



İKVM MONTHLY

ISSUE: 31 JULY-AUGUST 2017

www.ikv.org.tr / contact: ikv@ikv.org.tr

TURKEY-EU HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL DIALOGUE MEETING WAS HELD

Turkey-EU High Level Dialogue meeting was held in Brussels on 25 July at a critical time for both the EU and Turkey.



Turkey-EU High Level Political Dialogue Meeting was held in Brussels with the participation of Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn. The meeting's agenda included Turkey's EU accession negotiations, cooperation in the fields of energy, economy and the fight against terrorism, migration and the visa liberalisation process, regional issues as well as the hypothetical modernisation of the Customs Union. However the highlight of the meeting was the effort to sustain cooperation and

dialogue among parties following the high political tensions prevailing in 2017.

As it is known, during the NATO summit on 25 May, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the presidents of EU institutions agreed on increasing the dialogue between Turkey and EU. Following that a political dialogue meeting at the level the directors was held on 13 June in Brussels with the participation of representatives from the Ministry for EU Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Commission and the European External Action Service. The meeting was as a significant step for re-starting the dialogue process between Turkey and the EU following a long break.

Following the Turkey-EU High Level Political Dialogue meeting, Minister of Foreign Affairs Çavuşoğlu mentioned that when President

Erdoğan met the leaders of EU institutions on 25 May, they agreed on a roadmap for 12 months. He underlined that the Turkey-EU High Level Political Dialogue meeting was significant with respect to the implementation of the roadmap. Çavuşoğlu pointed out that in addition to accession negotiations, cooperation in energy, anti-terrorism and the modernisation of the Customs Union were on the table during the meeting. Migration and the migration deal between Turkey and EU, which brought concrete results, were also important items of the agenda. Both parties exchanged opinions with respect to the regional issues such as Syria, Iran, Iraq, Gulf crisis etc.

During the press conference following the meeting, Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Çelik

mentioned that they had discussed bilateral, regional and global issues and their discussion was constructive. He added that they mutually exchanged their thoughts and visions. Çelik stated that it is clear that Turkey and EU had differences, but he underscored the necessity to keep channels of communication between the parties open. According to the roadmap, in the upcoming 12 months, Turkey and the EU will engage different dialogue areas, namely anti-terrorism, energy, economy, trade and transportation. However, Çelik underlined that the backbone of Turkey-EU relations remains the accession negotiations.

High Representative Mogherini indicated that cooperation and dialogue need to be sustained in concrete, positive steps in areas

of rule of law and fundamental freedoms. She also noted that the meeting had provided a platform for both parties to discuss issues that were of critical importance in a very comprehensive manner. These issues included elements fundamental to Turkey-EU relations and the aspirations of the people of Turkey and the EU.

Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn said that the EU has a great interest in close cooperation with a stable, economically secure and democratic Turkey on issues of common interest. He underlined that in the meeting, both parties discussed how they can better structure their cooperation in economic security and migration issues.



TURKEY EXTENDS STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THREE MORE MONTHS

The Turkish parliament extended the ongoing state of emergency on 17 July for another three months starting from 19 July. Following the advice of the National Security Council (Milli Güvenlik Kurulu – MGK), a bill to extend the state of emergency was immediately submitted to the Turkish parliament. The Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM) discussed the proposal and with ruling party, AKP's comfortable majority, state of emergency period extended for a fourth time. The move to extend the state of emergency followed weekend ceremonies marking the anniversary of the abortive and bloody coup attempt. During the anniversary events commemorating the nearly 250 people who lost their lives, large crowds gathered at the Bosphorus Bridge in Istanbul and in central Ankara.

As it can be remembered, Turkey first declared state of emergency on 21 July 2016 in order to fight against terror threats that mainly caused by Fethullah Terrorist Organisation (FETO) which has also orchestrated the failed 15 July coup attempt. During the state of emergency, the cabinet has the right to issue statutory decrees under the president of the republic without regard to routine procedures and restrictions in Article 91 of the country's constitution. Deputy Prime Minister Nurettin Canikli emphasised during the Parliament discussions that the emergency rule helped the necessary legal environment to cleanse FETO's network.

IKV STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE TERRORIST ATTACK WHICH TOOK PLACE IN BARCELONA

We express our utter condemnation of the terrorist attack which took place in Barcelona on 22 August. Whether it is a suicide bomber or a truck or car, the target of all these heinous attacks is always innocent people and societies and to destroy their security and fundamental liberties. It is of utmost importance for all states to work in strong and effective cooperation in order to prevent such attacks. We urge all institutions, such as the UN and the EU, to give primary attention to the fight against terrorism and to take all the necessary measures in order to effectively prevent such attacks.

