



HOUSE OF LORDS
European Union Committee

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Rt Hon David Lidington MP
Minister for Europe
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
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29 October 2015

Dear David,

Draft Action Plan stepping up EU-Turkey cooperation on support of refugees and migration management in view of the situation in Syria and Iraq

Thank you for your Explanatory Memorandum of 13 October regarding the above document. The document was considered by the External Affairs Sub-Committee at its meeting on 29 October.

We do, however, have some questions regarding the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan. First, we note that the funds to be mobilised were specified as €1 billion in the Draft Action Plan, but not specified at all in the final text. Can you clarify the amounts involved in the “substantial and concrete new funds” to be mobilised to support Turkey’s efforts to cope with the refugee and irregular migrants. We were informed, in Brussels, that significantly large amounts of money would not be available from the EU budget. Where do you anticipate that the money will be sourced from?

The Council Conclusions, adopted on 15 October, say that the “accession process needs to be re-energized with a view to achieving progress in the negotiations.” We were further informed in Brussels that so far the EU-Turkey membership process was not credible and therefore substantially reduced EU leverage. Would you agree with this assessment? Going forward, in light of the refugee and irregular migration crisis, how does the UK wish to restructure EU-Turkish relations?

Finally, what would you hope like to achieve with regard to Turkey at the forthcoming G20 meeting in Antalya?

We look forward to your response in the usual ten working days. In the meantime, as the Draft Action Plan has been superseded, we are content to clear the document from scrutiny.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, Chairman of the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee, the Clerks of both European Union Committees, Les

Saunders at the Cabinet Office, Faisal Moosa, FCO Departmental Scrutiny Co-ordinator and Sheila Underwood, FCO Select Committee Liaison Officer.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Boswell

The Lord Boswell of Aynho
Chairman of the European Union Committee