Affairs
 Date: 24/06/2016, 15:06*



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In fact, the values Europe is based on are essential values. However, these values have not been efficiently reflected to politics recently, which has harmed core European values.

*Press Conference at the Ministry for EU Affairs
Date: 24/06/2016, 15:06*

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If the weakness in the enlargement policies causes a reaction of inward-looking policies, this may lead to problems in the entire continent, including the Balkans.

TRT Haber- The Opening of the Chapter 33 on Financial and Budgetary Provisions-Date: 30/06/2016, 10:18

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The synergy between Turkey and the EU has the potential and added-value to develop much further today.

Visit to Belgium- The Opening of Chapter 33 on Financial and Budgetary Provisions-Date: 30/06/2016, 11:36

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The European Union should start taking measures for its future. New reforms are essential. It is time for us all to think about Europe's reconstruction. It is clear that the EU needs renewed enthusiasm, credibility and a fresh start. Such a beginning will necessitate putting forth a bolder attitude towards Turkey.

Visit to Belgium- The Opening of Chapter 33 on Financial and Budgetary Provisions-Date: 30/06/2016, 11:36

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“No matter what kind of Europe emerges after Brexit, it is a fact that Turkey will consolidate its position in that picture. Any picture that excludes Turkey will be incomplete. Turkey is an indispensable part of the existing dynamism around the European Union and will be a decisive, powerful actor in Europe’s reconstruction.”

Visit to Belgium- The Opening of Chapter 33 on Financial and Budgetary Provisions-Date: 30/06/2016, 11:36

“The accession negotiations lie at the core of Turkey-EU relations. We are proposing the opening of Chapters 23 and 24 as well. Despite terrorist attacks, Turkey has not given up on reforms, accession negotiations or reforms on freedoms and democratization.”

Visit to Belgium- The Opening of Chapter 33 on Financial and Budgetary Provisions-Date: 30/06/2016, 11:36



“Despite not being a member of the EU, Turkey is a European power and a strong European democracy. Throughout its history, Turkey has been a powerful European country. Turkey will therefore continue to express its opinion as a country that speaks from inside of Europe to ensure that the EU becomes an ever-stronger union which promotes the messages of peace more properly.”

Visit of Rafael Mendivil Peydro, Ambassador of Spain to Turkey-Date: 14/07/2016, 18:14

“Democracy, the rule of law and human rights are the common values shared between Turkey and the EU. As a country of the Balkans, Asia, the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, as well as being a Muslim country, Turkey has also been a European country and a European democracy throughout its history. Thus, Turkey’s process of becoming a member of the European Union has been shaped within the context of such values.”

*Habertürk Exclusive Interview
Date: 09/08/2016, 14:16*

“The European Union is our common future. The future of Europe’s confidence, welfare and democracy is our own common future.”

Joint Press Statement with Bert Koenders, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands - Date: 29/08/2016, 16:00

“We are defending the values of the European Union, not because they are represented by the EU, but because they have become universal.”

*Anadolu Agency Editor’s Pick
Date: 31/08/2016, 10:13*

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The European Union has created a supra-identity. If it is not possible to formulate a foreign policy within the context of this supra-identity and if countries go back to their national identities, it means a return to pre-World War II conditions.

Anadolu Agency Editor's Pick
Date: 31/08/2016, 10:13

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We have to take a stance against a possible collapse of the European Union because of the lack of foresight by some European politicians. These values should also be well-preserved to ensure that peace is promoted in the Balkans; that the extreme right does not gain a foothold in Europe; and that Muslims and Jews, who have both long been targeted groups, are protected in Europe.

Anadolu Agency Editor's Pick
Date: 31/08/2016, 10:13

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In this respect, many European politicians have failed, which has left a black mark on its history.

Anadolu Agency Editor's Pick
Date: 31/08/2016, 10:13

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The EU prioritizes Turkey when it is necessary to fight for common values, but when it is time to share these values in the same institutions, the EU refuses Turkey. This is not acceptable.

Anadolu Agency Editor's Pick
Date: 31/08/2016, 10:13

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“ Turkey will continue to establish and maintain the vision that the EU is supposed to possess. We are talking from inside, not outside, of Europe. Turkey has always contributed to Europe’s security and welfare. Turkey will continue to protect these values despite the statements of leaders which hamper the security, future and welfare of the EU and the protection of such values.

*Anadolu Agency Editor’s Pick
Date: 31/08/2016, 10:13*”

“ The support of our society increases when the EU approaches Turkey with objective criteria, not double standards and prejudices. Likewise, its support is withdrawn when the EU applies double standards and has a lack of vision.

*Anadolu Agency Editor’s Pick
Date: 31/08/2016, 10:13*”

“ It is evident that Turkey has a high level of commitment to democracy. Any democratic country may criticize another democratic country; however, such criticisms should not turn into opposition. Recently, we have unfortunately seen that many politicians in Europe tend to oppose Turkey. This situation is not conducive to Turkey-EU relations or Europe’s future. As I have always said, let us concentrate on our common agenda.

*Joint Press Meeting with Dmitris Avromopulos, European
Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs
and Citizenship -Date: 01/09/2016, 13:45*”

“ The roadmap for the EU should move forward on the basis of objective criteria. No concessions should be made, but neither should there be an increase in demands.

