

XXIIIrd COSAC - Versailles - 16-17 October 2000**ANSWERS OF THE TURKEY GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE
ADDRESSED TO THE APPLICANT STATES****Information of the European integration committee**

It is mainly the government offices that the Turkish Side of Turkey-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee receives the necessary information from. This usually occurs through reports by, and hearings of, government officials on latest developments in European affairs. As to activities of the European institutions, there is a direct supply of information through the Turkish representation to the European Communities. The Committee also obtains information from academics, NGO representatives, private sector organisations and specialists on different aspects of the integration process. Recently the Internet has become another source of information through which we can access to some European documents, e.g. committee reports of the European Parliaments.

However, it is desirable on our part to build a more direct link with the European Parliament and national parliaments of both member and candidate states. This can be considered both in bilateral and multilateral contexts. Such a project would surely make it possible to exchange, for example, working papers, daily bulletins and publications directly, and thereby contribute to the parliamentary co-operation.

Integration of European legislation

There are no special proceedings for transposing the EC legislation into the domestic law: the Parliament passes all legislation, including those to implement Community norms, through standard legislative processes. The Committee may express non-binding opinions on relevant legislation going through the Parliament. It can also make recommendations to the TGNA as to matters of integration.

Accession negotiations

Although the accession negotiations have not started yet, the Committee monitors every stage of relations and preparations between Turkey and the EU: it observes the co-ordination meetings of the government offices, held under the authority of the General Secretariat for EU Affairs. It also kept informed by the Government about activities of the committees and sub-committees within the screening process.

Conformity of national law to European legislation

There is no specific procedure to scrutinise the conformity with the European legislation of pieces of draft legislation submitted to the Parliament. Now that the accession negotiations have not started yet, it is up to the Government to propose legislation which is in parallel with the integration strategy. However, once the negotiations have started, new procedures are most likely to be considered to impose more parliamentary control over any proposed legislation which may have some European aspects.

Other committees for European legislation

Naturally, it is desirable on the part of the Turkish Parliament to take inspiration from the experience of other applicant states in the integration process, and to keep regular contacts with other integration committees both in multilateral and bilateral fora.

Community aid

The EP technical assistance through various seminars for MPs and parliament staff is appreciated greatly on the part of the Turkish National Assembly. We are also eager to further develop our relations with the European Parliament and the national parliaments of member states through secondments and study visits of our parliamentary staff.