

Alev KORUN MP

Alev Korun MP, was born in Ankara in 1969 and grew up in Istanbul. Being a child of Entrepreneur parents who do business with many different countries. She was brought up in an international environment and with the consciousness of the importance of language skills and interest in different cultures and countries. After graduating from the Austrian College "Sankt Georgskolleg" in Istanbul she moved to Innsbruck, Austria to study Political Science and Gender Studies.

During her studies she became actively engaged in several NGOs on topics like integration of immigrants, women's issues, human rights and antidiscrimination.

After finishing her studies at the university in Innsbruck and Vienna she graduated with a Masters degree and became a legal consultant for immigrants. She entered into politics 1999 when she started to work as a professional adviser on human rights, minority, and immigration and integration

"Turkey, its unique position of being a "bridge" between Asia and Europe"

issues in the Austrian Parliament for the Green Party. After her service as member of the State Parliament of Vienna from 2005 till 2008, she was elected to the federal parliament in September 2008.



She is the spokesperson for Immigration, Integration and Human Rights of the Austrian Green Party and the Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee of the Austrian Parliament.

After being one of the co-founders of the European Network against Racism (ENAR) her biggest achievement in politics is to break the spell of immigrants not being represented in parliament and being the

very first MP with an immigrant, Muslim and Turkish background in Austria.

Her activities cover a wide range of projects from a schooling-support-project for pupils from disadvantaged or immigrant families to empowerment projects for immigrant youth and women that provides MP-mentors and - for example - legislative initiatives for dual citizenship. Her vision is a multilingual Austria which is aware of the



strength generated by its diversity and the potentials of its inhabitants.

Regarding to joining of Turkey to the European Union, Alev Korun stated: "Since the last decades of the Ottoman Empire and especially since the establishment of the Republic 1923, Turkey has been a country with tight connections to and the aim of being part of Europe. Through its unique position of being a "bridge" between Asia and Europe geographically and culturally for a number of centuries, Turkey has the chance to connect and ally these two world-powers politically, culturally and economically. There is no doubt that Turkey still needs to establish a number of reforms to fulfill the requirements to become part of the EU, for example in the field of human rights, minority rights and worker's union's rights. Thus, the EU-membership will and cannot occur "over night" and will take some time. Nevertheless an EU-membership of Turkey would be a win-win-situation once requirements have been met by both sides."

Korun gave her message to Turkish people in EU countries: "In times of globalisation it is no longer a contradiction to be an immigrant and be European, or being Muslim and European. There is no excuse anymore not to be active and play a part and a role on every field of life and professional working life in Europe. The more a community is aware of the importance of education and life-long learning, the more it will be successful, no matter in which country it lives. Therefore we have to grasp the chance education gives us to be successful in Europe (and elsewhere), make the best contribution we can to the societies and countries we live in, be responsible citizens of our countries and never forget: The sky is the limit! In that way the success of the community will rise from generation to generation."

Alev Korun MP, stated out her essential principles to achieve her goals in a short time: "As Max Weber said "Politics is the drilling of very thick and bulky boards". Meaning: First you have to believe in your vision and political goals. Second, you have to have the patience to work on that goal for months and years consistently. The overall political scenery may not look beneficial or friendly upon your political visions but never forget: Fundamental positive change was always possible through people who - or whose ideas - did not constitute the majority at the beginning. My advice is: Pursue your goals and at the same time stay open for new ideas so you live the change you want to make!"

