

Interview with Gaston Thorn: Turkey and the European Union (Luxembourg, 6 February 2006)

Source: Interview de Gaston Thorn / GASTON THORN, Étienne Deschamps, prise de vue : François Fabert.- Luxembourg: CVCE [Prod.], 06.02.2006. CVCE, Sanem. - VIDEO (02:04, Couleur, Son original).

Copyright: (c) Translation CVCE.EU by UNI.LU

All rights of reproduction, of public communication, of adaptation, of distribution or of dissemination via Internet, internal network or any other means are strictly reserved in all countries.

Consult the legal notice and the terms and conditions of use regarding this site.

URL:

[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/interview_with_gaston_thorn_turkey_and_the_european_u
nion_luxembourg_6_february_2006-en-ad9d7d6d-942e-4f84-9384-
b18de1e17bff.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/interview_with_gaston_thorn_turkey_and_the_european_union_luxembourg_6_february_2006-en-ad9d7d6d-942e-4f84-9384-b18de1e17bff.html)



Last updated: 08/08/2016

Interview with Gaston Thorn: Turkey and the European Union (Luxembourg, 6 February 2006)

[Étienne Deschamps] What are your views now on the question of Turkey?

[Gaston Thorn] My opinion now is that Turkey must be allowed to join [the Union]. I know that this will kick up a fuss, especially in Luxembourg, and I am aware of the prevailing mood, but I am convinced. Turkey is a large country, it is the largest Muslim country with a population of ... how many... a thousand and x hundreds of millions [sic] and Turkey inside the Community could be a great help to us in building our role as a leader of the European Community, something that is lacking at present. However, I think that we can succeed; it is possible, it is feasible, but we must work at it and do so with the determination to succeed. If we really want Turkey to join, Turkey will be able to do so. It will not be easy, for there are many things separating Turkey and us — and not just the Bosphorus. There are difficulties to do with languages, difficulties to do with civilisation — with what have you. All these things may hinder mutual understanding but, nevertheless, we must remind ourselves: here we have western Europe, here is Turkey and, beyond Turkey, what is there? There is Islam, there is the Middle East, there is all that. So we must succeed, we must be more determined and we must redouble our efforts to succeed. The will is not there at the moment. If you listen to the statements of the Heads of State or Government, everyone is trying to find arguments in order not to do it, but not in order to do it. For, in politics, you have to find arguments in order to do something, not in order not to do it — that is much too easy.