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

WHAT HAPPENED DURING AND AFTER THE FAILED 15 JULY COUP ATTEMPT?

A group within the Turkish Armed Forces attempted to take over control of the country by force on 15 July 2016. The perpetrators have been repelled by civic resistance and the resolution of all elements of Turkish society.

Approximately at 10-10:20 PM on 15 July, sounds of F16 fighter aircrafts started to echo over Ankara and Istanbul. The jets flew over these two cities lower than ever, aiming to cause fear among the citizens by creating supersonic impacts. At the same time, photos and videos of soldiers blocking off two main bridges connecting Asia and Europe in Istanbul reflected on the press and social media while military vehicles were surrounding General Staff Headquarters in Ankara and Atatürk Airport in Istanbul.

As it has become evident that some unusual activities were taking place, fire shots were heard inside and outside of the General Staff Headquarters and the Police Special Operations Centre in Gölbaşı, Ankara. When things started to rise to the surface clearer, Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım made the first statement on a television channel and described these fatal actions as an insurrection which would not be tolerated. He also emphasised that the perpetrators were a small group within the army. Then it became evident that the putschists were followers of the clandestine Gülenist organisation. At that time, the perpetrators took Chief of General Staff General Hulusi Akar hostage and opened fire on the National Intelligence Organisation (MIT) Headquarters from military helicopters. Most of the commander-in-chiefs were also taken hostage. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was targeted by a group of soldiers who assaulted the hotel he was vacationing in. However, President Erdoğan survived the attack since he left the hotel he resided in a few minutes before the arrival of the assassin group.

A major television channel was able to connect to President Erdoğan through a FaceTime video connection. He made a plea to citizens not to give in and go out on the streets to prevent



the military operations. Several thousands of citizens went to the Bosphorus Bridge to stop the army, parliamentarians stayed in the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) to protect the Parliament despite the heavy bombardment which was going on. Thus, for the first time in history, the Turkish parliament, government, police forces, military and people stood against the coup attempt and did not give in against the attempt to take over control of the country by force.

Turkish citizens played a significant role on the night of 15 July by showing heroic resistance by confronting the pro-coup soldiers at the occupied buildings of media organisations including TRT, on blocked bridges and critical junctures of the cities. During attacks from air vehicles and tanks to the Presidential Complex, Gölbaşı Special Operations Center and Kızılay Square in Ankara and Bosphorus Bridge in Istanbul, a large number of citizens lost their lives. The heroic stance of Turkish citizens from different ideological backgrounds, operations

of police and military forces; the unity of political parties, civil society as well as the business circles broke the attempt.

Declaration of the State of Emergency after the Failed Coup Attempt on 15 July

On 20 July 2016, the Turkish Government announced a State of Emergency (SoE) for the entire country in response to the failed coup attempt. SoE has been scheduled for a period of three months, starting from 21 July 2016. The decision took into consideration the National Security Council's advisory decision, published on the very same date. Right after that, the approved decision by TGNA was published in the Official Gazette no. 29778 on 22 July 2016. The most significant legal implication of SoEs under Turkish law is known to be the legislative authority, which under normal circumstances belongs to the Parliament, being also granted to the Council of Ministers for the matters that are necessitated by the SoE. By way of such authorisation,

the Council of Ministers (as the executive body) becomes entitled to issue Decree Laws with respect to matters necessitated by the SoE, without following the Parliament's ordinary legislative procedures. Since 21 July 2016, five Decrees have been enacted within the context of SoE (Decree Laws No. 667, 668, 669, 670 and 671 respectively).

In accordance with these Decree Laws, many institutions and organisations have been shut down on the basis of constituting a threat to national security and being overrun by the followers of the clandestine Gülenist organisation. These include the following: private health institutions, private educational institutions and student dormitories as well as pensions, foundations and associations, universities, unions, federations and confederations. The private-run radio and television institutions, newspaper, magazine, publishing companies and distribution channels which belong to, connected to or have contact with the clandestine Gülenist organisation have also

been closed. All assets, receivables, rights, documents and information belonging to closed entities are transferred to the Turkish Treasury.