*Joint Press Meeting with Augusto Santos Silva,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal - Date: 06/09/2016, 17:25*”



“ References to the previous achievements of Europe are no longer meaningful. Politics is about securing the future and introducing a prospective project to the people. This is our common continent and this is our common responsibility.

*Visit to Portugal-Press Conference
Date: 07/09/2016, 13:43*”

“ The concern today should not be with producing antivirus programs where the software is insufficient in case of crises. In fact, the software itself needs to be updated. The world has been going through a crisis of vision, and the achievements of Europe are in the past.

*Visit to Portugal-Press Conference
Date: 07/09/2016, 13:43*”

“ We should not talk about ourselves, rather we need to sit and talk to each other.

*Visit to Portugal-Press Conference
Date: 07/09/2016, 13:43*”



“Despite not being an EU member, Turkey is a European country and a European democracy.”

Press Statement after Turkey-EU High Level Political Dialogue Meeting -Date: 09/09/2016, 12:14

“Turkey-EU relations bear such historical depth and sound common future perspectives; they cannot be wasted because of the approaches of certain politicians lacking vision.”

Joint Press Meeting with Paolo Gentiloni, Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs-Date: 07/10/2016, 10:08



“Let us discuss these realistically and with confidence. Chapters 23 and 24 include matters such as freedom of the press, freedom of expression, fundamental rights, independence of the judiciary, and the balance between security and justice, security and democracy, and security and freedom. As the Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator of Turkey, I am telling you that when we open these chapters to negotiations, you will see how fast we are going to fulfil the relevant benchmarks.”

*TGRT Haber Exclusive Interview
Date: 26/10/2016, 21:00*

“The freedom of the press and freedom of expression are the areas over which you have been criticizing Turkey the most. Let us open Chapters 23 and 24 to the negotiations. Does the EU want to use these to criticize Turkey, or is there an intention to advance in these areas? We have confidence in this matter.”

*TGRT Haber Exclusive Interview
Date: 26/10/2016, 21:00*

“Throughout its history, Turkey has been a European power and a strong European state. The future and security of Europe concerns all of us. In this respect, we are not guests but hosts when it comes to the security and future of Europe. This is something that concerns Turkey. Turkey’s experiences will make a contribution. You can see that the cooperation between Turkey and the EU has created an important synergy for resolving security issues and fostering economic advancement.”

*TGRT Haber Exclusive Interview
Date: 26/10/2016, 21:00*



“The relations between Turkey and the EU cannot be improved only by the performance of Turkey. As a negotiating country, we are, in fact, assertive in this matter. We are at a stage where all chapters in the negotiations could be opened and closed, and we would be able to fulfil all the benchmarks.”

*Visit to Greece-Press Conference
Date: 03/11/2016, 11:10*

“When it comes to minorities, I can confidently say that minority rights and standards are upheld in Turkey at a level that does not exist in Europe. The property confiscated in the past has been returned. Improvements have been made in the area of foundations. I follow the approaches of the EU Member States in this respect, and I can say that there is no other country that has reached the standards of Turkey.”

*Visit to Greece-Press Conference
Date: 03/11/2016, 11:10*

“You can be sure that those who say “*the accession negotiations with Turkey should be frozen*” are not friends of the EU; they are racists.”

*Press Meeting after the Working Breakfast with the EU Ambassadors in
Ankara-Date: 07/11/2016, 11:58*

“Unfortunately, the call to freeze the negotiations has been made because of a lack of vision and short-sightedness of certain mainstream politicians who do not want to lose votes to marginal racist or fascist parties in their countries.”

*Press Meeting after the Working Breakfast with the EU Ambassadors in
Ankara-Date: 07/11/2016, 11:58*



“ Turkey-EU relations are strategic. The relations between Turkey and the EU should progress with a positive agenda, and sound bridges should be built. But in fact, it is not politically correct to constantly criticize and oppose Turkey and to question its commitment to values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law shared with the EU, while there has been no progress in the accession negotiations.

Press Meeting after the Working Breakfast with the EU Ambassadors in Ankara-Date: 07/11/2016, 11:58”

“ Although Turkey is not an EU Member State, it has been a remarkable European power which has always needed to be taken into account throughout its history. For a hundred years, Turkey has been a European democracy. We will continue on the same path just as we have arrived at this point. As the Minister for EU Affairs, I would not wish for an interruption in Turkey-EU relations. I believe that Turkey’s perspective of EU membership also corresponds to its national interests. But, there is one thing that the EU Member States need to consider: If Turkey breaks relations with the EU, this will not be good for the EU. The EU will not benefit from such an outcome.

Press Meeting after the Working Breakfast with the EU Ambassadors in Ankara-Date: 07/11/2016, 11:58”

“ Today is the day to build new bridges between Turkey and the EU. Today is the day to open new channels of dialogue between Turkey and the EU. Today is the day to establish sound relations between Turkey and the EU. We can turn this turmoil into an opportunity for Turkey-EU relations. We can start a new agenda, a new process by means of constructive criticism and a positive agenda when it comes to the settlement of issues both in Europe and in our region. In fact, July 15 is the day that everyone witnessed Turkey’s high level of democratic consciousness. Let us have an environment where no one gives lessons to anyone else, no one points their finger at any one, where we shake hands and meet at a table and continue to speak freely on equal ground.

