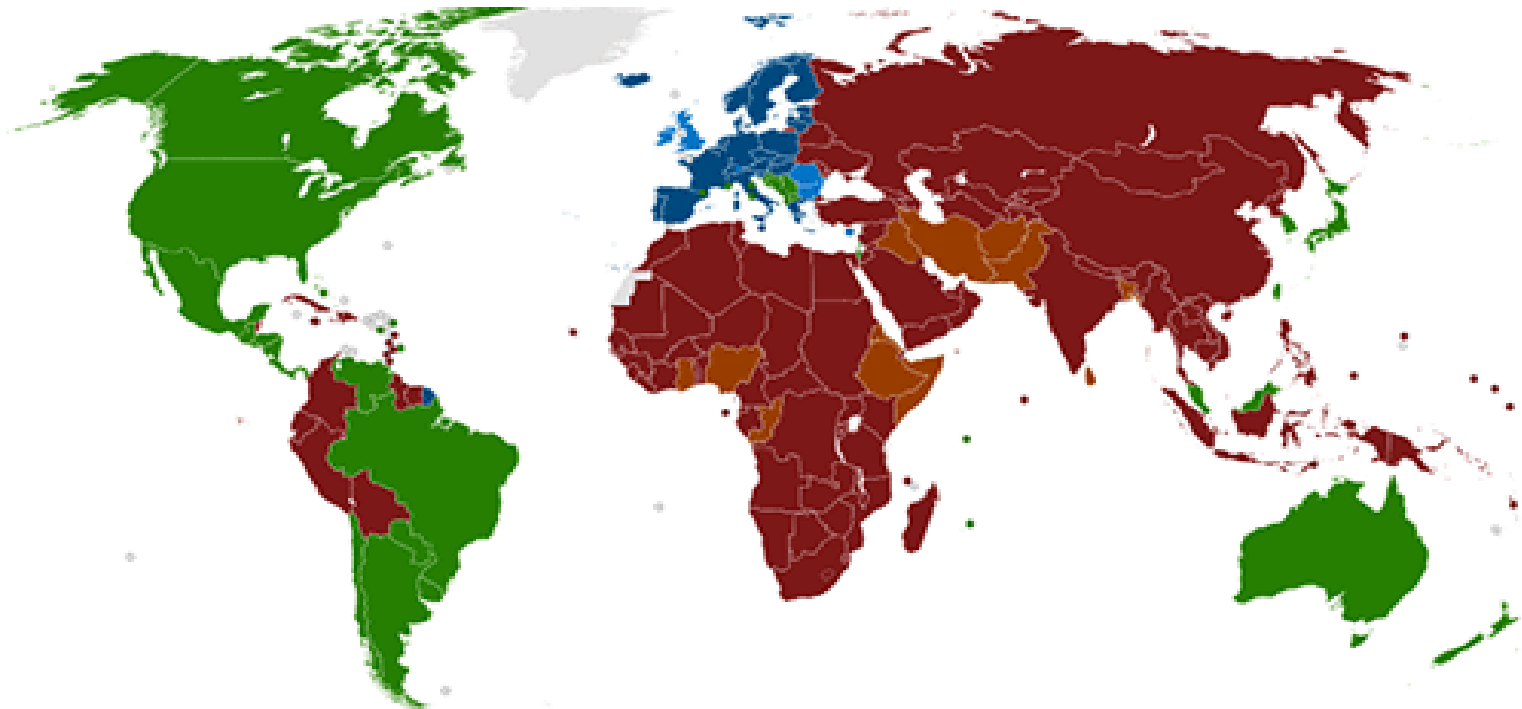




VISA LIBERALISATION FOR TURKISH CITIZENS

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. igdem Nas,
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-  Schengen member states
-  Schengen associated states (special visa-free agreements)
-  Visa-free access to the Schengen states for 90 days in any half year period
-  Visa required to enter the Schengen states
-  Visa required for transit via the Schengen states
-  Visa status unknown

Schengen Area and Visa Requirements

LEGAL DIMENSION OF VISA

ANKARA AGREEMENT – 12 September 1963

Free Movement of Workers and Services

Freedom of Establishment



ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL – 1 January 1973

41(1)- “Standstill” Clause

Any further restrictions to freedom of services and establishment prohibited



SCHENGEN AGREEMENT AND VISA CODE – 1985, 1999, 2001, 2009

AREA OF FREEDOM SECURITY AND JUSTICE

Protection of External Borders and Control of Entry

ECONOMIC DIMENSION OF VISA

- TURKEY-EU CUSTOMS UNION – Decision 1/95 of the Association Council
- Free Movement of Industrial Goods
- However, people who produce or sell these goods cannot travel freely
- Economic cost of visa
- Time-consuming and cumbersome procedures

