



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General Enlargement

D - Financial Instruments and Regional Programmes

**D4 Institution Building**

## **2008 GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW for TURKEY\***

Overall, there has been limited progress on public administration reform. A number of issues remain to be addressed, such as reducing administrative burden, ensuring simplification, establishing regulatory impact assessments, developing administrative procedures, enhancing transparency and improving policy-making and co-ordination systems. There is a need for a general law on administrative procedures abrogating almost all special procedures that currently exist, for the sake of transparency and legal certainty.

**Civil Service:** The civil service system needs to be modernised. Since 2007 no changes can be observed in the public service legal framework. Civil service reform seems to have a low profile on the policy agenda of the government. The lack of reforms also seems to have resulted in an increase in the politicisation of the public service and in the further weakening of the impartiality principle. Nevertheless, the drafting of a new civil service law still seems to be making discreet, slow progress under the leadership of the Prime Ministry. Political neutrality and democratic responsiveness of public servants should be clearly promoted and enhanced.

**Anti-corruption policy:** There has been limited progress in this area and corruption remains widespread issue. The continuing absence of an overall strategy, action plan and co-ordination mechanism is a cause for continuing concerns in this area. The legal framework and institution set-up to fight corruption should be strengthened.

**Public procurement:** Some limited progress can be reported in this area. Turkey has started to address its public procurement priorities and has the capacities to do so. However, the Turkish public procurement legislation remains different from the *acquis* in various respects. The designation of the Ministry of Finance as overall policy co-ordinator on public procurement is a positive development. The Ministry will have to ensure consistent policy development in this area and steer the implementation. This needs to be backed-up by a comprehensive strategy on the reforms necessary in terms of legislative alignment and institutional capacity-building in order for Turkey to comply with the *acquis*.

**Public Internal Financial Control (PIFC):** Moderate progress has been made in this area. The internal audit strategy for 2008-2010 was approved in November 2007 and in July 2008 the Ministry of Finance has adopted amendments to the Public Financial Management and control Law. As a follow-up, the 2002 PIFC policy paper and the related action plan should be updated. Institutionalisation of the newly established administrative structures is continuing. Permanent structures are needed for co-operation with the European Anti-Fraud Office on protection of the EU's financial interests and for contacts with the Commission departments responsible for protection of the euro against counterfeiting.

*Twinning and SIGMA Co-ordination Team*

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\* Source: Turkey 2008 Progress Report, {COM(2008) 674}, 5/11/2008