Press Meeting after the Working Breakfast with the EU Ambassadors in Ankara-Date: 07/11/2016, 11:58”

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When you talk about freedom of expression or the freedom of the press, there is no place in the world that is perfect in these areas. They are talking as if we feel uncomfortable about these issues, but in fact we do not. As a matter of fact, our political cadre has exerted a significant effort in promoting freedom of expression and freedom of the press. We do not envision a future for Turkey which does not entail these freedoms. As I indicated, our basis is the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, and the European Convention on Human Rights. The case-law of the European Court of Human Rights states that any discourse that clearly praises, incites and provokes terrorism and violence cannot be considered within the context of freedom of expression.

Press Conference on the Progress Report for Turkey published by the European Commission -Date: 09/11/2016, 16:09

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The values of the European Union cannot be limited to the European continent; these are common values shared by us all. These values are universal values such as human rights, democracy and the rule of law; these have been transformed into various legal mechanisms and political practices. In this respect, the EU needs to be followed by the whole world. This is our consideration as well.

Press Conference on the Progress Report for Turkey published by the European Commission -Date: 09/11/2016, 16:09

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For a long time, the European Union has been an institution that only publishes declarations. Are the bodies of the EU political ones or judicial ones, or do they only produce criticisms like think-tanks? This has become very confusing.

Press Conference on the Progress Report for Turkey published by the European Commission -Date: 09/11/2016, 16:09

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We are going through a process in which more powerful bridges need to be built and a higher level of cooperation established. Turkey-EU relations have a much more important strategic context than any other kind of international relationship.

Press Conference on the Progress Report for Turkey published by the European Commission -Date: 09/11/2016, 16:09

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There are very few eras in world history during which the past remains the past and the future will be newly built with new risks and new crises. On the European continent after Brexit, taking into account the developments in the Balkans, the presidential elections in the USA as well as the incidents in Iraq and Syria, it will be necessary to prepare an appropriate political agenda with, and that centralizes, Turkey, using proper language. We are, in fact, clearly putting this picture to the consideration of everyone. Our countries should have a vision based on producing a common future, common welfare and common security. This is not an ordinary period, where time can be wasted because of the absence of vision.

Visit to Belgium - Press Conference
Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31

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Considering Brexit, the incidents in Iraq and Syria as well as the migrant crisis in Europe, rising racism, the economic crisis and the new era in the USA, Turkey is a country central to this agenda. I hope that the assessments will be made accordingly.

Visit to Belgium - Press Conference
Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31

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In the past, the EU would be strengthened with each crisis and turn that crisis into an opportunity. The crisis helped it to identify its shortcomings, just like an illness. The EU developed new capacities and mechanisms that would eliminate that shortcoming. And now, the EU has a policy which surrenders to crises and extends them over a period of time. In fact, the migrant crisis, the economic crisis as well as the enlargement policy regarding Turkey were the right platform for Europe to create a stronger future, if only they would accurately assess these issues and place them seriously on their agendas.

Visit to Belgium - Press Conference
Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31

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Accession negotiations provide a basis for negotiation and cooperation; they should therefore involve a positive agenda.

Visit to Belgium - Press Conference
Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31

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That the European Union offers definitions only within the context of a negative agenda in its approach to Turkey does not promote the process, and it is no longer possible for us to carry on in the current state of affairs. We have to introduce an approach which can change the game.

Visit to Belgium - Press Conference
Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31

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Today there are crises which Europe has to resolve. Europe's future is our common future, Europe's security is our common security and Europe's welfare is our common welfare. We are a natural part of Europe and an integral element of this history. Consequently, those attitudes which persistently blame, exclude or defer, instead of finding solutions to the problems do not benefit anyone at this stage.

Visit to Belgium - Press Conference
Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31

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The European Union must establish an “ecosystem” which includes a positive agenda with Turkey. The problem is that this “ecosystem” has been poisoned for a long time.

Visit to Belgium - Press Conference
Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31

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“The so-called Turkey-European Union crisis in a sense was the internal crisis of the European Union mechanisms facing the matter of Turkey. Accession negotiations should not be an element of threat or blackmail. Accession negotiations should be an element of cooperation.”

*Visit to Belgium - Press Conference
Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31*

“It is not acceptable that while, on the one hand, Turkey is invited to the table continuously over issues such as migration and the fight against terrorism, creating responsibilities for Turkey; on the other hand, it is excluded from the table over the issue of sharing the common institutions, mechanisms and powers of the European Union. Turkey is an important European power, a strategic power and an important state.”

*Visit to Belgium - Press Conference
Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31*

“As in the latest migrant crisis, it has been clearly seen that Turkey is the key actor and the main element in resolving the major crises encountered by Europe. In fact, this has also been observed in the fight against terrorism. While the coalition consisting of 65 countries has been unable to achieve any considerable success against Daesh, the Turkish army entered Cerablus one month after the coup attempt and Daesh was cleared from the borders of NATO.”

