

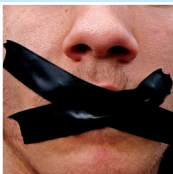
Turkey faces partial suspension of EU talks

Turkey has offered to open a port and an airport to traffic from Cyprus in a last-minute bid to break the deadlock over its EU application. The Cyprus impasse is one of the issues hampering ties between the EU and Turkey, which faces a partial suspension of its accession negotiations



Cyprus: Turkey is legally required to open air and sea ports from Cyprus under customs union pact with EU. Turkey reluctant

unless EU lifts trade embargo against Turkish Cypriots – which Cyprus has so far blocked



Freedom of speech

Turkish ministers to amend article of penal code which penalizes insulting “Turkishness”. Criticised by EU, it has been used to

bring charges against journalists, scholars and writers – including Nobel Prize winner **Orhan Pamuk**



Religious freedom

EU wants Turkey to ease property and other restrictions on non-Muslim religious minorities. EU says draft law

on religious foundations fails to provide compensation for properties seized by state in past decades



Kurdish rights

EU welcomes reforms easing restrictions on Kurdish culture, language and education but says Ankara needs to

tackle poverty and economic problems in mainly Kurdish southeast



Role of army

Army distrusts government of **Tayyip Erdogan** due to its roots in political Islam and fears Erdogan may

seek presidency. EU says army should not interfere in politics