

## Conclusions of the Luxembourg European Council: extract concerning Turkey (12–13 December 1997)

**Caption:** Meeting in Luxembourg on 12 and 13 December 1997, the Fifteen adopt a European strategy for Turkey. They confirm the country's eligibility for accession to the European Union but without giving it the status of an applicant country.

**Source:** Presidency Conclusions - Luxembourg European Council, 12-13 December 1997. [ON-LINE]. [s.l.]: Council of the European Union, [16.04.2004]. SN400/97. Available on <http://ue.eu.int/en/info/eurocouncil/>.

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## Luxembourg European Council (12–13 December 1997) Presidency Conclusions

[...]

### **A European strategy for Turkey**

31. The Council confirms Turkey's eligibility for accession to the European Union. Turkey will be judged on the basis of the same criteria as the other applicant States. While the political and economic conditions allowing accession negotiations to be envisaged are not satisfied, the European Council considers that it is nevertheless important for a strategy to be drawn up to prepare Turkey for accession by bringing it closer to the European Union in every field.

32. This strategy should consist in:

- development of the possibilities afforded by the Ankara Agreement;
- intensification of the Customs Union;
- implementation of financial cooperation;
- approximation of laws and adoption of the Union *acquis*.
- participation, to be decided case by case, in certain programmes and in certain agencies provided for in paragraphs 19 and 21.

33. The strategy will be reviewed by the Association Council in particular on the basis of Article 28 of the Association Agreement in the light of the Copenhagen criteria and the Council's position of 29 April 1997.

34. In addition, participation in the European Conference will enable the Member States of the European Union and Turkey to step up their dialogue and cooperation in areas of common interest.

35. The European Council recalls that strengthening Turkey's links with the European Union also depends on that country's pursuit of the political and economic reforms on which it has embarked, including the alignment of human rights standards and practices on those in force in the European Union; respect for and protection of minorities; the establishment of satisfactory and stable relations between Greece and Turkey; the settlement of disputes, in particular by legal process, including the International Court of Justice; and support for negotiations under the aegis of the UN on a political settlement in Cyprus on the basis of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

36. The European Council endorses the guidelines that emerged from the General Affairs Council of 24 November 1997 on future relations between the Union and Turkey and asks the Commission to submit suitable proposals.

[...]