*Visit to Belgium - Press Conference
Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31*



“We are entering an entirely new era in which we will witness the change of many mechanisms around the world. There are entirely new global challenges, crises and serious risks. In this respect, Turkey is the right actor against all those risks and crises, and important in managing those issues.”

*Visit to Belgium - Press Conference
Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31*

“Unfortunately the main element observed in the speeches made on behalf of the European Union, and especially in the attitudes towards Turkey today, is a lack of vision which must be remedied. The agenda should be filled with items pertaining to how progress can be made together with Turkey.”

*Visit to Belgium - Press Conference
Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31*

“The issue is no longer the “Turkey issue”. The issue for the European Union is how to build a sensible future so as to update its mechanisms and institutions to overcome the crises it encounters.”

*Visit to Belgium - Press Conference
Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31*

“It is now time to show common sense and remain calm; it is now time to find solutions to the challenges we face through wisdom and common sense. The issue of Turkey should in no way become a part of the election process of any country.”

*Visit to Belgium - Press Conference
Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31*



“The European Union is not a think-tank organisation. However, it has transformed into a think-tank organisation which is never satisfied and criticises constantly, but provides no solution. This is not a good way to make a policy.”

*Visit to Belgium - Press Conference
Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31*

“Freedom of expression, freedom of the press; these and others are not the issues we fear or worry about. There you are, then. We say explicitly, “*Why don't you open Chapters 23 and 24? If you open Chapters 23 and 24, we will sit at the table and negotiate these chapters.*” However, an approach which says “*Let us criticise Turkey or pressure Turkey using these chapters and accession negotiations as an excuse and as leverage,*” does not qualify as negotiation by its very nature; it would be something else.

*Visit to Belgium - Press Conference
Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31*

“Particularly the latest progress report has included many unbalanced aspects, and subjective and unfair evaluations against Turkey, and its basis and architecture are very weak.”

*Visit to Belgium - Press Conference
Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31*

“It is the most irrational thing at this stage to use a dismissive and accusatory tone against Turkey. It is appropriate to establish a language of cooperation.”

*Visit to Belgium - Press Conference
Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31*



“It is necessary to consider concepts such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law as a part and the basis of our common agenda. As these concepts are turned into instruments, they create a tsunami effect in European Union countries and cause a rise in the extreme right, racism, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in those countries. Therefore, one has to be consistent in these issues.”

Visit to Canada - Interpretation on the Contacts Held during the 8th International Security Forum to the Members of Press -Date: 21/11/2016

“For instance, the European Union shows considerable weakness in promoting a positive agenda on Turkey, yet it attempts to question Turkey's relations with Russia or other countries with which Turkey has traditionally had relations. Turkey has to maintain multidimensional relations, both with Europe and Russia, and other countries, given its historical and geopolitical location.”

Visit to Canada - Interpretation on the Contacts Held during the 8th International Security Forum to the Members of Press -Date: 21/11/2016



“ Turkey is a Balkan country, a Black Sea country, a Mediterranean country, an Islamic country, a democratic country and an Asian country, but also, as a historical fact, a European country, and it has been a European democracy for a century. Turkish people have demonstrated to the whole world their adherence to democracy with their resistance to the heinous July 15 coup attempt. Turkey will continue on its own reform path in order to improve its own democracy, legal order and economy.

”
Visit to Adana - Press Conference on the Terrorist Attack in Adana and the European Parliament Resolution on Turkey
 Date: 24/11/2016, 15:48

“ We expect the EU to become an entity which presents a consistent vision once more, and to act accordingly. If that happens, the EU will become a source of motivation for our reform process. Once again, we would like to see this happen.

”
Visit to Adana - Press Conference on the Terrorist Attack in Adana and the European Parliament Resolution on Turkey
 Date: 24/11/2016, 15:48

“ We declare the European Parliament (EP) resolution to “freeze the negotiations” null and void. This resolution is not one to take seriously because of its lack of vision, its objectives and its wording.

”
Visit to Adana - Press Conference on the Terrorist Attack in Adana and the European Parliament Resolution on Turkey
 Date: 24/11/2016, 15:48

“ The European Parliament, along whose corridors the PKK holds exhibitions, has long been giving the message that it has double standards when it comes to issues such as the PKK and fight against terrorism.

”
Visit to Adana - Press Conference on the Terrorist Attack in Adana and the European Parliament Resolution on Turkey
 Date: 24/11/2016, 15:48



“ Among the European Union institutions, the European Parliament is regarded in principle as the institution which represents democratic principles and plurality. And most of the time, it has made remarkable achievements in terms of democracy, as the representative of multivocality. However, unfortunately, this multivocality and democratic perspective disappear when it comes to Turkey; the European Parliament turns into a homogeneous institution in a way which has never been encountered until today, speaking with one voice that is contradictory to its institutional identity. It adopted a draft resolution which contradicts reality, as if there was the same template text in the hands of all the Members of Parliament (MEP).

”
Visit to Adana - Press Conference on the Terrorist Attack in Adana and the European Parliament Resolution on Turkey
 Date: 24/11/2016, 15:48

“ The European Parliament’s resolution to freeze the negotiations today is a narrow-minded political resolution bereft of vision, which is not legally binding in any way. Some MEPs think that they should deliver a message to Turkey. If they had an intention to give a message to Turkey, it would be better if they positively sought ways of cooperating over issues such as the rule of law and democracy with a country which showed a democratic resistance to a coup attempt. Instead, they adopted this resolution, approving a draft which will go down in history as a very unfortunate one.

