



## **3.5. THE FUTURE EU FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AGENCY**



- Turkey has been taking part as an observer since 2004 in the European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) meetings that are being regularly held in Vienna.
- Professor Ioanna Kuçuradi is representing Turkey at the meetings of the EUMC.



- Pursuant to the European Commission's decision dated December 9, 2005 regarding the "Multi-beneficiary Programme on the Participation of Turkey and Croatia in Certain Community Agencies", the Human Rights Law Research Center of Bilgi University in Istanbul has been selected as the EUMC National Focal Point. The EUMC has signed the agreement to this effect with the University on 18 July 2006.
- Preparations are underway for developing a national network to collect data and information. Turkey is also looking forward to taking part in training events that will be conducted together with the Commission.



- Turkey has welcomed the decision to extend the mandate of the EUMC by converting it into the EU Fundamental Rights Agency.
- The Turkish authorities are following with interest the discussions currently underway within EU bodies regarding the future EU Fundamental Rights Agency.
- Turkey believes that the future Agency will be an effective tool for the protection of fundamental rights in the EU. The transformation of the EUMC into a Fundamental Rights Agency should not mean that less importance will be attached to the fight against racism and xenophobia.
- We attach importance to the building of a close working relationship between the Agency and the Council of Europe to avoid any duplication of duties and responsibilities.