AYHAN ZEYTİNOĞLU WAS RE-ELECTED AS IKV CHAIRMAN

Ayhan Zeytinoğlu was re-elected after a two-year period as IKV Board of Directors Chairman at the occasion of the 55th General Assembly of IKV which was held on 10 July.



At the meeting where chairmen of IKV's founder and trustee organisations, representatives from supporting organisations and delegates were present, IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu realised a presentation with respect to the foundation's activities between July 2016 and July 2017.

The opening remarks of IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu were followed by the speeches of Undersecretary of the Ministry for EU Affairs Ambassador Selim Yenel, TOBB Deputy Chairman Ali Kopuz, ITO Deputy Chairman Dursun Topçu, ISO Deputy Chairman İrfan Özhamaratlı and Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce Chairman Fikri Toros.

The representatives of trustee organisations indicated that the EU

membership perspective is coming more and more to the forefront and that IKV as "Turkey's EU expert" is playing a critical role in that process.

In his speech, IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu underscored that notwithstanding all the difficulties, the Turkish economy has achieved a 5% growth in the first quarter of 2017 and that it entered a new phase of revival. Stressing that the EU process has had positive effects regarding Turkey's development and democratisation, Zeytinoğlu reminded that the EU membership process is an important anchor with respect to enhancing structural reforms, fundamental rights, freedoms and rule of law.

Moreover, Chairman Zeytinoğlu highlighted the importance of

focusing further on the necessary harmonisation and preparatory activities with respect to the modernisation of the Customs Union which would bring new opportunities for the Turkish business world and the industrial, agricultural and service sectors. In addition, Zeytinoğlu noted the need for Turkey to move beyond state of emergency conditions and accelerate structural reforms and progress in the normalisation process. He formed the wish that this positive course would be maintained.

Finally, Chairman Zeytinoğlu indicated the following: "First of all, from TOBB and on behalf of all our dear founder and trustee organisations valuable supports, as "Turkey's EU expert", we envisage to continue working hard with respect

to our country's relations with the EU and focusing on international developments from the perspective of the development, democratisation and integration of our country in the global system. We will strive to meet our challenges and provide benefits which are well beyond what is expected from us".

The new IKV Board of Directors is composed of Ayhan Zeytinoğlu, Prof. Haluk Kabaalioğlu, İşinsu Kestelli, Atilla Menevşe, Ahmet Sayar, Yavuz Canevi, Zeynel Abidin Erdem, Bülent Kasap, Zeynep Bodur Okyay, Sedat Zincirkıran, Ali Sami Aydın, Sami Yılmaz, İlhan Soylu, Şükrü Alkan, Özgür Burak Akkol, Simone Kazłowski, İsmail Güllü and the Audit Committee is composed of Hasan Hüseyin Coşkun and Musfata İçöz.

IKV'S MESSAGE ON THE 1st ANNIVERSARY OF 15 JULY DEMOCRACY AND NATIONAL UNITY DAY

As Turkey, we experienced a nefarious coup attempt on 15 July last year. An existential threat to Turkey's democracy and State was eliminated by the great sacrifices of our Martyrs and Veterans, courage and wisdom of our people, leadership of our President, and resistance of our government, our parliament, our media, our civil society and our business world. In this difficult process that Turkey is going through, by adhering to the Constitutional principles of a democratic State respectful of the rule of law, we support our State's efforts to fight against terrorist organisations and express our confidence in our country's future.



IKV CHAIRMAN ATTENDED THE TURKEY-EU JCC MEETING IN BRUSSELS

IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu attended the 36th meeting of the Turkey-EU Joint Consultative Committee meeting held in Brussels on 18-19 July.



IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu attended the 36th meeting of the Turkey-EU Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) meeting held in Brussels on 18-19 July 2017. The Meeting was held with the participation of TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu, and representatives of the social partners, i.e. Turk-İs, TESK, Memur-Sen, Hak-İs, TZOB, and TİSK. On the EU side, representatives of the EU Economic and Social Committee participated in the meeting. The JCC meeting was jointly chaired by TOBB President, M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu and Annie van Wezel, Member of the EESC, Workers' Group, as Co-chairs of the EU-Turkey Joint Consultative Committee.

Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator, Ömer Çelik also participated to the meeting and made an opening speech. Other speeches were made by the TOBB President and Co-Chair of the JCC, M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu, Georges Dassis, President of the EESC, and Maciej Popowski, Deputy Director-General, DG NEAR, European Commission, in the opening session. Ambassador Faruk Kaymakçı, the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the EU, and Patrick Paquet from the Turkey desk at the European Commission also made speeches concerning the current state of play in Turkey-EU relations and future of the relations.