”
Visit to Adana - Press Conference on the Terrorist Attack in Adana and the European Parliament Resolution on Turkey
 Date: 24/11/2016, 15:48

“ We don’t judge whether these resolutions are critical or not. Any resolution, even if it is fully critical, is of value for us and we benefit from it as long as it promotes a positive agenda, is constructive and opens the way for development.

”
Visit to Adana - Press Conference on the Terrorist Attack in Adana and the European Parliament Resolution on Turkey
 Date: 24/11/2016, 15:48

“

The European Parliament has been indifferent to scenes which were reminiscent of World War II, as Europe has used barbed wire fences against displaced migrants fleeing death, with the security forces standing against them. It has exhibited a double standard to the world on this issue, applying double standards in the area of human rights. Political groups which remained silent or have even competed against the extreme right and xenophobia when they threatened the whole of Europe, now attempt to give a message to Turkey and claim that the content of this message is democratic. However, they have taken decisions which have poisoned and misled public opinion in their countries against Turkey for a long time. They cannot introduce any concrete, positive agenda regarding Turkey, but all those people come together to freeze negotiations, which is the discourse of the extreme right, and take decisions against Turkey with one voice. No doubt we separate the values on which the European Parliament is founded from the resolution which the European Parliament has adopted. Because the values on which the European Parliament is founded are, as expressed by the founding fathers of Europe, principles such as human rights, democracy and the rule of law created to apply to all humanity.

*Visit to Adana - Press Conference on the Terrorist Attack
in Adana and the European Parliament Resolution on Turkey*

Date: 24/11/2016, 15:48

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“ This resolution adopted within the European Union demonstrates how far the European Union, as a peace and welfare project, has moved away from its ideals. Therefore, I consider that this is a resolution which concerns the crisis of the European Union rather than Turkey. We observe with regret that the European politicians have forgotten the dramatic historical experiences the continent went through which also paved the way for the establishment of the European Union.

Visit to Adana - Press Conference on the Terrorist Attack in Adana and the European Parliament Resolution on Turkey - Date: 24/11/2016, 15:48 ”

“ This resolution adopted by the European Parliament is null and void for us and it will not cross the Kapıkule Border Gate. I would like to point out that we do not take this resolution seriously in any way.

Visit to Adana - Press Conference on the Terrorist Attack in Adana and the European Parliament Resolution on Turkey - Date: 24/11/2016, 15:48 ”

“ If you remove the word “*Turkey*” from the resolution the European Parliament has adopted on Turkey, it then demonstrates the crisis of EU institutions, underlines that crisis, and in a sense threatens EU institutions. It is not possible for EU institutions to work and become a centre for excellence in any way with policies which lack vision like this.

Visit to Adana - Press Conference on the Terrorist Attack in Adana and the European Parliament Resolution on Turkey - Date: 24/11/2016, 15:48 ”

“ What has gone on between the European Union and Turkey recently does not demonstrate a crisis over Turkey-EU relations; rather, it is a reflection of the crisis which the European Union and the European Parliament face concerning their values.

Visit to Adana - Press Conference on the Terrorist Attack in Adana and the European Parliament Resolution on Turkey - Date: 24/11/2016, 15:48 ”



“ In fact, all of the criticisms which have been directed at Turkey recently fall within Chapters 23 and 24. Hiding behind seemingly objective excuses such as human rights and democracy and then not opening the relevant chapters for Turkey, and pressuring Turkey over the political criteria clearly demonstrates the severe crisis which Europe has been in for a long time, with regards to enlargement and renewing its own institutions.

Visit to Adana - Press Conference on the Terrorist Attack in Adana and the European Parliament Resolution on Turkey - Date: 24/11/2016, 15:48 ”

“ It is not a crisis between Turkey and the European Union. It is more a reflection of the crisis of the political values and political inconsistency the European Union has come to face within itself with regards to Turkey.

Visit to Adana - Press Conference on the Terrorist Attack in Adana and the European Parliament Resolution on Turkey - Date: 24/11/2016, 15:48 ”

“ Concepts such as human rights, democracy and the rule of law are valuable concepts for all humanity. It is essential that the European Parliament is not allowed to trivialize these concepts. With respect to representing these concepts, since we are aware that these concepts are not exclusive only to continental Europe, but are universal values which belong to humanity, we will not leave them to the absence of vision in Europe. As far as Europe is concerned with respect to these concepts, we are not guests or a secondary element; we are the host and an essential element.

Visit to Adana - Press Conference on the Terrorist Attack in Adana and the European Parliament Resolution on Turkey - Date: 24/11/2016, 15:48 ”

“ As we protect our legitimacy as a sovereign country today, we protect the security of Europe as well.

Visit to Adana - Press Conference on the Terrorist Attack in Adana and the European Parliament Resolution on Turkey - Date: 24/11/2016, 15:48 ”



“
Considering its founding values, the EU faces a crisis of values.”

