



Bureau de Contact et d'Information auprès de l'Union européenne
European Union Contact and Information Office

Attn: Mr. Jack STRAW
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
United Kingdom

1/12//2004, Brussels

Mr. Jack Straw,

Please find enclosed the memorandum *Turkey's Candidacy for Membership to the European Union*. This memorandum was initiated by the *Working Group Recognition – Against Genocide, for International Understanding* (Berlin) and the *Switzerland Armenia Association* (Bern). It has been signed, until today, by 42 national and international human rights NGOs and associations of minority groups.

The co-signatories to the memorandum are deeply concerned by violations of minority rights in Turkey and the official denial of genocides committed at the beginning of 20th century by the Ottoman Empire. Furthermore, we are deeply worried by the lack of initiatives to fight ethnic prejudices in Turkey, in particular in the national education system and in the mass media.

We consider the above mentioned problems as evident disregards of the Copenhagen criteria required for the accession of a new member State. The obvious political contradictions and the bureaucratic system cause the incoherence of reforms and are inconsistent with the high degree of security needed by the remaining Non-Muslims of Turkey. The recent developments in Turkey come to prove again, that in spite of relevant legal and administrative reforms, these exist only on paper. Needless to say, that at present Turkey cannot be seen as ready for an immediate beginning of negotiations towards its accession to the European Union.

Finally, the initiators are pleased to announce the emerge of the *Monitoring on Minority Rights* (MMR), a network of experts and representatives of the minorities concerned, which aims to be a permanent observatory for the state of minority rights in Turkey, issuing an annual documentation of progress and/or regress in this issue. We enclose, as a supplement to the Memorandum, a list of recent and/or unknown cases of human rights violations by Turkey in regards with the Armenian genocide.

The co-signatories to the Memorandum urge you to take this Memorandum and its supplement by MMR into consideration while taking the definitive decision on Turkey's accession to the European Union on December 17, 2004.

Yours truly,

Arminé Grigoryan
Assembly of Armenians of Europe