



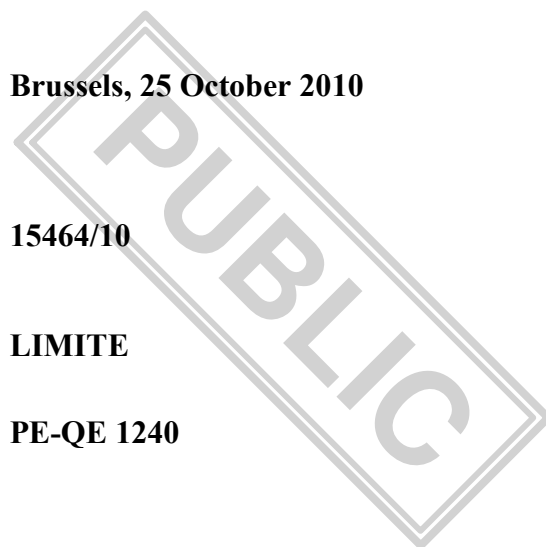
**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 25 October 2010

15464/10

LIMITE

PE-QE 1240



**PRELIMINARY DRAFT REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION
E-8131/10 put by Mário David (PPE)**

from : General Secretariat of the Council
to : Permanent Representations of the Member States

Subject : **"Behaviour of Turkey at the United Nations and its application for membership of the European Union"**

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 **by 17.00 on 10 November 2010**, 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.

**Question for written answer E-8131/2010
to the Council**
Rule 117
Mário David (PPE)

Subject: Behaviour of Turkey at the United Nations and its application for membership of the European Union

On 17 September 2010 President Ahmadinejad of Iran made a speech at the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly.

In addition to other deplorable and incendiary comments, he saw fit to declare that many people are convinced that the United States government was behind the attacks of 11 September 2001.

Adopting the only immediately possible response to this irrational affirmation, the United States delegation left the room in protest, together with all the delegations of the 27 EU Member States and those of a number of other countries, including Canada, Australia, Morocco, New Zealand and Costa Rica.

We regretfully note that the delegations remaining in the hall included those of Brazil, Japan, Norway, Mexico and Turkey.

We would like to think that Turkey, as a candidate for accession to the European Union, shares the basic principles underpinning our Union. This disappointing behaviour by the Turkish authorities will certainly not go unnoticed.

Can the Council therefore say what impact and repercussions this regrettable attitude will have on Turkey's EU accession process?

REPLY

to Written Question E-8131/10

put by Mário David (PPE)

On a general note, it may be recalled that Turkey as a candidate country is expected to progressively align its policies towards third countries and its positions within international organisations with the policies and positions adopted by the European Union and its Member States. This follows from the Negotiating Framework and is also mentioned under the short-term priorities of the revised Accession Partnership for Turkey.

In its conclusions of 7 December 2009, the Council reaffirmed that coherent implementation of the renewed consensus on enlargement, which is based on consolidation of commitments, fair and rigorous conditionality, better communication and the EU's capacity to integrate new members, continues to form the basis for EU action at all stages of the enlargement process, with each candidate country being assessed on its own merits.

Close monitoring and evaluation of progress on the ground will continue, in accordance with the Negotiating Framework and the Accession Partnership. This progress will guide the advancement of the negotiating process.