*The Budgetary Discussions of the Ministry for EU Affairs
for 2017- Date: 24/11/2016*

“
It is not possible for us to be proposed with or accept anything other than full membership.”

*The Budgetary Discussions of the Ministry for EU Affairs
for 2017- Date: 24/11/2016*

“
The question is, “Which European Union?” That’s the main question. We would not want to be in the European Union which Nicolas Sarkozy envisages.”

*The Budgetary Discussions of the Ministry for EU Affairs
for 2017- Date: 24/11/2016*

“
The Roman Empire transformed from a European state into a world state only by uniting with Anatolia. The European Union has no impact upon Syria and other humanitarian crises. In order for the European Union to become a global power and introduce the right and legitimate policies, it has to unite with Turkey.”

*The Budgetary Discussions of the Ministry for EU Affairs
for 2017- Date: 24/11/2016*



“
In the name of humanity, democracy and values, it is necessary for all of us to mount an entirely new challenge to extreme right movements and xenophobia, which are on the rise in Europe; and against the inhumane terrorist organizations in the South which kill people, hiding behind the sacred concepts of Islam. It is necessary for us to extend a call to the world, and talk within the framework of this call.”

*The Budgetary Discussions of the Ministry for EU Affairs
for 2017- Date: 24/11/2016*

“
The accession negotiations are based on opening of the relevant chapter and carrying out negotiations in this respect. The chapters which are the essence of the EU accession negotiations are Chapters 23 and 24, where issues such as justice, security and freedom will be discussed. I extend an invitation here. When you talk about human rights and the rule of law, do not assume that we fear those concepts. Let us come together and discuss those concepts in a realistic way. However, when Turkey is criticized on related matters without the opening of the relevant chapters, concepts such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law are not used to advance and create a positive agenda together, but used simply as political leverage in foreign policy to pressure us as a country.”

*The Budgetary Discussions of the Ministry for EU Affairs
for 2017- Date: 24/11/2016*



“

Most important of all is the rule of law. I was asked if I preferred the rule of law or democracy. I replied right away: “*The rule of law is more important than democracy because Socrates was put to death by a vote.*” Without the rule of law, a vote can result in the execution of someone like Socrates. Concepts such as the rule of law, democracy and human rights have been developed for human beings to live in dignity. These concepts should not be used in domestic politics or to pressure another country in forthcoming elections. These are universal values which we share.

Visit to Brussels -Press Conference held on the occasion of the Turkey - EU Civil Society Meetings-Date: 29/11/2016, 12:53

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Turkey’s protection of its borders as a sovereign state indirectly contributes to the security of Europe. Thus weakness in Turkey’s security implies weakness in the security of Europe and NATO.

Visit to Brussels -Press Conference held on the occasion of the Turkey - EU Civil Society Meetings-Date: 29/11/2016, 12:53

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“

In the current period, Turkey and the EU need to intensify their relations given the migrant crisis and fight against terrorism. Turkey will continue to develop human rights, democracy and the rule of law as a strong European democratic state. Forging strong relations and building bridges between Turkey and the EU is beneficial to the region and humanity as a whole. We will continue to work to this end.

Visit to Brussels -Press Conference held on the occasion of the Turkey - EU Civil Society Meetings-Date: 29/11/2016, 12:53

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“ Turkey is a European state and has been a European democracy for a century. We emphasize this fact in our discussions so as to strengthen this image. ”

A Haber Interview –Date: 29/11/2016, 16:11

“ The European Parliament should have passed a resolution on increased communication, building bridges and establishing dialogue with Turkey. Freezing of negotiations benefits none of the parties and is a useless decision. ”

A Haber Interview –Date: 29/11/2016, 16:11



“ The EU is reflecting its internal crisis onto Turkey. Institutions which were established to protect human rights, the rule of law and democracy are not responding appropriately to defend these values. ”

A Haber Interview –Date: 29/11/2016, 16:11

“ Europe faces an “organic” crisis. This means that there is a question of a “democracy that cannot rule.” There is an ongoing crisis regarding values. The migrant crisis reflects a serious crisis regarding human rights for the EU. The fight against the extreme right reflects a serious crisis regarding the rule of law. The Turkey-EU accession negotiations, as well as other matters relating to Turkey, reflect a serious crisis for the EU. I feel that these should be fully considered. ”

A Haber Interview –Date: 29/11/2016, 16:11

“ The European Parliament resolution may well be the resolution most bereft of vision in its history. That is why I said it was not valid. The values represented by the EU should be distinguished from the MEPs of the European Parliament who have voted for this resolution. ”

TV Net Interview- Date: 29/11/2016, 20:29

“ A Europe that embraces democratic values and remains stable while preserving democracy is exceptionally important for Turkey’s national security. It should be so. ”

TV Net Interview- Date: 29/11/2016, 20:29



“

Turkey-EU relations cannot be reduced simply to the migrant crisis and the fight against terrorism. This is a much wider agenda, a greater picture and the strategic ties always need to be underlined.

Visit to Brussels -Press Conference
Date: 30/11/2016, 18:35

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Concepts such as human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and Turkey-EU relations cannot be used politically to pressure a country. These cannot be used for political leverage.

