COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Brussels, 28 November 2005
15047/1/05 REV 1 (Presse 325)

First meeting of the Accession Conference at deputy level with Turkey

The first meeting of the Accession Conference with Turkey at deputy level was held today in Brussels, following the start of accession negotiations on 3 October.

The aim was to settle the more practical aspects of the negotiations. Accordingly, the Accession Conference agreed on the principles, as well as the procedure for and organisation of the accession negotiations. The proposal for procedure and organisation had been set out by the EU in the framework of its general position on 3 October.

P R E S S

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The Conference also reviewed the initial work programme for the negotiations, based on the "acquis" chapters to be screened until the end of March next years.[1] Where screening has been completed on a given negotiating chapter, the Member States will decide whether to open the chapter concerned and will define the relevant benchmarks. Where appropriate, Turkey will then be invited to submit its negotiating position to the Conference on the chapter concerned.

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[1] Screening aims both to explain the "acquis" and to assess the state of preparation of the candidate country for opening negotiations on specific areas.