



Brussels, 10 December 2015

Dear President Juncker,

Dear First Vice-President Timmermans,

On the evening of the 29th of November 2015 a statement was issued about the results of the EU-Turkey 'deal' to cooperate on sheltering refugees. The meeting marked an important step in EU-Turkey relations, since both sides agreed that the accession process of Turkey to the EU "needs to be re-energized."¹ Additionally commitments on financial support and visa-liberalization were made. Given the importance of this deal, it is essential to have a clear and complete picture of what was actually decided.

The joint statement notes the European Commission's commitment "to complete, in the first quarter of 2016, the preparatory work for the opening of a number of accession chapters without prejudice to the position of Member States. Preparatory work could subsequently begin also on further chapters."²

During a debate between the Commission and the Council in the European Parliament, Vice-President Timmermans gave more details about what was decided. In that debate he mentioned a letter sent by President Juncker to Prime Minister Davutoğlu, in which the Commission had "reiterated its commitment to complete the preparatory work for the opening, in the first quarter of 2016, of Chapters 15, on energy; 23, on judiciary and fundamental rights; 24, on justice, freedom and security; 26, on education and culture; and 31, on foreign, security and defence policy."³

In Turkish media, Turkish officials were quoted after speaking off the record that this letter is "a letter of commitment which should be thought together with the joint statement. The letter has therefore placed these chapters on record."⁴

We request to make the letter by President Juncker to Prime Minister Davutoğlu public, and ask for the publication of any other document that is relevant to fully understand 'the deal.'

Yours sincerely,

Marietje Schaake (ALDE)

¹ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2015/11/29-eu-turkey-meeting-statement/>

² Idem.

³ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+CRE+20151202+ITEMS+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN#creitem9>

⁴ <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/eu-makes-fresh-commitment-for-opening-of-five-chapters-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=92144&NewsCatID=510>

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