Visit to Brussels -Press Conference
Date: 30/11/2016, 18:35

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“

I would like to once again underline that the European Parliament resolution is not beneficial in any way. The resolution takes a stance in the opposition direction, when it should be supporting a democratic state outside of the European Union countries.

Visit to Brussels -Press Conference
Date: 30/11/2016, 18:35

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“

Democracy and the rule of law are interrelated concepts. These concepts cannot be separated.

Turkey-EU Joint Consultative Committee Meeting
Date: 05/12/2016, 11:02

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“

The struggle for democracy is infinite. As democratic states, we will be in greater solidarity. We will continue our cooperation constructively, and keep the channels of cooperation open.

Turkey-EU Joint Consultative Committee Meeting
Date: 05/12/2016, 11:02

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“

We are not guests in Europe, we are hosts. We have been a part of Europe for 500 years and doubtless we are a strong European state.

Turkey-EU Joint Consultative Committee Meeting
Date: 05/12/2016, 11:02

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“ Although we are not an EU Member State, we feel responsible for the future of Europe.

*Turkey-EU Joint Consultative Committee Meeting
Date: 05/12/2016, 11:02*”

“ Whether we become an EU Member State or not, we hope that the EU continues to be committed to fundamental political values.

*Turkey-EU Joint Consultative Committee Meeting
Date: 05/12/2016, 11:02*”

“ Parliaments exist for communication. If there is no need for communication, there is no need for parliaments.

*Turkey-EU Joint Consultative Committee Meeting
Date: 05/12/2016, 11:02*”

“ Turkey is prepared to open and close all chapters in a very short period of time.

*Turkey-EU Joint Consultative Committee Meeting
Date: 05/12/2016, 11:02*”

“ On the one hand, Chapters 23 and 24, which are on the matters of freedom of expression, rule of law and balance between freedom and security, are not opened, and on the other hand Turkey is constantly criticized in these areas. What would happen then? Under these circumstances, the rule of law, democracy and human rights are no longer shared values but become only political instruments.

*Turkey-EU Joint Consultative Committee Meeting
Date: 05/12/2016, 11:02*”



“ Doubtless Turkey’s EU accession process is carried out in Turkey’s national interest. For us, Turkey’s national interests are vital.

Visit to Adana-Meeting of the Çukurova Project to Strengthen Capacity regarding the EU- Date: 08/12/2016, 14:56”

“ We do not want Nicolas Sarkozy’s Europe, and we certainly do not want the Europe of Marine Le Pen, Geert Wilders and Sebastian Kurz the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Europe we want is one based on genuine democratic values. Turkey’s bid for EU membership continues for an EU which is based on and adheres to genuine democratic values. However, Turkey cannot have anything to do with a Europe that strengthens borders, and puts obstacles in front of and ostracizes refugees.

Speech at the 2017 Budgetary Discussions of the Ministry for European Union Affairs at the TGNA General Assembly- Date: 13/12/2016”



“ Turkey does not expect concessions regarding the negotiation of chapters or any other matter. But you should not increase demands regarding criteria when it comes to Turkey, a strategic partner. We do not expect concessions but you should not increase the demands.

”
Speech at the 2017 Budgetary Discussions of the Ministry for European Union Affairs at the TGNA General Assembly- Date: 13/12/2016

“ The EU says that it has certain concerns regarding Turkey. We will respond to all of these. The roots of these concerns are in certain chapters. We need to open these chapters and work on them together to eliminate these concerns. Opening chapters is not a gesture of good will but is the mechanism of the negotiations themselves. It would be an approach bereft of vision to continue criticising us on the content of these chapters without opening them.

”
Visit to Germany - Press Statement following the Meeting held by the Körber Foundation-Date: 14/12/2016, 18:04



“ The refusal to open the chapters for negotiations means the refusal to communicate, which is an indication of a lack of confidence.

”
Visit to Germany - Press Statement following the Meeting held by the Körber Foundation-Date: 14/12/2016, 18:04

“ We do not want concessions in our relations with the EU, but the EU should not increase demands and apply a double standard when it comes to Turkey.

”
Visit to Germany-the Meeting of Turkish and German Academics-Date: 15/12/2016

“ Opening the chapters for negotiations is the only way to communicate in terms of Turkey-EU relations. So, let us open Chapters 23 and 24 on fundamental rights and freedoms, which are the most important chapters and deal with these issues realistically.

”
Visit to Germany-the Meeting of Turkish and German Academics-Date: 15/12/2016





“

Turkey maintains its bid for EU membership regarding Turkey-EU relations. The question here is with which Europe do we maintain our bid for full membership? We maintain our bid for full membership with a Europe that unites and functions on the basis of democracy, human rights and rule of law, without double standards. If Europe is to be as imagined by certain extreme right and racist movements, such as Pegida, Golden Dawn or Five Star, Turkey would not be a member, even if invited.

Visit to Germany -Meeting of Turkish and German Media Representatives-Date: 15/12/2016

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With regard to providing for Europe's security along with its own security, Turkey has demonstrated an exceptional ability to fight against terrorist organizations such as Daesh and the PKK. Turkey has also demonstrated its ability to preserve its century-old democracy in the July 15 coup attempt, along with the willingness of its people to embrace democracy.

