

PERCEPTIONS
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**STATEMENT BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT ON 14 DECEMBER 1997,
CONCERNING THE PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL
HELD ON 12-13 DECEMBER 1997 IN LUXEMBOURG**

Our government has studied the conclusions of the Luxembourg Summit which have been announced by the European Union presidency. In the course of this evaluation, the statements of the EU and member country officials concerning the summit meeting and its conclusions have also been taken into consideration.

Turkey considers its candidature for full membership to the European Union a right deriving from the 1963 Ankara Agreement. Prior to this enlargement process of the EU, our government has defined its expectations in a constructive manner and in a reasonable and realistic framework, and has explained them clearly to its interlocutors.

Some positive elements have been included in the Luxembourg Summit Declaration, such as Turkey's inclusion in the EU's enlargement process, the drawing up of a European strategy for Turkey's accession to the EU, and the identification of Turkey's position as a candidate. However the text, from Turkey's viewpoint, is not acceptable for the following reasons:

1. Turkey has not been evaluated within the same framework, the same well-intentioned approach and objective criteria as the other candidate countries.
2. Most of the points which have been put forward as new and positive steps for Turkey are in fact the commitments undertaken and not implemented for many years by the EU.
3. Partial, prejudiced and exaggerated assessments were made about Turkey's internal structure and its foreign policy including the issue of Cyprus.

In these evaluations, the improvements made and foreseen during the term in office of our government have been totally disregarded.

4. With these erroneous approaches, attempts have been made to impose unacceptable political conditions which have concealed intentions.

The statements of the EU's president in office have further exposed the mentality lying behind this approach.

Unless this approach and mentality are changed, one cannot expect our relations to be developed within a constructive and multi-faceted dialogue. Consequently, it will not be possible to establish a negotiation environment covering political issues which are not of direct and mutual interest to both parties. As in the past, in our relations, we reject the imposition of political conditions on us.

The EU's position is far from constituting for us a sound and credible basis. Turkey's future and its

relation with the EU cannot be built on such an uncertain ground.

In the light of the foregoing, our government will maintain our existing association relations with the EU. Nevertheless, the development of these relations is dependent on the EU's fulfilment of its commitments.

Turkey, by progressing in every field, will continue with determination and self confidence to advance on the path drawn by great Atatürk. Turkey will maintain its will for integration with the EU despite the position laid out at the Luxembourg Summit. However, the EU should display the virtue of not insisting on the erroneous and harmful path that it has taken so far. The only European Community in which Turkey will not have a place would be a European Community which defines and limits itself on the basis of discrimination and intolerance.