



RESTRUCTURING OF THE REFORM ACTION GROUP (RAG)

With the approval of the Council of Ministers, the “Reform Monitoring Group” has been renamed as the “Reform Action Group” to better represent the active role assumed by this body. The RAG will no longer just monitor the political reforms, but it will also take on an active role in the whole cycle of reform agenda contributing in preparation, adoption and implementation phases. In this context, major changes introduced in the structure of the RAG are as follows:

- The Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Undersecretaries will carry out a preliminary consultation session during a breakfast prior to the official RAG meeting for assessing the agenda items.
- The RAG agenda will be submitted to the Ministers at least fifteen days in advance.
- The Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator will present the decisions taken by the RAG at the subsequent meeting of the Council of Ministers.
- The RAG Ministers will visit the Speaker of the Parliament after each RAG meeting to accelerate the legislative reforms in line with the decisions taken.
- The Ministers will be monitoring the steps to be taken during forthcoming period in the framework of the Visa Liberalisation Dialogue and the first Report on the progress in the implementation of the Readmission Agreement issued on 20 October 2014.
- With reference to the reforms, as well as the issues which give rise to misperceptions in the areas of the Political Criteria, Chapter 23 on Judiciary and Fundamental Rights and Chapter 24 on Justice, Freedom and Security, the work carried out by the RAG Ministries will be accelerated. Accordingly, the effectiveness of the working group comprised of related departments of the RAG Ministries and the Prime Ministry Office of Public Diplomacy will be enhanced.

- RAG meetings will be carried out in two sessions. In the first session, there will be an assessment of the previous operational results which have not been implemented, along with their reasons and possible remedies for shortcomings.
- In the second session, relevant institutions will make presentations on the special agenda items set out in the previous meeting, followed by an assessment of proposed decisions.
- The decisions taken in the meeting will be monitored by the Undersecretaries of the RAG Ministries through the “operational results” document.
- Prior to each RAG meeting, Undersecretaries of the RAG Ministries will meet with the Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator to closely monitor the reform process and to discuss new reform proposals.
- The number of participants in the RAG meetings has been reduced to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the functioning of this platform.
- In accordance with the agenda items, other Ministers or their representatives will also be invited to the RAG meetings.
- The next RAG meeting will be hosted by Volkan Bozkır, Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator in İstanbul.
- The foreign press will also be invited to RAG press conference in the next RAG meeting.