

## WAR OF WORDS ÖVER GERMAN LAW

Yayın Adı : Turkish Daily News

Sayfa : 3

Tarih : 24.11.2007

İli : İstanbul

Periyod : Günlük

Tiraj : 2.709

1/1



## War of words over German law

**GÖKSEL BOZKURT**

ANKARA - TDN Parliament Bureau

Maria Böhmer, the German minister responsible for immigration, faced Turkish deputies angry over Germany's new immigration law in a meeting with Parliament's Human Rights Commission members at the German Embassy in Ankara.

One deputy asked if she would have to learn German if she fell in love with a German citizen. Under the new rules adopted by the German Bundestag on June 14, spouses from non-European Union countries can only join their partners if they learn German. The minimum age was raised to 18, and the partner already living in Germany has to earn an adequate income. The new regulations aim to increase the integration of millions of immigrants in Germany and were criticized by Turkey, which argued that the law encourages discrimination.

The new law is creating problems for Turks living in Germany, many filing complaints to the commission on violation of their rights, Commission Chairman Zafer Üskül told the German minister. Üskül quoted German Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble as saying, "equal treatment happens among equals." Üskül said this implies Turks are inferior.

Justice and Development Party (AKP) deputy from Istanbul Halide İncekara said, "you tried to tear down the Berlin Wall with sledgehammers. Now you are trying to rebuild it with laws. You are trying to create technical obstacles to something about feeling."