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Sixth meeting of the Accession Conference at ministerial level with Turkey
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The sixth meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference with Turkey at ministerial level was held today in Brussels, following the start of negotiations on 3 October 2005. The European Union Delegation was headed by Bruno Le Maire, France's State Secretary for European Affairs. The Turkish delegation was led by Ali Babacan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chief Negotiator.

The Conference opened negotiations on two new chapters, namely: Chapter 4 - Free movement of capital, and Chapter 10 - Information Society and Media, thus advancing further the negotiating process.

For both chapters, and on the basis of negotiating positions of Turkey, the Union has closely examined Turkey's general state of preparedness in these areas. Taking into account Turkey's present state of preparations, and in line with the Council conclusions on 11 December 2006 - as well as on the understanding that Turkey will continue to make progress in the alignment with and implementation of the *acquis* - the EU underlined the main issues regarding the closing benchmarks to be met by Turkey, namely that Turkey has to fulfil its obligation of full non-discriminatory implementation of the Additional Protocol to the Association Agreement, and further that:

Chapter 4 - Free movement of capital

– Turkey makes significant progress in its legislative alignment with the acquis with respect to capital movements and payments, and demonstrates that it will be able to implement the acquis properly.

– Turkey presents an Action Plan for the gradual liberalisation of the acquisition of real estate by foreigners in line with the acquis. Furthermore, Turkey demonstrates that it has made significant progress in the implementation of gradual liberalisation.

– Turkey, with respect to anti-money laundering, advances its legislative alignment with the acquis, as well as with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force.

– Turkey demonstrates that it has at its disposal an adequate administrative capacity to properly implement and enforce the relevant legislation in all areas related to anti-money laundering.

Chapter 10 - Information Society and Media

– Turkey completes the legislative alignment with the acquis on electronic communications, and with the acquis on information society services.

– Turkey secures implementation of competitive safeguard measures against operators with significant market power following market analyses, and the general authorisation regime in line with the acquis.

– Turkey ensures sufficient administrative capacity to enforce the acquis in the field of electronic communications, as well as the transparency, predictability and independence of the telecommunications regulator.

– Turkey adopts legislation aimed at transposing the acquis in the field of audiovisual policy, including measures to ensure that the national legal framework complies with the principle of freedom of reception and retransmission of television broadcasts.

– Turkey completes a public consultation with the relevant stakeholders as regards the impact of the measures adopted in view of enhancing the transparency of the audiovisual regulatory process and the independence of the competent regulatory body.

In more general terms, the EU also underlined that it would devote particular attention to monitoring all specific issues mentioned in its common positions with a view to ensuring Turkey's administrative capacity, its capacity to complete legal alignment in all the areas under both chapters, as well as further progress in implementation.

The Union will monitor closely Turkey's progress in these two chapters throughout the negotiations.

Since the start of the negotiations, ten chapters have been opened, of which one has been provisionally closed.