

## INVITATION

Your Excellency, dear Madam/ Sir,

Mr. Marti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland, Nobel Prize Laureate and Chair of the *Independent Commission on Turkey*, Mr. Albert Rohan, Rapporteur, and Mr. Hans van den Broek, former Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs and former European Commissioner, and Member of the *Independent Commission on Turkey*, have the honour to present the second Report of the Commission entitled:

*“Turkey in Europe  
Breaking the vicious circle”*

In this report an analysis is presented about the key developments in EU-Turkey relations and concrete steps necessary to revive negotiations.

The *Independent Commission on Turkey* is convinced of the substantial benefits of Turkish convergence with Europe and an eventual EU membership of a transformed Turkey, both for the country itself and the European Union. Despite a promising start to negotiations in 2004, the process has developed a vicious circle: continued negative comments by European political leaders, combined with growing public hesitation about further EU enlargement, have deepened resentment in Turkey and slowed the necessary reforms.

This vicious circle must urgently be broken, in the interest of both Turkey and the EU. European governments must honor their commitments and treat Turkey with fairness and the respect it deserves. On its side, Turkey has to re-engage in a dynamic, broad-based reform process, thus confirming that it is willing and serious in its ambition to join the EU.

The *Independent Commission on Turkey* and the Clingendael Institute are very pleased to announce that the report will be officially presented to the Minister for European Affairs, H.E. Mr. Frans Timmermans during a seminar which will be held at the Clingendael Institute (Clingendael 7, The Hague) on **14 October 2009**, from 14.00 – 15.00 hrs.

The conference room will be open from 13.30 hrs onwards. After the official programme drinks will be served.

If you wish to attend, you are kindly requested to register by -email only and no later than 9 October 2009- at the External Affairs Office of the Clingendael Institute, att. Mrs. Carla Veltkamp ([cveltkamp@clingendael.nl](mailto:cveltkamp@clingendael.nl))

We hope to be able to welcome you at the Huys Clingendael on October 14.

Prof. Jaap W. de Zwaan,  
Director of the Clingendael Institute