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## Turkey Gives Non-Muslims Property Rights

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ANKARA, Turkey (UPI) -- Turkey's parliament has OK'd a law that for the first time gives non-Muslim minorities property rights, in an apparent concession to European Union demands.

Ankara, for the same reason, also is examining the possibility of changing Section 301 of Turkey's Penal Code, AsiaNews.it reported Friday.

EU negotiators made both moves preconditions of advancing talks on Turkey joining the European body.

The most glaring inequity is the inability of Christians in Turkey to own real estate. And the most visible example of the policy is that of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, which is the historic See of the foremost eastern Orthodox patriarch.

The new law, however, may not satisfy the EU: It does not address the issue of restitution; and those rights of religious minorities in Turkey are conditional.

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