Key milestones

1995
Customs Union enters into force

DECEMBER 1999
EU candidate country status granted

DECEMBER 2004
EU decides to open accession negotiations

DECEMBER 2013
Visa liberalisation dialogue launched

MARCH 2016
EU-Turkey Statement

JUNE 2018
The Council notes that Türkiye’s accession negotiations have effectively come to a standstill and no further chapters can be considered for opening or closing

MARCH 2019
54th EU-Türkiye Association Council held

MARCH 2021
The European Council expresses the EU’s readiness to engage with Türkiye in a phased, proportionate and reversible manner to enhance cooperation in a number of areas of common interest

NOVEMBER 2022
The first EU-Türkiye High level dialogue on science, research, technology and innovation takes place in Brussels

Migration and Border management

The EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey provides €6 billion (2016-2019) in support to refugees (mostly from Syria) and host communities. In 2020, an additional €535 million in humanitarian funding outside the Facility ensured the continuation of two Facility flagship programmes. After 2020, we have allocated €3 billion to ensure the continuation of Facility support

Türkiye investment platform

The recently established Türkiye investment platform (TIP) became the main vector for identifying and selecting investment opportunities. This will allow Türkiye to profit from a wide range of budgetary guarantee mechanisms that facilitate public and private investments. This new mechanism will aim to support innovative investments proposed by EU financial institutions in areas that include decarbonisation, digitalisation, access to finance, innovation and green investments

Trade & investment

Türkiye is the EU’s 7th largest trading partner and the EU is by far Türkiye’s biggest trading partner, representing more than one third of Turkish trade and its main source of investment

Türkiye’s exports to the EU amounted to €98.68 billion in 2022 and imports from the EU amounted to €99.65 billion

The EU foreign investment stock to Türkiye was €44 billion in 2021

Post-Earthquake Assistance

Right after the 6 February 2023 devastating earthquakes the EU swiftly reacted by deploying humanitarian and relief support as well as hosting an International Donors’ Conference for the people in Türkiye and Syria. A total of €7 billion was pledged, which includes the €1 billion pledge of the Commission for the people in Türkiye

Human capital & innovation

The EU pays special attention to youth, education and innovation

Türkiye participates in EU programmes such as Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, the European Solidarity Corps and Digital Europe

In 2004 - 2020: 98,800 higher education students were hosted in countries participating in the ERASMUS+ programme

In 2004 - 2020: 32,750 higher education students were hosted in Türkiye

In 2014-2020: €220.5 million were provided in support to civil society

We continue our partnership

Under IPA III, the EU allocates funds focusing on actions aiming at improving the functioning of the Customs Union, climate and environment, energy, transport, agriculture, civil society, employment, competitiveness and the business environment

In addition to bilateral cooperation, funding for civil society amounts to €25 million per year in 2021-2023

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Source: EU Data

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