



EU- TURKEY JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

78th MEETING

**19-20 December 2018
Ankara, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
Statement by the Co-Chairs**

EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) held its 78th meeting in Ankara on 19-20 December 2018 under the joint chairmanship of Mr İsmail Emrah KARAYEL (AK Party, Grand National Assembly of Turkey) and Mr Manolis KEFALOGIANNIS (EPP, European Parliament). The Co-Chairs emphasize the importance of the 78th JPC Meeting as this is the first JPC meeting in Turkey since 19-20 March 2015.

At this meeting, the Committee held an exchange of views with Mr Maciej POPOWSKI, Deputy Director-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations on behalf of the European Commission, Ambassador H.E. Christian BERGER, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Turkey, on behalf of the European External Action Service, H.E. Ulrike TILLY, Austria's Ambassador to Ankara on behalf of the Presidency-in-Office of the Council of the European Union, Ambassador H.E. Faruk KAYMAKCI, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs on behalf of the Government of Turkey.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee exchanged views on the following subjects:

- EU-Turkey relations and state of play of the accession negotiations,
- Economic cooperation between Turkey and the EU,
- Security challenges.

The Co-Chairs underline that the JPC serves as an important platform to conduct a frank dialogue between the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and the European Parliament on improving the Turkey-EU relations. They welcome the holding of the 78th JPC, following the 77th JPC Meeting held in Brussels on 26 April 2018 and several successful Bureau meetings held in Turkey and Strasbourg. They express their hope and willingness to hold the next JPC Meeting before the upcoming EP elections.

They highlight that continued and open debate between the two parliaments will help to increase the understanding between Turkey and the EU and to work together facing the common challenges. They state that the momentum in parliamentary relations must be used in order to build stronger, viable and more efficient cooperation.

The Co-Chairs point out that constructive dialogue between the European Parliament and the Grand National Assembly of Turkey will be beneficial for mutual understanding and contribute to the progress of Turkey's accession process to the EU. The Co-Chairs acknowledge that they will put all their efforts to this end.