



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 24 October 2000 (26.10)
(OR. fr)**

12114/00

NM LIMITE

PE-QE 436

**PRELIMINARY DRAFT REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION
P-3033/00 put by Giorgos KATIFORIS on 21 September 2000**

from : General Secretariat of the Council
to : Permanent Representations of the Member States
Subject : **Turkey/EU Partnership Agreement**

1. Delegations will find attached:
 - the text of the above Written Question;
 - a preliminary draft reply prepared by the General Secretariat.

2. If no comments have been received from delegations within **10 working days** of today, this preliminary draft reply will be submitted to the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) and to the Council for approval.

Any comments received will be examined by the Working Party on General Affairs.

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3033/00
put by Giorgos Katiforis (PSE)
to the Council

Subject: EU-Turkey Partnership Agreement

At the Helsinki Summit it was decided that Turkey was a candidate for accession to the EU subject to certain specific and expressly defined conditions. The Commission is obviously concerned to ensure that summit decisions are implemented precisely, and that the fundamental principles underpinning the outlook of European peoples and their governments are fully observed. However, the violent reaction of a section of the Turkish press to the talks held by the Commission delegation last July in Ankara creates the impression that certain parties may be attempting to exclude from the draft of the Turkey-EU partnership agreement explicit references to the conditions relating to Turkey's candidate status.

What steps will the Council take to ensure that the conditions which the Helsinki Summit attached to Turkey's status as a candidate for accession, namely a settlement of the Cyprus problem, an improvement in the human rights situation, resolution of the Kurdish problem, Turkish claims in the Aegean and their settlement by the International Court in The Hague, the democratisation of the political system, together with the other Helsinki political criteria – are incorporated in the main body of the text and not the preamble of the prospective partnership agreement?

REPLY
to Written Question P-3033/00
put by Giorgos KATIFORIS

The Commission proposal on the priorities intended to steer the preparation of Turkey for accession in the framework of the Accession Partnership will be sent to the Council in November 2000 at which point the Council will examine the proposal.
