



Turkey's progress on the visa liberalisation roadmap

4 May 2016

The European Commission is today proposing to the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament to lift the visa requirements for the citizens of Turkey, under the understanding that the Turkish authorities will fulfil, as a matter of urgency and as they committed to do so on 18 March 2016, the outstanding benchmarks of its Visa Liberalisation Roadmap.

Visa liberalisation for Turkey is a key component of the EU-Turkey Statement of 18 March 2016 which agreed to accelerate the fulfilment of all benchmarks with a view to lifting the visa requirements for Turkish citizens at the latest by the

end of June 2016. The European Union launched the Visa Liberalisation Dialogue with Turkey on 16 December 2013. The Visa Liberalisation Dialogue is based on a Roadmap, a document setting out the requirements that Turkey needs to meet in order to enable the European Parliament and Council to put Turkey on the visa-free list and allow Turkish citizens to travel without a visa for short stays of 90 days within any 180-day period for business, touristic or family purposes, in the Schengen area. The 72 requirements listed in the Roadmap are organised in five thematic groups: document security; migration management; public order and security; fundamental rights and readmission of irregular migrants.

DOCUMENT SECURITY

1	Issue biometric passports in compliance with ICAO and EU standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>In a first phase, biometric passports with fingerprints and photos will be issued in line with ICAO standards</i> <i>In a second phase, as of October 2016, Turkish authorities will start issuing permanent biometric passports with chips, fully in line with EU standards</i>
2	Ensure the integrity and security of the personalisation, distribution and validation process for passports and breeder documents
3	Establish anti-corruption training programmes & ethical codes for officials dealing with visas, breeder documents and passports
4	Report to Interpol/LASP data base on lost and stolen passports
5	Ensure a high level of security of breeder documents and ID cards, define strict procedures for application and issuance
6	Exchange passport specimens, visa forms and information on false documents, cooperate on document security with the EU
7	Adopt and implement measures ensuring the integrity and security of the civil status and civil registration process

KEY

Fulfilled

Further Work Needed

MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

8	Carry out border checks and border surveillance along all the borders of the country, particularly those with EU MS, reducing the number of illegal border crossings
9	Adopt & implement legislation on the movement of persons at the external borders and the organisation of the border authorities in line with Turkey's 2006 Integrated Border Management Strategy and principles of the Schengen Border Code and Schengen Catalogue
10	Take the necessary budgetary and other measures to ensure the deployment of sufficient numbers of well-trained border guards as well as infrastructure, equipment & IT technology at border crossing points, particularly those with EU Member States
11	Enhance cooperation and information exchange between the staff and bodies in charge of border management, the custom service and the other law enforcement agencies
12	Establish anti-corruption training programmes and ethical codes for border guards, customs and other officials involved in border management
13	Implement the Memorandum of Understanding signed with FRONTEX
14	Ensure that border management is carried out in line with international refugee law
15	Ensure cooperation with neighbouring EU Member States, in particular on border management
16	Enhance training on document security for Turkey's consular and border staff, develop and use the Turkish Visa Information System
17	Abolish issuance of visas at the borders as an ordinary procedure for citizens of countries representing a high migratory and security risk to the EU
18	Use the new Turkish visa stickers with higher security features, stop using stamp visas
19	Introduce airport transit visas
20	Make access to Turkey more difficult for citizens of countries representing important sources of illegal migration for the EU
21	Pursue the alignment of Turkish visa policy towards the EU acquis vis-à-vis the main countries representing important sources of illegal migration for the EU
22	Allow visa-free access to Turkish territory for the citizens of all EU Member States
23	Adopt & implement legislation on carriers' responsibility defining sanctions
24	Adopt & implement legislation in line with the EU acquis and the 1951 Refugee Convention and its Protocol without a geographical limitation, to ensure respect for non-refoulement, the ECHR and the possibility to claim asylum and obtain protection, allow UNHCR to fulfil its mandate on Turkish territory unrestricted
25	Establish a specialised body for refugee status determination, offer the possibility of legal remedy before a court, ensure protection and assistance for asylum seekers and refugees
26	Provide adequate infrastructure and sufficient resources ensuring decent reception and protection of asylum seekers and refugees
27	Persons granted refugee status should be given the possibility to self-sustain, access public services, enjoy social rights and integrate in Turkey

KEY

Fulfilled

Further Work Needed

28	Adopt and implement legislation in line with EU and Council of Europe standards on migration management including rules on entry, stay and exit of foreigners and the reception, return and rights of illegally entering/residing foreigners
29	Set up & apply a mechanism to monitor migration flows (regular and illegal), develop situational picture on illegal migration flows and the different countries of origin
30	Take measures improving the capacity to investigate cases of organised or facilitated illegal migration
31	Seek to conclude and implement readmission agreements with countries that represent sources of important illegal migration directed towards Turkey or EU Member States
32	Ensure sufficient resources for migration management, including training programmes
33	Ensure effective expulsion of illegally residing third-country nationals
34	Allow expelled third-country nationals to return voluntarily
35	Provide adequate infrastructure (including detention centres) and strengthen responsible bodies to ensure the expulsion of illegally entering/residing third-country nationals, while offering legal aid, assistance & decent and fair detention conditions and removal procedures