Upon the call of the Co-Chairs, all participants were invited to observe a moment of silence in memory of the 15 July martyrs. During the first and second days of the JCC meeting, several presentations have been made on the current economic and social situation in Turkey and current state of Turkey and EU relations.

IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu made a speech on the modernisation process of the Turkey-EU Customs Union. In his speech, IKV Chairman noted the importance of the modernisation process which was expected to commence as of 2017. He explained the expectations of the Turkish business community regarding the modernisation of the Turkey-EU Customs Union and some of the difficulties that could emerge during the process. He underlined that it would not be only Turkey or the EU that would benefit from the process but that it would be a win-win situation for both sides. Ayhan Zeytinoğlu made the following points during his speech:

"As the Turkish business community, we expect formal negotiations on the modernisation of the Customs Union to start before the end of 2017. Despite the difficulties and challenges that this process is bound to create for the Turkish economy, we believe that it will contribute to Turkey's rupture from the "middle income trap" and join the league of countries with higher value added production and exports. The modernisation of the Customs Union will also facilitate Turkey's alignment and integration to the EU single market by way of harmonisation into EU standards and norms not only in industrial production but also services, agriculture and public procurement.

Let me underline that a modernised Customs Union and deepened trade relationship will be to the benefit of both sides. While Turkish GDP is expected to increase by 1.5-2.0 % and exports by 25% (5 billion euros), EU economy is also expected to grow by 0.01% and

experience an increase of 5.4 billion euros in household income and 27.1 billion euros in exports. We are also aware that the benefits expected from a modernised Customs Union are not limited to material or short-term gains. The new deal will trigger revision of legislation including greater efficiency, transparency and conformity to EU norms and standards, which in turn will change the expectations, behaviour, and productivity of economic actors, engendering a change of mentality and increase the level of integration to European and global value chains. Hence our vision is long-term and global, not short-sighted and parochial.

We need the EU and our partners in the Joint Consultative Committee to support us in this process by helping to override such obstacles. We are still waiting for the Council of the EU to give its mandate to the European Commission to conduct these negotiations on behalf of the EU. Tying the opening of negotiations to Turkey's fulfilment of political conditions would be a mistake since it would further complicate the Turkey-EU relationship and jeopardise one of the few instruments which could affect them in a positive way."

A joint declaration was adopted at the end of the Turkey-EU JCC meeting. Following the first day of the meeting, Minister Çelik visited the TOBB Building in Brussels where the IKV Representation is also situated, and engaged in a lengthy discussion on Turkey-EU relations with members of the Turkish side of JCC. JCC Members also participated in a reception at Turkey's Permanent Delegation to the EU marking the opening of an exhibition regarding the 15 July coup attempt in Turkey.

TIMELINE JULY-AUGUST 2017

1	○ Estonia took over the EU Council Presidency
2	
3	
4	
5	○ EP Resolution regarding freezing accession talks with Turkey was adopted
6	○ IKV Brief entitled "EU Security and Defence Policies in the Era of Brexit and Trump" (in Turkish) was published
7	
8	
9	○ Commissioner Hahn's visit to Turkey
10	○ G20 Summit was held in Hamburg (6-7 July)
11	○ Ayhan Zeytinoğlu was re-elected as IKV Chairman
12	○ Malatya apricots gained EU protected geographical indication
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	○ Turkish government extended state of emergency for three months
19	○ IKV Chairman attended Turkey-EU JCC meeting in Brussels (18-19 July)
20	○ Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım's visit to TRNC
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	○ Turkey-EU High Level Political Dialogue meeting was held in Brussels
26	
27	
28	○ Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu attended Cyprus Conference in Crans-Montana (28 June-7 July)
29	
30	
31	
1	
2	○ 4 Turkish companies won tenders at CERN
3	○ Siemens won tender for Turkish wind power project
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	○ Minister for EU Affairs Ömer Çelik met with Head of EU Delegation Christian Berger
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	○ IKV publication entitled "Turkey-EU Relations: The Refugee Issue and Turkey-EU Cooperation" (in Turkish) was published
16	○ British Minister of State for Europe Sir Alan Duncan visited Turkey
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	○ Terrorist attack in Barcelona
23	
24	○ Customs Union Talks meeting was held
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	

THE CUSTOMS UNION TALKS MEETING WAS HELD

The future of the Customs Union was discussed in a panel entitled "Modernisation of the Customs Union and Industry 4.0: Forward-Looking Renewal" organised by the Economic Development Foundation and the Turkish Confederation of Business and Industry (TÜRKONFED) on 24 August. Within the framework of the meeting, TÜRKONFED Advisor Haluk Tükel, IKV Brussels Representative Haluk Nuray and Deputy General Manager of Siemens Turkey Ali Rıza Ersoy met with the leading figures in the business community in order to discuss the necessary steps taken in the future for the modernisation process of the Customs Union in the newly emerging industrial order.

