



Press Release

3rd October 2005, London
For immediate use

Turkish accession: “Second class status not an option”

STEPHEN TWIGG, Director of the Foreign Policy Centre, today said:

“Second class status, as some in Austria, Germany and France are advocating, must not be an option for Turkey’s proposed accession to the European Union. The idea of a partnership, or associate membership is an insult to Turkey’s strategic location in Europe.”

“To fudge this issue would create a major divide in the EU, which would reinforce perceptions of Islamophobia and a cultural divide, which shouldn’t exist in a multi-cultural Europe.

“Austria’s opposition is not just about Croatian aspirations, but also about the short-term politicking around a regional election campaign.”

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Editor’s Notes

1. In the preface to the pamphlet, ‘Turks in Europe: Why are we Afraid’ Stephen Twigg says Angela Merkel argues that Turkey “should enjoy a ‘privileged partnership’ with the EU – a euphemism for second-class status – a proposal that has the backing of other, smaller member states such as Austria.” Preface, page i
2. PA 1 EUROPE Turkey France
FRENCH PREFER ‘PARTNERSHIP’ WITH TURKEY TO EU MEMBERSHIP
The French favour a partnership with Turkey rather than allowing it to join the European Union, according to interior minister Nicolas Sarkozy.
The minister, himself an opponent of admitting mostly-Muslim Turkey into the bloc, said: “If we asked the country for its feelings, (it) would have serious reservations. It would be more for a partnership than accession.”
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3. Turks in Europe: Why are we Afraid? was launched on 30th September 2005 following an event on the evening of 29th September at the Turkish Ambassador’s Residence. The pamphlet was authored by Sarah Schaefer (Europe Director at the FPC), Greg Austin (FPC Research Director), and Kate Parker (FPC Associate). Stephen Twigg, FPC Director, introduces the pamphlet in the Preface. The pamphlet is available at <http://fpc.org.uk/publications/174>

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