

Brussels, 10 September 1963

EMBARGO: 12 September 1963
11.00 hrs.

Address

by

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President of the Commission of the
European Economic Community

on the occasion of the signature of the
Association Agreement with Turkey

Ankara

12 September 1963

It is both a pleasure and an honour for me to speak on this festive occasion in the name of the Commission of the European Economic Community. The Association Agreement which is being signed here today is the result of long negotiations beset with difficulties which could be overcome only thanks to the initiative, courage and perseverance of all concerned. And so I should first like to say a word of thanks to the Turkish Government and its delegation who have met us in a spirit of comradeship as a partner in these talks, but also to my friend and colleague Jean Rey who has done more than anyone else in the Commission to make this agreement possible. I know that he would wish me to include in this expression of gratitude all those who have worked under his guidance. The mutual understanding shown by both delegations - the Turkish of the ideals and principles of the Treaty of Rome, and ours of the conditions obtaining in Turkey - shows that our association has foundations which justify the brightest hopes because they rest on a Community spirit: on an attitude of openness and solidarity.

We are today witnessing an event of great political significance.

Turkey is part of Europe. That is really the ultimate meaning of what we are doing today. It confirms in incomparably topical form a truth which is more than the summary expression of a geographical concept or of a historical fact that holds good for several centuries. Turkey is part of Europe: and here we think first and foremost of the stupendous personality of Ataturk, whose work meets us at every turn in this country, and of the radical way in which he recast every aspect of life in Turkey on European lines. It is an event without parallel in the history of the influence exerted by European culture and politics. I would even

say that we sense in it a certain kinship with the most modern of European developments: the unification of Europe. Do we not feel the workings of a kindred spirit when we meet this enlightened, rational and sternly realistic attitude; the methodical application of modern knowledge; the importance attached to teaching and education; the progressive and forceful dynamism which we witness everywhere; and the bold pragmatism in the choice of means. What then could be more natural than that Europe - that part of Europe which represents the free expression of its own character - and Turkey should show themselves to be as one in their actions and reactions - in the military, the political and the economic spheres?

Turkey is part of Europe: today this means that Turkey is establishing a constitutional relationship with the European Community. Like the Community itself, that relationship is imbued with the concept of evolution.

Turkey, too, is facing difficult problems: industrialization, which has been set in motion, must be pressed forward, the country's raw materials must be put to their best use, agriculture must be extended. All this is necessary because it is part of the make-up of a modern State and also in order to secure the future of the Turkish nation which is growing faster than almost any other on earth. The task is difficult and will certainly not be solved overnight. But your Government and your people have tackled it with admirable courage and you can already point with pride to your initial successes.

Further successes are awaiting you, helped along of course by your association with the Community, which will assist you

toward the full attainment of your goals, especially those contained in your five-year plan. When the agreement enters into effect, the economic and financial advantages which it confers - and which amount to considerable assistance - will enable Turkey to expand its exports to the European Economic Community and to extend its productive capacity. The Agreement also provides that Turkey shall further intensify its relations with the Community in the near future and that it can establish a genuine economic union which we still regard as the hall-mark of true integration. Association is therefore beneficial not only to Turkey, it is also in the interest of the Community.

We are, then, at the outset of an era of close co-operation between Turkey and the Community. The two sides will meet in the Council of Association where, as equal partners, they will discuss their problems and will endeavour in this new spirit to settle any difficulties that may arise. Inspired by the same ideas, they will consider together how these can be translated into reality in the framework of association. And one day the final step is to be taken: Turkey is to be a full member of the Community. This wish, and the fact that it is shared by us and our Turkish friends alike, is the strongest expression of our community of interest.