IKV Brussels Representative Haluk Nuray said that the world has entered into a process of great economic and technological change and it is moving forward rapidly but Turkey has not been able to contribute to the development of this process. Nuray indicated that Turkey is still a middle-tech, middle-income and middle-industry country. According to Nuray in the process of rapid change we are in, every state, institution and individual has started to restructure itself and it has become a necessity for Turkey to update the Customs



Union to Industry 4.0 as well. In addition, Nuray underscored that now is the time to acknowledge the situation and time to adapt and move quickly. He said that Turkey can reach Industry 4.0 only by intelligent production. Moreover, he added that if we talk about intelligent industry and intelligent trade, all processes affecting them must also be smart. Nuray suggested the necessity to build a 4.0 ecosystem in Turkey. This ecosystem is not just about computers and technology, it's all about life. Furthermore, Nuray also noted that Industry 4.0 cannot be reached alone, without reaching

the 4.0 level in education, in law, in legislation, in democracy, in companies and in people, and that the desired benefit from the modernisation of the Customs Union cannot be achieved.

Following Nuray, Deputy General Manager of Siemens Turkey Ali Rıza Ersoy said that we are dealing with the concept of 4.0 because we are facing a very serious threat: the production capacity of the East is increasing. Ersoy added that the Turkish economy, which is also linked to the Western economy, is also under serious threat. He said if we concentrate on the three issues in

the West, we can achieve success again in global competition. According to Ersoy, these comprise innovation, flexibility and efficiency. Ersoy indicated that the Western countries have started to close their factories in the East and taken their production to the Western countries in order to regain the success in global competition. Ersoy lastly emphasised that the Internet of Things (IoT) is a very important technological development and that in the future, people will be able to communicate with machines by means of chips to be worn on their bodies.

TÜRKONFED Advisor Haluk Tükel stated that Turkey, while looking at industrialisation in order to develop actually neglected the agriculture sector. Tükel said that today 20 percent of Turkey's workforce is in agriculture but only 8 percent of our income is from this sector. He added that Turkey must increase efficiency by using modern methods in agriculture. Finally, Tükel pointed out that if Turkey were to integrate the EU, which is in close geographical proximity and its historical ties are very strong, Turkish agriculture will also open up to the world.

EP RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE SUSPENSION OF ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS COULD HARM THE RELATIONS FURTHER



IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu evaluated the EP's Turkey report which was approved on 6 July with 477 votes to 64, stating that the report was far from displaying a coherent and constructive approach towards Turkey. The 2016 Turkey report recommends that if constitutional amendment package is implemented unchanged, accession negotiations with Turkey should be suspended.

Furthermore, the report also underscores that the constitutional amendments are not in line with the Copenhagen criteria in terms of separation of powers, balance and monitoring system and preconizes the launch of a reinforced cooperation process which would be mutually beneficial instead of the current accession negotiations.

Chairman Zeytinoğlu also

indicated that the EP report does not have a binding nature with respect to EU institutions and that the decision-making body with respect to negotiations with Turkey remains the EU Council. Moreover, Zeytinoğlu further noted that at this particular juncture, there has not been any credible proposal to suspend negotiations with Turkey within the framework of the agenda of the Council.

NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM IKV

A NEW TOPIC IN TURKEY-EU RELATIONS: THE REFUGEE ISSUE AND TURKEY-EU COOPERATION (IN TURKISH)

The publication written in Turkish and which has been edited by Prof. Yaprak Gülcan, Prof. Sedef Akgüngör and Prof. Yeşim Kuştepeli and published on behalf of IKV entitled "A New Topic in Turkey-EU Relations: The Refugee Issue and Turkey-EU Cooperation" (Publication No: 293), brings

together numerous and prominent Turkish experts regarding the refugee issue and thus brings a large and comprehensive perspective with a variety of dimensions.

EU SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICIES IN THE ERA OF BREXIT AND TRUMP (IN TURKISH)

IKV Brief entitled "EU Security and Defence Policies in the Era of Brexit and Trump" prepared by

IKV Senior Researcher Yeliz Şahin intends to provide comprehensive information regarding EU security and defence policies in an era of uncertainty stemming from the Brexit process and the presence of President Trump in the US. The publication sheds a light to the current debates regarding the possibility of enhancing cooperation with respect to defence within the EU.