Visit to Germany -Meeting of Turkish and German Media Representatives-Date: 15/12/2016

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“

We invite you to open Chapters 23 and 24. If we had any concerns regarding the rule of law, freedom of expression or freedom of the press, we would naturally not want these chapters to be opened to negotiations. We would stay away from opening these chapters, even if Europe insisted on it. On the contrary, as Turkey's Minister for EU Affairs, I say let us open Chapters 23 and 24. Let us discuss matters such as fundamental rights, freedom of the press and freedom of expression on a realistic basis.

Visit to Germany-Meeting with the Representatives of Turkish and German Businessmen-Date: 15/12/2016, 12:43

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“

The European Parliament did not stand in solidarity with Turkey, and instead of appreciating Turkey, it adopted a resolution calling for the freezing of negotiations. The existence of parliaments is based on negotiations; parliaments are established to negotiate. If you have concerns regarding a country, if you see there are problems, what should you do? You should discuss the issues. To say that negotiations should be frozen is an approach bereft of vision.

Visit to Germany-Meeting with the Representatives of Turkish and German Businessmen-Date: 15/12/2016, 12:43

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“

Turkey protects its own borders as a sovereign state but also protects Europe's borders as well. Considering all these issues in a general context, we would like to see you continue to remain steadfast to your commitments.

CNN Türk Interview-Date: 04/01/2017, 12:07

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“

Turkey continues to be committed to the reforms. I say let us open Chapters 23 and 24 to negotiations, and have a realistic discussion on freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

CNN Türk Interview-Date: 04/01/2017, 12:07

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“

The approach adopted by the EU General Affairs Council on not opening the chapters to negotiations is unfair to the Turkish people, who have fought against the coup attempt. If we are determined to share democratic values, defending democracy today means siding with Turkey. Defending democracy today is to support democracy on a global level and to be on the side of the Turkish people, who have made sacrifices for democracy. Defending democracy today means to support Turkey's fight to protect democracy from terrorist organizations. Otherwise no one can claim to be sincere about defending democracy.

*Joint Press Conference with Timo Soini
Finland's Minister of Foreign Affairs-Date: 11/01/2017*

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“

The EP resolutions, such as this one, have gone down in history as “*resolutions bereft of vision*”. To recommend that accession negotiations with Turkey be frozen at this time is against European values. This resolution will not harm Turkey; however, this resolution demonstrates the inability of European Parliament MPs to defend European values. This resolution will be remembered as such.

Joint Press Conference Lord Price, Minister of State at the Department for International Trade-Date: 24/01/2017, 15:02

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Although the United Kingdom has taken the decision to leave the EU, this does not mean an exit from Europe. The UK has historically been a strong European country. It will maintain its strong ties with Europe. The UK expresses its wish to maintain these strong ties. Even though Turkey is not a member of the EU, it is historically a European state, a large European power and has been a European democracy for a century. Despite all these developments, Turkey and the UK are both concerned about the preservation and strength of European order and welfare.

Joint Press Conference Lord Price, Minister of State at the Department for International Trade-Date: 24/01/2017, 15:02

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“

If democratic values, human rights and the rule of law are the priority in our common agenda, then Turkey should be hailed and applauded, and there should be solidarity with it. A negative approach to Turkey distances Europe from its own values.

Joint Press Conference Lord Price, Minister of State at the Department for International Trade-Date: 24/01/2017, 15:02

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“ Turkey is not a country that speaks to Europe from outside. Turkey is a European country that speaks for Europe from the inside. Turkey’s European nature is a historical fact that should not be doubted.

”

Speech at the French International Relations Institute (IFRI)
Date: 09/02/2017

“ In fact, the concern is with Turkey’s size and whether a country of this size would change the balances in Europe. Yes, the balances would change. Turkey will change the balance in favour of increasing security in Europe. Turkey will change the balance in favour of increasing welfare in Europe. It is clear that Turkey will change the balances in a way that will enhance the capacity of the EU to solve its current problems by 90%.

”

Speech at the French International Relations Institute (IFRI)
Date: 09/02/2017



“ Turkish public opinion takes a very rational approach to this matter. Turkish public opinion favours Turkey’s EU membership when the EU offers balanced and fair approaches. However, public opinion is negatively affected if the EU does not adopt a balanced and fair approach.

”

Speech at the French International Relations Institute (IFRI)
Date: 09/02/2017

“ The enlargement policy is an instrument of democratization and stability that aims to strengthen the EU as a regional and global actor. The enlargement policy is a long-term strategic concept that cannot be measured by short-term calculations.

”

Speech at the French International Relations Institute (IFRI)
Date: 09/02/2017

“ We need to establish a framework for the future of Turkey-EU relations. This is our common future. We have been Europeans since the reign of Murat I. Islam has been in Europe since the 7th century. Sound decisions have to be made regarding all these discussions so that a political union can emerge from a meaningful political philosophy and a well-thought out paradigm. Today there is a paradigmatic dissolution and fragmentation in political philosophy. To remedy this, the enlargement policy should be used to integrate a large country like Turkey with a majority Muslim population. This has the potential to favourably contribute to a change in the balances of Europe.

”

Press Conference in the Residence of the Embassy of Turkey in France-Date: 10/02/2017



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