COST OF APPLYING FOR A VISA

Year	C-type visa applied for	Visa fee	Total cost
2009	484 209	60 euro	29 million euro
2010	559 946	60 euro	33,5 million euro
2011	624 361	60 euro	37,5 million euro
2012	668 835	60 euro	40 million euro
2013	779 464	60 euro	46,8 million euro
2014	813 339	60 euro	48,8 million euro
2015	900 789	60 euro	54 million euro
TOTAL	1 713 614		290 million euro

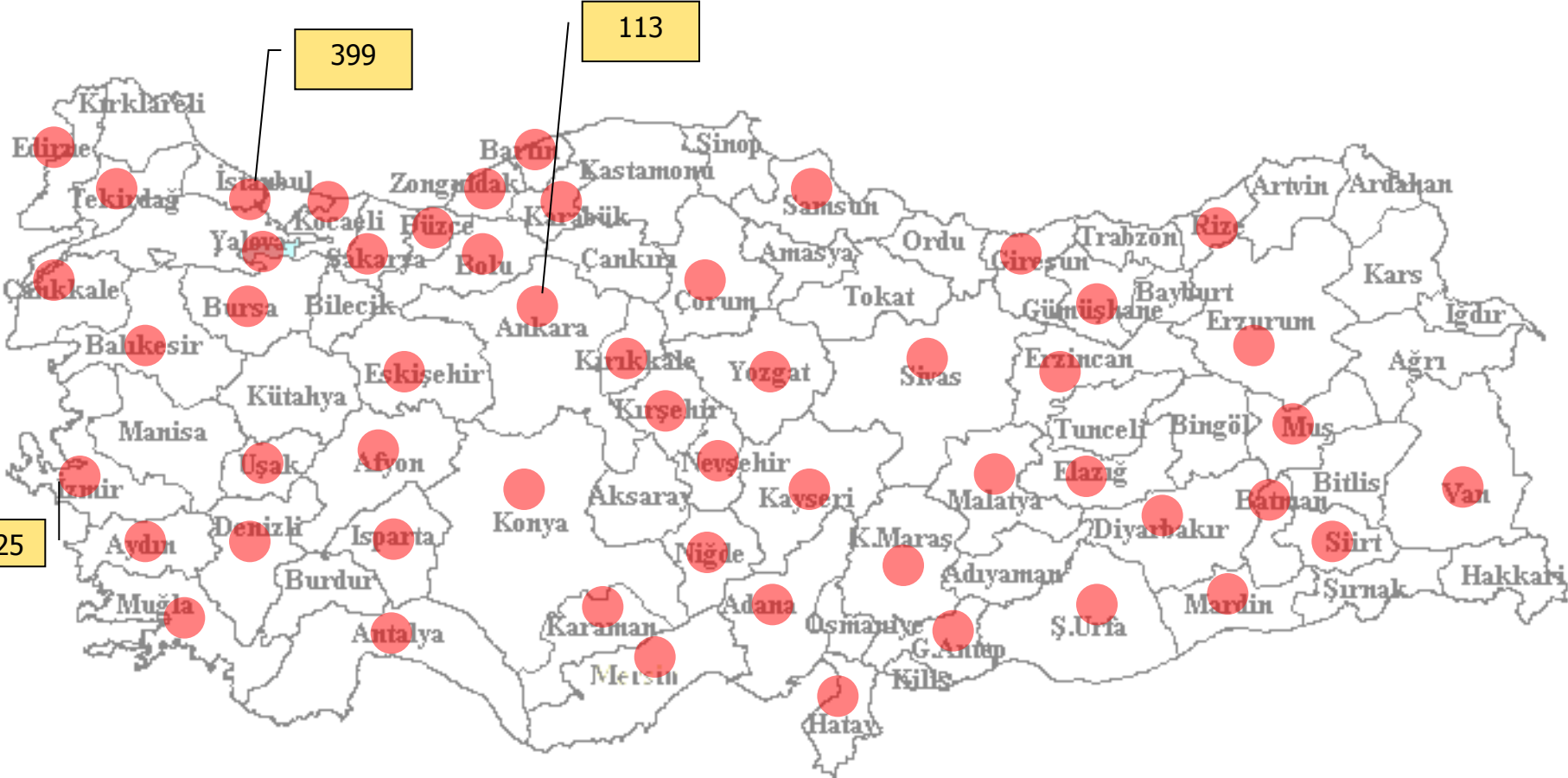
European Commission, Schengen Statistics



HUMAN DIMENSION OF VISA

- Psychological factor
- Barrier to civil society contact
- Sense of being discriminated against