ESTONIA TOOK OVER THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU

Estonia took over the Presidency of Council of the EU from Malta on 1 July. Due to Brexit, the British Presidency was cancelled. As a result, Estonia will chair the Presidency until 31 December.

One of the smallest countries among EU Member States in terms of population, Estonia took over the Presidency of Council of the EU from Malta. As an EU Member State since 2004, member of Eurozone since 1 January 2011 and member of the Schengen Area, Estonia took over the rotating six-month presidency for the first time.

It is expected that the Brexit negotiations, elections in major EU Member States such as Germany in September 2017 along with a rise in populism in the EU and other global concerns will keep the Estonian Presidency's agenda busy. The three subsequent holders of the Presidency of the Council of the EU will also draw a new Trio program. Bulgaria and Austria will subsequently succeed to Estonia as members of the Trio.

Priorities of the Estonian Presidency

The priorities of the Estonian Presidency are prepared in the

context of the working plan of 2015-2019 that is announced as the country's "EU policy". The four main priorities of the Estonian Presidency are as follows:

- An open and innovative European economy
- A safe and secure Europe
- A digital Europe and the free movement of data
- An inclusive and sustainable Europe

The motto of the Estonian Presidency is "Unity through balance". In this context, the main message of the Estonian Presidency is to bring Member States together and to protect common values in the Union in order to tackle global concerns. In order to protect common values, the Estonian Presidency will focus on a more open and innovative economy and society as well as more secure Europe. In addition, Estonia will give a special focus to a working plan for a better cooperation on defence and security policy, digital single

market, energy union, circular economy and the like.

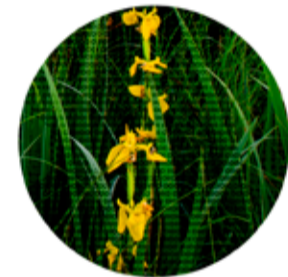
Estonian Presidency and Turkey

Since the launch of the accession negotiations in 2005, Estonia has consistently supported Turkey's membership to the EU. During the high-level bilateral meetings held in 2017 and previous years, leaders from both sides underlined that political and economic relations needs to be strengthened in general.

Estonia also underlines that it is important to support the Eastern Partnership and enlargement policy during its presidency. In this respect, one can expect further positive developments in Turkey's accession talks with the EU, with notable progress regarding the modernisation of the Customs Union, the Cyprus issue, visa liberalisation and the refugee deal among other critical issues for both parties.



EU2017.EE



CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS CONCLUDES WITHOUT A DEAL

The Conference on Cyprus concluded in its tenth day without an agreement being reached, marking the end of the latest round of talks described by many as the most promising chance to resolve the decades-long Cyprus issue.

The leaders of the two communities in Cyprus came together with the foreign ministers of the three guarantor states; Turkey, Greece and the UK as well as representatives from the EU in the Swiss resort of Crans-Montana for what was perceived as the last chance to reunify the divided east Mediterranean island as a "bi-zonal bi-communal federation with political equality". The latest round of UN-sponsored talks, which have resumed in May 2015 under the leadership of TRNC President Mustafa Akıncı and Greek Cypriot leader Nicos Anastasiades, have rekindled hopes that a settlement to one of the most intractable conflicts in the world was within reach. However, on 7 July, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who had flown to Crans-Montana to give a final push to the efforts to overcome the final hurdles, announced that the Conference was closed



without an agreement being reached. Statements from Turkish and Turkish Cypriot officials as well as independent observers point out that the responsibility for the collapse of the talks lies with the Greek Cypriot side whose intransigence and insistence on "zero troops, zero guarantees" rendered compromise impossible.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt

Çavuşoğlu, who presided over the five-party Conference on Cyprus, expressed his disappointment over the outcome of the Conference and stated that the Conference failed to produce any results despite the constructive stance adopted by Turkey. Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu underscored that the outcome of the Conference made

clear the impossibility of reaching a settlement within the parameters of the UN Good Offices.

In a press conference following the failure of the talks, expressing his disappointment in the outcome of the Conference, TRNC President Mustafa Akıncı pointed out that the current opportunity might hardly come again and that the failure of the talks is a loss for both sides on the island. Akıncı criticised the Greek Cypriot side for the failure of the talks.

Commenting on the outcome of the Conference on Cyprus during his address to the 22nd World Petroleum Congress in Istanbul on 10 July, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan stated that a great opportunity had been missed in the Eastern Mediterranean and that despite Turkey's and the Turkish Cypriot side's constructive approach, the disagreements were left unresolved due to the negative attitude of the Greek Cypriot side.

