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As an immigrants` self-organization in Germany, TGD concentrates itself not only on the rights and problems of Turkish migrants in Germany but also of whole migrants regardless of ethnic or religious backgrounds of the people. In accordance with this line of thinking, we have developed a project with some European immigrant organizations in order to investigate the legal and practical situation of migrants with a third country nationality in the EU in terms of their labour and residential mobility.

If we look at the Directive of Council of the EU 2003/109/EC of 25 November 2003 concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents", it can be easily seen that the Council intended to enlarge the rights of third-country nationals who are long-term residents in the EU almost to the similar point like EU nationals. This residence title called "EC Residence Permit for long-term residents" is issued to third-country nationals after five years of legal residence in a member state of the EU. This permit allows immigrants to move to another EU member state and settle there, access to labour market and social insurance benefits.

Although this directive is a clear improvement in terms of the rights of non-EU nationals in the EU, we see still some problems in the implementation of the directive in member states and in the directive itself. Following problems can be mentioned here:

1. The owners of the EC long-term residence permit are not treated equal with the citizens of EU-member states regarding mobility.

For example:

- a) The entrance to the labor market can be quoted or conditioned to a working permission (Article 11 section 3 a).
- b) They may be required to attend language courses (Article 15 section 3, sentence 3).

We demand fully equality of the owners of the EC long-term residence with the citizens of EU-member states in accordance with the essence of directive.

2. In some states the directive is restrictively converted into national law.

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For example: In Germany 60 months pension contributions must be substantiated. In Austria starting from the 1st of July 2011 the language standard will be risen to B 2. A comparable regulation exists in the Netherlands.

We demand that the directive should be converted into national law without additional restrictions.

3. The EU-member states do not fulfill their duty of information or fulfill it insufficiently.

We demand that the member states should publish public information materials about this directive and also should motivate the local authorities responsible for the residence permits to inform persons coming to their office concerning this directive.

4. EURES (European Employment Services) regards itself only responsible for EU citizens.

We expect that in accordance with the meaning of the directive, EURES should also be responsible for the owners of the EC long-term residence.

We think that giving equal rights to the migrants in the EU concerning the mobility of labour and entrepreneurship would contribute to the integration of migrants, social and economic welfare of EU countries and at the end to the future of whole Europe.

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Short Information about the TGD e.V. (Turkish Community in Germany)

TGD was founded on 2.12.1995 in Hamburg in order to represent the interests of German-Turks at public and vis-a-vis governmental institutions. TGD is a nationwide umbrella organization of legally registered associations. In line with the federal structure of the Federal Republic of Germany, TGD represents not only umbrella organizations at federal states´ level but also the professional and industrial associations existing from around 267 individual associations.

Objectives of the TGD

- legal, social, political equality and equal treatment of immigrants in Germany
- fighting against xenophobia and discrimination of any kind
- integration of cultural minorities into German society with preserving their cultural identity
- recognition of minorities as an equal part of society
- identification of Germany by non-German population living here permanently as a new home

Organizational principles of the TGD

- pluralistic
- grassroots democratic
- refusing any form of violence and racism
- organizing itself in line with the federal structures of Germany
- committed to liberal, democratic, social and constitutional principles
- open to all associations, regardless of political and religious conviction