

The construction of the Gothic Cathedral and our membership in the EU

general consensus in Turkish society is:

The They will never let us into the EU. " Even though the highest authorities in the EU have officially declared us candidate members based on negotiated agreements, this is the prevailing view among everyone, from the most intellectual to the average person. This general sentiment is frequently voiced by those who say, "We don't want the EU. Why bother? They won't let us in anyway." Before the Helsinki '99 Summit, those who say, "They'll never let us in as a candidate member." Having become a candidate member, they're now saying, "They won't let us in as a candidate member." Rest assured, when we become members in the future, they'll start saying, "They'll kick us out of here."

Jokes aside, Verheugen, the member responsible for Enlargement in the EU's executive body, the Commission, told Foreign Minister Gül at the Turkey-EU Association Council meeting in Luxembourg on April 14 that Türkiye could become a member of the EU in 2010 or 2012 when it fulfils the Copenhagen political criteria and provides a solution to the Cyprus Problem.

A few years ago, Czech President Havel, who visited our country at the time, said, "It is very strange that you have not yet been able to become a member of the EU despite your very old application."

Indeed, our European Association's membership with our application for associate membership to the EEC, on 31 July 1959, has been continuing for 44 years.

In this process, left put aside the opportunities we missed between 1975 and 1980 and make an assessment. In 1987, after the Özal Government's application for full membership, which statesman,

the word to end our 1000 day membership agreement with the member states.

Unfortunately, in Türkiye, there are those, as the old saying goes, those who carried their countries to the EU, including Spain, Portugal, Greece and pole, Karamanli

in Greece, Havel in the Czech Republic.

Here's Erdoğan, whose AKP government has declared its support for the EU at every opportunity, visited every EU country individually at the Copenhagen Summit in December 2003, and made a good start with the Gül Government. Despite having the power to enact any law he wants with his numerical majority in Parliament, why has he stalled, and what is he waiting for? Why isn't he lobbying EU countries?

Meanwhile, we hope that the meeting held by the MCK Secretary General in Brussels to gather associations abroad under one roof (if the newspaper reports are true) and the words he made against the EU there were not a response to the demand from Türkiye in the Second Accession Partnership Document to reduce the weight of the military in politics.

It is the government that should explain to the public why a high-level discussion with military background occurred in the issue of associations that are non-governmental organizations, while Turkish Ambassadors or Ministers are present.

They said at the Regular Councils conferences of the EEC, said, "We will complete the construction of Europe as the construction of a Gothic cathedral. The first generation who made these efforts continues to work, even though they know they will not see the cathedral finished."

Türkiye's full EU membership resembles the construction of a cathedral, which will take a very long time. Unfortunately, this stems from our architects' lack of vision.