

Voting time

Gomes (PSE), in writing . (PT) I voted in favour of opening the process of Turkey's accession to the EU. This does not entail making a final decision on this process, which will take years to negotiate. Furthermore, I voted against partnership status, because that would mean that the EU has not honoured its promises.

I voted in favour, particularly in light of the testimonies of numerous Turkish human rights defenders, who have confirmed that there have been positive developments in Turkey. Those developments are not sufficient, of course; there are still political prisoners, there is still torture in prisons and there remains much to do. Stopping the process of opening negotiations at this time would have terrible consequences for the human rights situation in Turkey. I voted in favour, although we have not had the opportunity for serious contemplation as to where Europe should extend, and because I do not accept the political and cultural borders of the 'Christian Club Europe', nor the prophecies of the 'clash of civilisations'. I voted in favour, provided that Turkey recognises, without delay, the EU Member State of Cyprus, and withdraws, without delay, from the part of Cyprus that it occupies militarily. I voted in favour of acknowledging the genocide of the Armenian people by Turkey, as I believe that this is essential for reconciliation with its neighbours and with its history.