



TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

7 October 2011

Prime Minister İrsen Küçük's Press Conference regarding Second EU Harmonisation Package and Public Administration Reform

Dear Bureaucrats, Public Servants,

Dear Members of the Press,

Our government has almost completed 1.5 years in office, and has carried out some very important reforms, which required strong political will and stability.

A better functioning public financial management system has been established, which forms the basis of all the reforms to be made for sustainable economic development.

By taking the necessary measures in this regard, an increase has been achieved in budget revenues and macroeconomic forecasting and the budget preparation process has been improved.

Additionally, the Public Finance and Debt Management Law has been put into force to ensure the restructuring of the public debt and to form a more reliable financial structure.

When we take into consideration the fact that the global economic crisis has affected even the very powerful countries who did not have to suffer under economic isolations, it is clear that we will be continuing similar reforms in the upcoming periods.

We believe and hope that our community will provide constructive support to these reforms that will need short-term sacrifices but will offer long-term benefits to the coming generations.

The Turkish Cypriot people have been trying to survive under economic and political isolations for the past half century and need more stability, trust and unity.

We, as the government, will make all necessary efforts to ensure that our people live under the conditions that they deserve and have the same standards of well-being as developed countries.

Since the first day our Government came into office, it has attributed great importance to EU harmonisation works and has concentrated on attaining concrete results.

The EU harmonisation process, which contributes to the strengthening of our legislative and administrative structures in the prioritized areas, has been carried out in a non-partisan spirit and considering the social benefits for the society as a whole.

As you have followed closely, this time last year we introduced the First EU Harmonisation Package to the public, which consisted of 5 laws and 2 regulations, and we submitted all of this draft legislation to Parliament immediately after. Additionally, for these laws to be promptly discussed in the Parliament, we created a special committee in the Parliament specifically to discuss EU harmonised laws.

The EU harmonisation laws are being discussed with consensus both in the committee and in the Parliament's General Assembly, with the participation of representatives from the opposition and civil society organizations.

Such an approach will also contribute to the inclusion of participation and consensus culture into our political lives; as we consider these the basic elements of good governance.

There should be no doubt that the Second EU Harmonisation Package which was prepared by the dedicated efforts of officials at all levels under the coordination of the European Union Coordination Centre, will be addressed in the same manner.

Before introducing the package of 8 laws and 9 regulations to the public, I would like to thank all of you for your contributions and efforts.

The Second EU Harmonisation Package, which will be brought to the attention of the Council of Ministers next week, will include the following draft laws:

- **Public Internal Financial Control Draft Law;** which will ensure the establishment of ex-ante control and ex-post audit systems in public institutions that are compatible with international standards.
- **Public Procurement Draft Law;** which will ensure that the Central Tender Commission and the public organisations involved in tenders independent of the Commission, comply with transparency and accountability EU public procurement standards.
- **Labor (Amendment) Draft Law;** which will ensure the equalization of working conditions of the public-private sector employees and will serve as the law governing the framework of working life.
- **Product Safety Draft Law;** which will determine the responsibilities of organisations that undertake inspections and ensure that products on the market comply with required standards.

- **Chemicals Draft Law**; which will control and manage the risks that can take place during the production, use and import of chemical substances.
- **Veterinary Medical Products Draft Law**; which will inspect the drugs used for animal health and prevent side effects that might generate in humans.
- **Agricultural Quarantine Draft Law**; which will determine the controlling methods to ensure that plant and plant products that enter the country or that are produced within the country comply with international health standards.

In addition to these, the **Safety Belts Draft Law**, which aims at preventing traffic accidents that cause trauma on families and on society, has also been prepared under the Second EU Harmonisation Package but because of the urgency of the subject, it was sent to the Parliament before the summer period.

The regulations that will be sent to the Council of Ministers as part of the Second EU Harmonisation Package will provide functionality to the EU harmonised laws that are currently in force. These regulations are as follows:

Under the **Consumer Protection Law**, which aims to provide safeguards for consumer contracts and products' guarantee documents, four regulations have been prepared. These are:

- **Unfair Contract Terms Regulation**
- **Consumer Guarantees Regulation**
- **Package Tours Regulation**
- **Timeshare Regulation.**

In addition to the regulations that were previously prepared under the **Health and Safety at Work Law**, the following have also been prepared to protect the workers against the risks that may occur due to physical conditions at workplaces,

- **Protection of Workers in Explosive Environment Regulation**
- **Regulation on Protection of Pregnant Employees in Work Places**

The **Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation** has been prepared for the harmonisation of existing EIA reports in line with the EU and will be adopted under the **Environment Law**, which is expected to be approved by Parliament in the coming days.

Finally, the **Agencies Regulation and the Regulation on Establishing Insurance and Reassurance Companies**, prepared in line with the **Insurance Services (Regulation and Supervision) Law**, aims at providing functionality and efficiency to the activities, handbooks, documents and records of real and legal persons working as reinsurance brokers.

Our government will continue to support all EU related activities. In this context, I would like to announce also that a new process will be launched to update the 2009-2011 PFAA to cover the years 2012-2014.

As with the previous PFAA, the program preparation process will be carried out in cooperation with the European Commission and the experiences of the EU Ministry of the Republic of Turkey will be used.

Our expectation from you is to continue the sacrifice and effort that you put into the preparation of the EU harmonised laws, in the preparation of the next three years' sectoral planning program.

Our goal and desire is to carry out these activities and help contribute to career development and specialization in a manner that includes wider sectors. I would therefore like to request that the Undersecretaries and Directors of related institutions take all necessary initiatives.

Finally, it is important that the Civil Service Reform, which is an important part of the Public Administration Reform, is carried out in parallel with the EU harmonisation activities, since they are mutually supportive.

The aim of the new Civil Service Law is to bring continuity and institutionalization at management level by restricting the scope of political appointments. It also aims at improving the quality of service delivery by increasing the effectiveness and motivation of civil servants.

In other words, promoting civil servants according to their performance, using mobility as a career development tool not as a punishment tool in human resources management and decreasing the politicization features of public administration, will also contribute to the stated objectives.

The Draft Civil Service Law will be put into the agenda of Council of Ministers in parallel with the Second EU Harmonisation Package. The draft, as all will recall, was shared with the public in June, and has been re-evaluated in the light of the comments received from the trade unions. It is now subject to the legal review of the Attorney General's Office. I would like to emphasize once again the commitment of our government to finalize the law in cooperation with all political parties represented in Parliament for the sake of creating a better functioning public administration.