1147 Participants from 54 cities (2009-2011)



VISA HOTLINE PROJECT

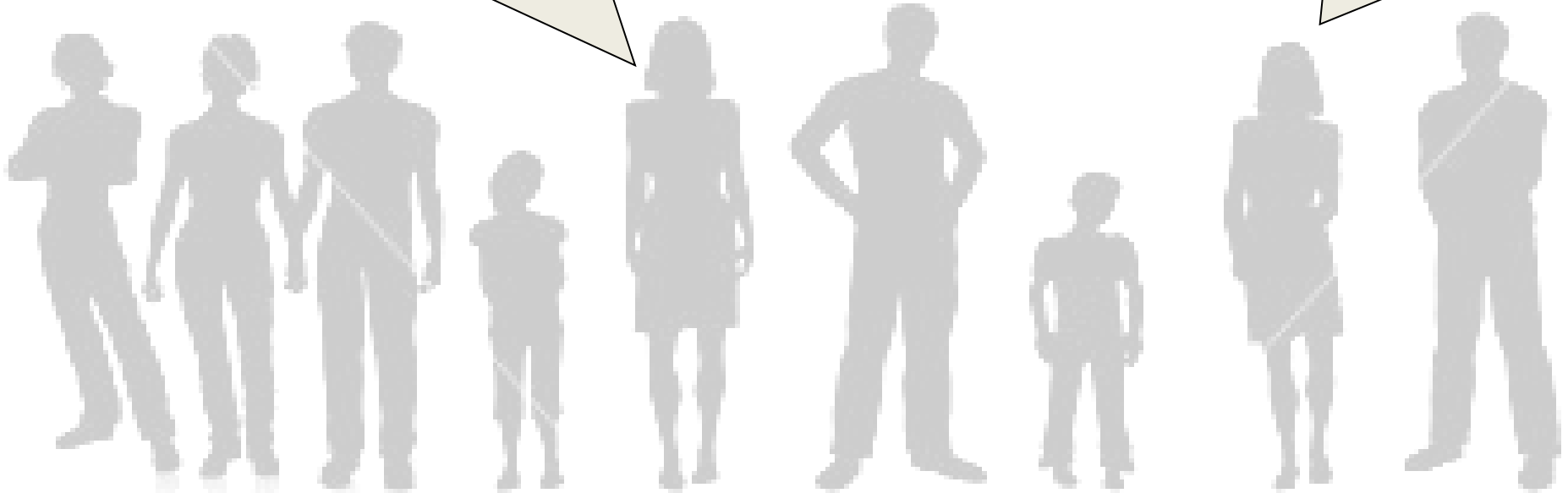
Rejection of visa request, lack of justification provided

Financial cost, visa fee and additional fees for banks, i notary etc.

Bureacracy and cumbersome procedures

Length of procedure, the variety and content of required documents

Insulting behaviour of visa personnel



VISA LIBERALISATION ROADMAP

- 72 Criteria under four blocks
 - Document Security
 - Migration and border management
 - Public order and security
 - Fundamental rights



Mediterranean Update

Migration Flows Europe: Arrivals and Fatalities



18 MARCH TURKEY-EU REFUGEE STATEMENT

Return of Irregular migrants from Greece to Turkey

Resettlement of Syrian refugees from Turkey to the EU

Cooperation in the fight against illegal migration

Voluntary humanitarian admission scheme

Acceleration of visa liberalisation for Turkish citizens

3 billion euros of additional funds for Syrian refugees

Upgrading of Turkey-EU customs union

Re-energising Turkey's EU accession process

Working together to improve conditions in Syria

COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT ON VISA LIBERALISATION ROADMAP (4 May 2016)

- Commission recommends the lifting of the visa barrier despite remaining criteria (5+2):
- Revision of the anti-terror law restricting its application to acts not directly related to terror
- Fight against corruption in line with Council of Europe recommendations (GRECO)
- Agreement with Europol
- Revision of data protection legislation
- Judicial cooperation in criminal matters
- Implementation of the Turkey-EU readmission agreement
- Biometric passports

EU APPROACH TO VISA

- Visa from the Migration Angle
 - Pressure from migration, asylum seekers and irregular migration
- Visa from the Security angle
 - Drug trafficking, migrant smuggling, trafficking in human beings, firearms trafficking, financial crime, money laundering, counterfeiting of goods and currency



CONCLUSION OF THE COMMISSION

- “The removal of the visa obligation currently imposed on Turkish citizens travelling to **the EU is NOT expected to increase growth of organised crime and terrorist activities in the EU**, given that most criminals and terrorists already use travel routes throughout the EU. It is therefore unlikely that the proposed visa liberalisation will result in drastic changes in the Turkish or EU criminal landscapes.
- The proposed visa liberalisation **is NOT expected to produce a substantial increase of irregular migration of Turkish citizens into the EU** because, as already argued in the Assessment of the migratory impact of visa liberalisation included in the CSWD accompanying the Second Report issued on 4 March 2016, Turkish citizens appear interested only in a limited manner to emigrate towards the EU. Moreover, the EU- Turkey Readmission agreement, whose provisions related to the readmission of the nationals of the two parties entered into force on 1 October 2015, offers a powerful tool to ensure the removal of persons attempting to remain in the territory of the EU beyond the regular limit of 90 days out of every 180 day period. “

Thank you for your attention.

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