

Turkey's path towards the EU

Key dates in Turkey's path towards the EU

- **September 1959** - Turkey applies for associate membership of the European Economic Community (EEC).
- **September 1963** - An association agreement (known as the Ankara Agreement) is signed, aiming at bringing Turkey into a Customs Union with the EEC and to eventual membership. A first financial protocol to the initial agreement is also signed.
- **November 1970** - The Additional Protocol and the second financial protocol are signed in Brussels, preparing the ground for the establishment of the customs union.
- **April 1987** - Turkey makes an application for full EEC membership.
- **1995** - Turkey-EU Association Council finalises the agreement creating a customs union between Turkey and the EU.
- **December 1997** - At the Luxembourg European Council, Turkey is declared eligible to become a member of the European Union.
- **December 1999** - EU Helsinki Council recognises Turkey as an EU candidate country on an equal footing with other candidate countries.

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- **March 2001** - The Council adopts the Accession Partnership for Turkey.
- **May 2003** - Adoption by the Council of a revised Accession Partnership for Turkey.
- **October 2004** - The Commission presents its Recommendation on Turkey's Progress towards accession along with its paper Issues Arising from Turkey's Membership Perspective.
- **December 2004** - The European Council defines the conditions for the opening of accession negotiations
- **June 2005** - The Commission adopts a [Communication on the civil-society dialogue between EU and Candidate countries](#) [2 MB] . This communication sets out a general framework on how to create and reinforce links between civil society in the EU and candidate countries.

Key dates in Turkey's path towards the EU

- **October 2005** - Adoption by the Council of a Negotiating Framework setting out the principles governing the negotiations followed by the formal opening of Accession negotiations with Turkey.
- **October 2005** - Starting of the screening process concerning the analytical examination of the acquis.
- **December 2005** - Adoption by the Council of a revised Accession Partnership for Turkey.
- **June 2006** - Negotiations are opened and closed on the chapter Science and Research
- **December 2006** - Due to the Turkish failure to apply to Cyprus the Additional Protocol to the Ankara Agreement, the Council decides that eight relevant chapters will not be opened and no chapter will be provisionally closed until Turkey has fulfilled its commitment. The eight chapters are: Free Movement of Goods, Right of Establishment and Freedom to Provide Services, Financial Services, Agriculture and Rural Development, Fisheries, Transport Policy, Customs Union and External Relations.
- **March 2007** - Negotiations are opened on the chapter Enterprise and Industry
- **June 2007** - Negotiations are opened on two chapters: Financial Control and Statistics.
- **December 2007** - Negotiations are opened on two chapters: Trans-European Networks and Consumer and health protection
- **February 2008** - Adoption by the Council of a revised [Accession Partnership](#) for Turkey.
- **June 2008** - Negotiations are opened on two chapters: Intellectual property and Company law (June 2008).
- **30 June 2010** - Negotiations are opened on Chapter 12: Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy.