



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

MEMO

Brussels, 21 June 2012

Statement by EU Commissioner Cecilia Malmström on the initialling of the EU-Turkey Readmission Agreement

"Today in Brussels the negotiators of the Commission and Turkey have initialled a Readmission Agreement, which reflects our shared interest in a more effective migration and border management.

I very much welcome this important development.

The agreed text sets out clear obligations and procedures to follow by the authorities of Turkey and of EU Member States in order to swiftly return persons who are irregularly residing on their territories, in full respect of international law and fundamental rights. It is similar to readmission agreements concluded by the EU with other third countries.

I am now looking forward to the formal signature of the agreement as well as its entry into force, which will further enhance our dialogue and cooperation with Turkey in the field of Home Affairs policy.

This will also enable us to make progress in the perspective of visa liberalization, as a clear sign to the Turkish population and authorities that the EU stands up to its commitment to improve the mobility of our citizens".