The last time the two communities came close to a deal was in 2004 when the

comprehensive settlement plan named after the then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was put to separate simultaneous referenda on both sides of the island. The comprehensive settlement plan was endorsed by 65% of Turkish Cypriots while 76% of the Greek Cypriots rejected it. Despite its rejection of the plan, the Greek Cypriot side acceded to the EU as the sole representative of the island. Meanwhile, initiatives aimed to end the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots by allowing them to establish direct trade links with the EU failed to materialise due to resistance from the Greek Cypriot side. Moreover, with the unilateral accession of the Greek Cypriot Administration in the EU, the Cyprus issue became a huge stumbling block in Turkey's EU bid with the opening of 14 chapters and the provisional closure of all chapters being blocked by the Council and the Greek Cypriot Administration.

MALATYA APRICOTS GAIN EU PROTECTED GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION



Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Phil Hogan visited Turkey on July 11 and met Minister of Food Agriculture and Livestock Faruk Çelik, to mark the inclusion of a new Turkish product in the EU's list of geographical indications: Turkish dried apricots. Malatya apricots are the third Turkish product to get the EU's register of Protected Designations of Origin (PDO) after the "Antep baklavası" and the Aegean fig. "Given the strong trading relationship in agri-food products, I hope that we can have a constructive engagement in relation to a range of issues of mutual interest and that we can strengthen our relationship to our mutual benefit," said

Commissioner Hogan on his visit. Turkey is EU's 6th largest supplier of agricultural imports and the 10th largest destination of European exports. Besides, Turkey realises 82% of the total dried apricot trade of the world. The EU designation of the apricots produced in the Eastern province of Malatya will certainly boost the fruit's export and marketing in the single market. As such Turkey's Customs and Trade Minister Bülent Tüfenkci indicated that thanks to its registration, Malatya's apricots would be sold and available on the European markets with an official EU geographical indication logo and thus protecting it from counterfeit.

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ÇAVUŞOĞLU RECEIVED HEAD OF EU DELEGATION BERGER

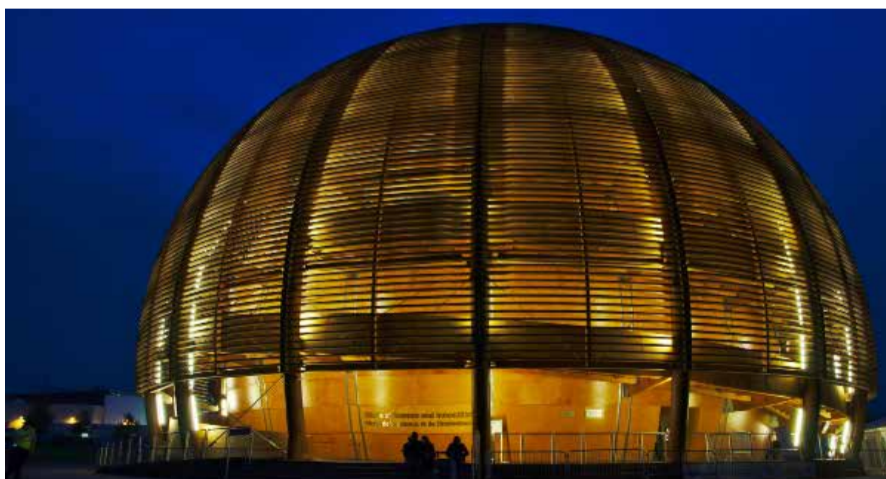
Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu received Head of EU Delegation to Turkey Christian Berger on 8 August. During the meeting, the latest

developments in Turkey-EU relations along with the critical role of the EU Delegation in Turkey in that respect were evaluated. Both parties stressed the necessity to enhance

communication and work in cooperation. They both underlined the importance to keep relations on track and focus on pending issues of common interest.



4 TURKISH COMPANIES WON TENDERS AT CERN



4 Turkish companies won four of the 89 tenders awarded in the first six months since the beginning of this year by the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) on 2 August. The total worth of the tenders is above 300,000 euros. TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu congratulated the companies which succeeded in winning the tenders at CERN, indicating that thus new opportunities would be

opened to the industry as Turkey is a partner country within CERN. Underscoring that CERN represents an important opportunity in order to achieve further progress in high technology, Hisarcıkloğlu highlighted the necessity for more Turkish companies to partake in such tenders, noting that TOBB would give the necessary support in that respect.

