



Expert cites dilettantish nature of Austrian diplomacy on Turkey

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Near East expert Karin Kneissl claimed that Austrian diplomacy had been "dilettantish" at the Luxembourg meeting of EU foreign ministers on the question of the language of the mandate for EU accession negotiations with Turkey during her appearance on ORF's "Offen gesagt" Sunday evening. FPÖ MEP Andreas Mölzer added that the overwhelming majority of Austrians opposed Turkey's entry into the European Union and charged that EU leaders lacked the courage to define Europe's frontiers. Turkey expert Gerald Knaus declared that the ongoing reform process in Turkey, which had already accomplished much more than most Europeans realised, was "EU-driven" rather than fueled by NATO or the USA. President of Parliament Andreas Khol predicted that the accession negotiations would take up to 30 years, and SPÖ whip Josef Cap said that the central question in regard to their outcome would be the EU's ability to absorb Turkey.