

**ADRESS BY MS. AYFER YILMAZ,
MEMBER OF THE TURKISH GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE
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**MR. PRESIDENT,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

Over the course of its history, the European Union's powers and competences gradually but steadily increased. The Union has assumed further responsibilities in response to new developments and arising challenges.

In the light of the new challenges facing the Union in the 21st century, there is a need to clarify and readjust respective competences of the Union and member states.

The Union's existing responsibilities and the roles that it aspires to assume in the future, compel the Union to take up new tasks or extend its existing powers.

In order to decide about the powers be extended or new tasks to be assumed, the guiding factor should be the aspirations of European citizens as well as the transparency and efficiency of the Union. It must address to the interests and rights of women and men alike.

In an increasingly globalized world, demands of European citizens are becoming more and more diversified. They ask for more prosperity and increased security.

Prosperity is closely related to the development of sustainable economic and financial structures and strengthening of democracy. The coherence between social, economic, employment and sustainable development policies must be increased.

With regard to security, new and growing challenges such as terrorism, organized crime and illegal migration recognize no boundaries.

This requires the strengthening of the Union's third pillar and the related policies in the first pillar. The Union should assume new responsibilities for Europol and Common Foreign and Security Policy, for prevention and resolution of conflicts in peace building.

On the other hand, security involves other elements also. Recent crises, such as the "mad cow" disease, have demonstrated the importance of food safety.

Transnational environmental hazards have revealed new and unforeseen threats in the field of environment. All these challenges can be tackled more effectively at the Union level than at the national level.

In response to these challenges, the Union definitely has to assume new responsibilities in the various areas and at the same time, the present division of powers must be systemized. Also, principles of subsidiarity and proportionality must be taken into account.

However, this should not lead to a constant and unbalanced increasing of its competences. Some issues such as internal administrative structure of the member states, education, culture are clearly tackled more efficiently at the national level. National identity of the nations must be respected.

At this stage, a more clear-cut division of competences seems essential. Nevertheless, a rigid "catalogue" of competences would run contrary to the way the Union has evolved up to now.

The method that will be adopted for the division of competences should be flexible and could be adjusted over time in response to arising needs as European integration has not reached its final stage.

Also, I don't expect that every problem will become a task for the Union and representatives of national parliaments should be involved in the decision-making process.

Thank you.