Furthermore, one should note that

CERN has launched an initiative with respect to major infrastructure and equipment changes which are scheduled to be pursued until 2026. As such, the number of tenders and purchases which were opened in 2017 has gradually increased and the involvement of Turkish industrialists within CERN's tenders for higher energy collisions including the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) has also drastically increased.

SIEMENS WON TENDER FOR TURKISH WIND POWER PROJECT

Germany's notorious company Siemens won a 1 billion dollar worth tender with respect to a wind power project in Turkey on 3 August. This came at a time of tense bilateral relations, thus indicating that both parties want their business ties to continue unhindered.

A consortium led by Siemens was awarded the tender for the project which includes the construction of a 1,000 MW power plant and wind turbines. Turkey's Minister of Energy Berat Albayrak underscored that such an award would mark an "important contribution"

to relations between both parties and welcomed further German investments in Turkey in that respect. The Siemens consortium, which also includes Turkish companies, submitted a bid of 3.48 dollar cents per kilowatt-hour, beating Chinese firm Ming Yang, Germany's

Enercon and the Danish firm Vestas. Furthermore, Albayrak indicated that the turbines are due to come online and operational by 2019, also noting that the project would contribute in increasing Turkey's wind energy production by 17 percent.





ESTONIAN PRIME MINISTER JÜRI RATAS'S VISIT TO TURKEY

The Estonian Prime Minister Jüri Ratas visited Ankara on 16 August, where he met with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım. The meetings focused on issues of mutual importance to the EU and Turkey, such as migration and the situation of refugees, security and the fight against terrorism, as well as bilateral relations between Turkey and Estonia. At a joint news conference, Ratas whose country currently holds the rotating six-month EU presidency said that he appreciated Turkey's magnificent work in preventing a refugee influx into EU territory.

Prior to his meetings with Turkish leaders on 15 August, Ratas also visited the Turkish city of Gaziantep, which is located near the Syrian border. He was hosted there by Mayor of Gaziantep Fatma Şahin. The partner city of Tartu, Gaziantep is well informed of the life in Estonia and values both cultural as well as economic ties. Mayor Şahin gave Ratas a complete overview of the development of the region, the assistance given to the refugees and the security threats due to the close vicinity of the Syrian border to the city.

In Gaziantep, Ratas visited the

Nizip-2 container camp where he received a thorough overview of the organisation of the camp and living conditions of the refugees, including an overview of the work of local educational institutions and how recreational activities are conducted. Furthermore, he took a closer look at the work of the representative office of the International Organisation for Migration (UN/IOM). The representative office of UN/IOM focuses on identifying and providing first aid to the Syrian families who had to abandon their homes due to war and violence.

PRIME MINISTER YILDIRIM VISITED TRNC

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım accompanied by Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu visited Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) on 20 July 2017 to attend the ceremonies for the 43th Anniversary of the Cyprus Peace Operation. Speaking at the ceremony, Yıldırım said that TRNC could depend on Ankara for support and pointed out that Turkey would continue protecting the rights of Turkish Cypriots in the Eastern Mediterranean. He underlined that the rights and prosperity of Turkish Cypriots are a national matter for Turkey. Yıldırım noted that it is a serious contradiction and injustice that

Turkish Cypriots have paid for the uncompromising approach of the Greek side for years. He also added that unfair steps taken by the Greek Cypriot side had encouraged deadlock in the talks.

During his visit to the island Yıldırım met with the President of the TRNC Mustafa Akıncı, TRNC Prime Minister Hüseyin Özgürün and the President of the Legislative Assembly of TRNC Sibel Siber. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu had talks with Fikrim Damka and Müfera Şinik, members of Parliament of Kosovo and with Enes Ibrahim, Member of Parliament of Republic of Macedonia who were also present at the ceremonies.



COMMISSIONER HAHN'S VISIT TO TURKEY

EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn visited Turkey on 6 July. Hahn's visit was a follow-up of the meetings conducted between the EU and Turkey during the NATO summit in Brussels on 25 May. During his visit, Commissioner Hahn met with Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım and other government ministers including Minister of Economy Nihat Zeybekci and Minister of Health Recep Akdağ. The agenda of the meetings focused mainly on the latest developments in Turkey-EU relations and what needs to be done to move forward in that

respect. Furthermore, a whole range of issues in Turkey-EU relations in particular the modernisation of the Customs Union and the EU's financial support in health for Syrian refugees were discussed during the meetings.

Hahn also met with Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik in Ankara. At the occasion of their meeting, the two parties discussed Turkey-EU joint agenda in detail including accession negotiations, the acceleration of the visa liberalisation process, updating of the Customs Union and the 18 March Turkey-EU Statement.

