

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TURKEY

The European Commission has recommended lifting visa restrictions for Turkish citizens today despite Turkey not having reached all the 72 benchmarks demanded of it. European officials are attempting to assure EU member states and the European Parliament, who need to approve the measures, that Turkey will live up to its promises and reach the remaining EU benchmarks. Unfortunately, we are all too familiar with Turkish promises. Turkey has a long track record of failing to live up to its obligations.

- Turkey's continued ban on Cypriot air and sea traffic and its failure to recognize the Republic of Cyprus are in clear violation of Turkey's obligations under the **Ankara Association Agreement** and the supplemental **Additional Protocol** and the **Customs Union**. The Additional Protocol requires the Turkish government to remove all discriminatory obstacles towards Cyprus as an EU member state.
 - The Additional Protocol specifically states: "The Ankara Agreement shall be applicable to Turkey and to all Member States of the European Union as enlarged through the Treaty concerning the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, *the Republic of Cyprus...* to the European Union (hereinafter referred to as 'Treaty of Accession') (3) which was signed in Athens on 16 April 2003 and entered into force on 1 May 2004;
 - An official declaration by the European Community and its Member States in 2005 stated: "The European Community and its Member States expect full, non-discriminatory implementation of the Additional Protocol, and the removal of all obstacles to the free movement of goods, including restrictions on means of transport. Turkey must apply the Protocol fully to all EU Member States... Recognition of all Member States is a necessary component of the accession process."
- Turkey overflights over inhabited Aegean islands, and its continued repression of religious minorities including the Ecumenical Patriarchate place it in violation of its obligations under the **1923 Treaty of Lausanne**.
 - Repeated Turkish overflights over Greek inhabited islands in the Aegean violates Article 13 section II, which states: "Greek military aircraft will be forbidden to fly over the territory of the Anatolian coast. Reciprocally, the Turkish Government will forbid their military aircraft to fly over the said islands (Mytilene, Chios, Samos and Nikaria)."
 - Restrictions on religious minorities and limitations placed on the Ecumenical Patriarchate violate Article 40, which states religious minorities "shall have the right to establish, manage and control at their own expense, any charitable, religious and social institutions, any schools and other establishments for instruction and education, with the right to use their own language and to exercise their own religion freely therein."
- Turkey's assault on freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and minorities place it in violation of its commitments under the **European Convention on Human Rights**.
- Turkey's continued illegal occupation of a large portion of Cyprus is in violation of its obligations under the UN Charter, including Security Council decisions.
- Turkey's failure to recognize Greece and Cyprus' maritime boundaries place it in violation of international customary law, and its declaration that any Greek attempt to expand its territorial sea from 6 to 12 miles is a cause for war place it in violation of the UN Charter.
- President Erdogan broke his promise to President Obama to reopen Halki Seminary:
<http://hellenicleaders.com/Halki>