

Working Group IV

Working document 28

Working group IV – "Role of National Parliaments"

Subject: "Parliamentary Control of the Government's European Policy"
– paper by Mr Kürşat Eser, alternate member of the Convention and
Mr Ali Tekin, member of the Convention

Members of Working Group IV will find hereafter a paper by Mr Kürşat Eser and Mr. Ali Tekin, representatives of the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA), members of the Convention.

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Subject: Parliamentary Control of the Government's European Policy

Paper submitted by: Mr. Kürşat Eser and Mr. Ali Tekin, Members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA)

I. INTRODUCTION:

The only instance within the TGNA scrutinising the EU policy of the Turkish Government is the Turkey-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). The JPC has been set-up in July 1965, on the basis of the Ankara Association Agreement. There are 12 members on the Turkish Side of the Committee. The members are nominated by their respective parties in proportion of the seats they occupy in the parliament. The co-chairman and his deputies are elected by the members of the Committee. The elections to the Committee are renewed at the end of the second year following the legislative term of the Parliament. The co-chairman and his deputies are usually members of the parties having the majority of the seats.

The meetings of the Committee are not held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise.

II. MANDATE AND INSTRUMENTS

Mandate:

The committee examines matters concerning Turkey's relations with the EU, the implementation of the Association Agreement of 1963 and the preparation for membership. It is, in particular, consulted on the annual report transmitted by the Association Council to the President of the TGNA. It may also be consulted by the TGNA on any other problem falling within its terms of reference. The other tasks of the Committee are as follows:

- The committee monitors and assesses the integration strategy of the government. It studies the reports issued by the government on its priorities related to the integration policy of the country.
- It expresses non-binding opinions on relevant legislation going through Parliament.
- It oversees parliamentary co-operation between the National Assembly and EP. It also represents the TGNA in other parliamentary contacts held within the enlargement process of the EU.

Instruments at the disposal of the committee to exercise its mandate:

The committee can set its own agenda. It is entitled to discuss both general policy questions and legislative process, and is kept informed of developments in European affairs through reports by, and hearings of, government officials.

- The Committee may make recommendations to the TGNA as to matters of integration.
- It may conduct hearings with government officials in order to exercise its monitoring role.
- It may consult academics, NGO representatives, and specialists on European matters.
- It publishes written reports and press releases on a range of issues relating to EU integration
- It holds press conferences to inform the public about its work.