PUBLIC ORDER AND SECURITY

36	Continue & complete the implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan for the fight against organised crime
37	Sign & ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Human Trafficking, adopt and implement legislation in line with it and with the relevant EU rules
38	Provide adequate infrastructure and resources ensuring decent reception and protection of victims of trafficking and supporting their social and professional reintegration
39	Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism, transpose it into national law
40	Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, adopt legislation enacting it
41	Continue implementing the National Strategy and the Action Plans against Drugs and Drug Addiction; cooperate with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA);
42	Continue implementing the National Strategy and the Action Plan on the Fight against Corruption and the recommendations of the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turkey adopted on 30 April 2016 a new strategy and action on corruption • Turkey has still to adopt legislation giving an effective follow up to the recommendations issued by GRECO
43	Implement & comply with international conventions concerning judicial cooperation in matters
44	Take measures aimed at improving the efficiency of judicial co-operation in criminal matters, of judges and prosecutors with EU Member States and countries in the region
45	Develop working relations with EUROJUST
46	Continue implementing the 1980 Hague Convention on civil aspects of international child abduction, accede to the 1996 and the 2007 Hague Conventions related to parental responsibility and the protection of children, and international recovery of child support

KEY

Fulfilled

Further Work Needed

47	Provide effective judicial cooperation in criminal matters, including in extradition matters, to all EU Member States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Turkish authorities have expressed the intention to establish closer contacts with Member States' authorities in order to further clarify the legislation and procedures applicable in Turkey, and the modalities to ensure prosecution of the criminals whenever extradition is not possible.</i>
48	Ensure law enforcement co-operation among the relevant national agencies - especially border guards, police, customs officers - as well as with judicial authorities
49	Reinforce regional law enforcement services co-operation, implement bilateral and multilateral operational cooperation agreements, share information with EU Member States authorities
50	Improve the operational and special investigative capacity of law enforcement services to tackle more efficiently serious and cross-border crime including ID and travel document fraud
51	Cooperate with OLAF and EUROPOL in protecting the Euro against counterfeiting
52	Strengthen the capacities of the Turkish Financial Crimes Investigation Board (MASAK) and develop its cooperation with Financial Intelligence Units within EU Member States
53	Continue implementing the Strategic Agreement with EUROPOL
54	Conclude and implement an Operational Cooperation Agreement with EUROPOL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Turkish authorities sent a letter to EUROPOL on 2 May 2016 to express their desire to sign an operational cooperation agreement with EUROPOL</i>
55	Sign, ratify and implement relevant international data protection conventions
56	Adopt and implement legislation on the protection of personal data in line with the EU standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Changes are necessary to Turkey's law on Personal Data Protection of 24 March 2016, notably to ensure that the data protection authority can act in an independent manner and that the activities of law enforcement agencies fall within the scope of the law</i>

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

57	Ensure that freedom of movement of citizens of Turkey is not subject to unjustified or discriminatory restrictions, carry out full investigations when needed
58	Provide information about the conditions and circumstances for the acquisition of Turkish citizenship
59	Provide information about the conditions for changing personal data
60	Ensure access to travel and identity documents for all citizens
61	Ensure access to identity documents for refugees & stateless persons residing in Turkey
62	Provide information on registration requirements to foreigners wishing to reside in Turkey, ensure equal and transparent implementation of the respective legislation
63	Develop and implement policies addressing Roma social exclusion, marginalisation and discrimination in access to education, health services, ID cards, housing, employment and participation in public life
64	Ratify additional Protocols n. 4 and 7 of the European Convention on Human Rights
65	Revise - in line with the ECHR and with the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) case law, the EU acquis and EU Member States practices - the legal framework as regards organised crime and terrorism, as well as its interpretation by the courts and by the security forces and the law enforcement agencies, so as to ensure the right to liberty and security, the right to a fair trial and freedom of expression, of assembly and association in practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Turkey needs to revise its legislation and practices on terrorism in line with European standards, notably by better aligning the definition of terrorism in order to narrow the scope</i> <i>A draft law on the establishment of a commission to inspect alleged violations committed by the law enforcement agencies in times of peace is being drafted by Turkish authorities, but has not yet been adopted</i>

KEY

Fulfilled

Further Work Needed

READMISSION OF ILLEGAL MIGRANTS

66	Implement readmission obligations existing with Member States
67	Ratify the EU-Turkey readmission agreement initialled on 21 June 2012
68	Implement the EU-Turkey readmission agreement in all its provisions (solid track record) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Provisions related to the readmission of third country nationals will only start to apply as of 1 June 2016</i>
69	Establish & implement internal procedures to identify and return Turkish citizens, third-country nationals and stateless persons illegally residing in EU Member States, facilitate the transit of persons being returned elsewhere
70	Strengthen the capacity of the competent authority to process readmission applications
71	Process readmission requests in line with domestic and EU data protection requirements
72	Compile and share with Member States and the European Commission statistics on readmission

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Fulfilled

Further Work Needed