At the end of his visit to Turkey, Hahn addressed the media in Ankara. During his press conference, Hahn underlined that EU Commission wants deeper Turkey-EU ties and that both parties are committed to continue political dialogue in a constructive manner. Hahn stated that EU has a clear interest in a stable, secure, prosperous and democratic Turkey which is a strategic partner in areas of common interest. However, he also stipulated that a sustainable progress in Turkey-EU relations can only be achieved if Turkey addresses the issue of backsliding in regards human rights and rule of law.



TRUMP AGAINST THE OTHERS: CLIMATE CHANGE AND TRADE TOPPED G20 HAMBURG SUMMIT

The 12th G20 Summit that was held on 7-8 July in Hamburg under the German Presidency brought the world's largest 20 economies, guest countries and international organisations together.



Merve ÖZCAN,
IKV Junior Researcher

Following China, Germany assumed the G20 Presidency in December 2016 and hosted the G20 Summit on 7-8 July in its second largest city, Hamburg. Similar to the previous summits, the priority of the Hamburg Summit was to enable sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth with the aim of bringing equal opportunities for all.

The G20 Hamburg Summit broke new grounds by hosting US President Donald Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron and South Korean President Moon Jae-in for the first time. However, the large scale protests with "welcome to hell" slogans organised by opponents of globalisation who think that the G20 Summits' decisions increase poverty and hunger worldwide were also present.

Meanwhile, Turkey was represented by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. As it is known, relations between Turkey and Germany have been strained due to some political disagreements. Although Germany did not

allow President Erdoğan to make a speech for the Turkish citizens in Germany during the Summit, German Chancellor Angela Merkel praised Turkey's role in G20's success following the Summit by mentioning that "Turkey and President Erdoğan showed a lot of commitment. He was very much engaged on the whole agenda of the summit and gave his contribution". This may be promising for the future of two countries' bilateral relations.

The Agenda of the G20 Hamburg Summit

As the G20 President has the right to decide the agenda, Merkel announced prior to the summit that this year's main topic would be climate change which has come to the global attention following Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on 1 June. In addition, trade was the other highly debated topic.

At the end of the two-day summit, the G20 Leaders' Declaration with the motto of "shaping an interconnected world" was published. Determination to combat with global challenges like terrorism, poverty,

inequality, migration and epidemics was reiterated. Similarly, some commentators expressed that the declaration repeats the fulfilment of the previous commitments such as ensuring liberal trade and the fight against protectionist measures. However, these are extremely important in an era of not only Trump's decisions to cease TTIP negotiations and to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership but also increasing worldwide protectionist winds and decreasing global growth rate. Reconciliation of all leaders, including Trump, upon free trade shows the softening of Trump's obdurate stance in trade.

Nevertheless, legitimate trade defence instruments have been recognised for the first time. This may leave room for Trump's unilateralism and cause restrictions on especially Chinese steel imports which are thought to weaken the American domestic steel industry. The EU might also be adversely affected as the second largest steel producer after China. Herein, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker's statement, "Should the US introduce tariffs on European steel imports,

Europe is ready to react immediately and adequately", on the day after reaching an agreement with Japan for an economic partnership agreement certifies the EU's stance for free trade.

Between the Lines of the G20 Leaders' Declaration

At the G20 Leaders' Declaration, the summit's aims are categorised under three titles: building resilience, improving sustainable livelihoods and assuming responsibility.

To build resilient financial systems, the leaders have committed to improve international capital flows, to support developing countries in upgrading their tax capacities and to combat with tax evasion and terrorism financing. To reduce corruption in customs, high level principles have been accepted. Moreover, the G20's preparedness needs to be upgraded against global health challenges such as Ebola to build resilient health systems. Hence, collaborations with international organisations like WHO are encouraged.

In order to improve sustainable livelihoods, Merkel expressed prior to the summit that she would do her best to "save the Earth" against Trump's

decision on the Paris Agreement which is the first global climate deal approved by 196 countries in 2015 to keep the rise in global average temperature below 2°C, and if possible at 1.5°C. As stated by the Guardian, Trump was left isolated as the remaining leaders (G19) compromised that the Paris Agreement is irreversible. Moreover, ensuring the access of women in digital economy to enhance their opportunities was underscored. The leaders have also committed to comply with the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

Finally, to assume responsibility, the leaders have agreed upon the Africa Partnership that aims to raise investments and employment especially for youth and women. Likewise, European Council President Donald Tusk highlighted migration as one of the most important global challenges prior to the summit and called on the G20 leaders to fight against modern slavery and human trafficking. Hence, improving collaborations with international organisations such as OECD and the UN is of critical importance.