

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T94191

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THE PRIME-MINISTER

18 March 1991

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your letter of 1 March. The UK has consistently expressed its wish to develop EC/Turkey relations. We fully support the Commission's proposals in this respect, and have encouraged our partners to do likewise, most recently at the Foreign Affairs Council of 4 March, where Douglas Hurd emphasised that stronger links between the Community and Turkey were in the EC's interest as much as Turkey's. Turkey's key geographical position and your robust role during the Gulf Crisis are both, in our view, clear reasons why Turkey's relations with the Community should be enhanced. Like you, we attach particular importance to developing relations within the framework of the existing Association Agreement and to the unblocking of the Fourth Financial Protocol. This too was made clear to our partners on 4 March.

Strengthening links with Turkey is not of course a one way process. If the goal of a Customs Union is to be reached, the Community will in particular be looking for assurances that Turkish industry will support moves to improve access for EC firms to the Turkish market.

May I take this opportunity of assuring you that the UK will continue to press for movement to develop EC/Turkey relations.

*Warm regards,
John Major*

His Excellency Mr. Turgut Ozal

[Handwritten initials]