

How are the EU and Turkish border fences and walls going?

Last year I drew attention to the big work programme highlighted on the EU website to strengthen Turkey's borders as part of its Visa Liberalisation programme with the EU. The officials wrote that they needed "ditch excavation, lighting, wire entanglement, trellis fence, road maintenance and construction and modular wall construction" along the extended Turkish border with Syria and Iraq. It would be good to have an update on how far they have got with their 900 km Syria/Turkey wall.

I raise it again because many in the EU are hostile to Mrs Trump's proposal to extend the already substantial USA/Mexico wall. I wonder why they apply different standards to this wall than to the ones the EU is helping finance and design closer to home. I invite proponents of the EU to tell us why they think these two walls are different, and why they support the Turkish one which is part of the EU/Turkey Agreement.

The EU approved border controls including ones along EU borders can incorporate watch towers, constant camera surveillance and plenty of "guards" to deal with any problems at crossing points. The 10th action point in the 72 point "Visa Liberalisation Roadmap" is to ensure sufficient well trained guards and surveillance equipment at crossing points. The 33rd point in the 72 point "Visa Liberalisation roadmap" agreed with Turkey by the EU is to "ensure effective expulsion of illegally residing 3rd country nationals."

If it is moral to oppose border walls and barriers in Mexico, surely it is similarly necessary to oppose them in Europe and Middle East?