Within the framework of these Decree Laws, certain changes have also been made as to the structure and personnel of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK). A total of 3,073 military personnel including 158 general and admirals have been dismissed from the Turkish Armed Forces over links to the clandestine Gülenist organisation. The Land Forces, Naval Forces and Air Force Commands came under the control of the Defence Ministry, while the President and Prime Minister would have the authority to receive direct information and issue force commanders direct orders that is to be executed immediately without the need for approval from another post.

Also as part of the amendments to the structure of the Supreme Military Council, several top cabinet ministers will have seats on the Supreme Military Council (YAS).

PAGE 2



WHAT HAPPENED DURING AND AFTER THE FAILED 15 JULY COUP ATTEMPT?

FROM THE FIRST PAGE

It will consist of the Prime Minister, Chief of General Staff, Vice-Prime Ministers, Minister of Justice, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Interior, Minister of National Defence and commanders-in-chief. Turkey's War Colleges Command, military high schools, and high schools that train non-commissioned officers have been closed.

Historic Yenikapı Message

After one of the longest and bloodiest nights in the history of Turkish Republic, President Erdoğan asked the citizens not to leave the streets; keep their determination and continue their "democracy vigil". Since then, citizens from various backgrounds and political stances gathered at the symbolic squares of all 81 provinces of Turkey at nights, delivered the message of togetherness; and condemned the failed coup attempt.

The citizens' democracy vigils ended with a historic anti-coup rally on 7 August at Yenikapı, Istanbul, the biggest rally ever in Turkish political history. The Yenikapı Rally saw the participation of millions of Turkish citizens carrying Turkish flags and it delivered a clear message of democracy and unity. After a minute of silence for those who lost their lives during the vicious attempt, President Erdoğan, Prime Minister Yıldırım and two opposition party leaders Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu and Devlet Bahçeli addressed the citizens at the same rally for the first time.

SOLIDARITY VISITS TO TURKISH PARLIAMENT

TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu, along with members of the Joint Consultative Council, paid a visit to (TGNA) on 16 July 2016, one day after the failed coup attempt. TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu was accompanied by representatives of Memur-Sen, Türk-İş, Hak-İş, TİSK, TESK and TZOB. In this respect, they visited TGNA Speaker İsmail Kahraman and took the opportunity to present their condolences following the coup attempt.

EU Heads of Missions have also paid a similar visit to the TGNA on 17 August 2016. During their meeting with TGNA Speaker İsmail Kahraman, they expressed their support and solidarity for Turkey's institutions, society and democratic system.

IKV WAS A SIGNATORY TO THE CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION AT THE TGNA

Following the 15 July coup attempt, 358 civil society organisations including IKV came together on 20 July 2016 under the leadership of TOBB and visited the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) to make a declaration condemning the coup attempt. Representatives of NGO's including labour unions, confederations, professional organisations and other civil society organisations, came together in the Visitors' Hall of the TGNA.

Speaker of the TGNA, İsmail Kahraman and representatives of all the political party groups addressed the representatives of NGO's and thanked them for their unwavering support for democracy and firm stance against the coup attempt. TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu delivered a speech expressing the common views of the participating organisations regarding the coup attempt. In this respect, he voiced the civil society's support for democracy and the outrage felt in the face of the unacceptable attack on the TGNA. Hisarcıkloğlu read the following joint statement by the NGO's:

"Today, we are at the Turkish Grand National Assembly as the 538 prominent syndicates, confederations, professional and civil society organisations of our country.

The National Assembly was the target of a heinous attack on Friday. Traitors bombed it for the first time in history. The National Assembly resisted heroically, earning its title of



'Veteran' once again.

It is clear that without democracy and rule of law, there can be no civil society organisations. We, who have convened here today, see no alternative to democracy for the future of our country.

The defiance of our people from the night of Friday to the first light of day has given us all hope for the future of our country. All democratic institutions of our country and our people rose to protect our democracy in face of this heinous attack.

The media resisted armed takeovers, putting their lives on the line in order to preserve the right of our nation to news.

The President of the Republic of Turkey, the National Assembly Speaker and Prime Minister as well as all political parties stood tall and foiled the plans of the putschists.

Our people, while tanks were running over cars and people in the streets, while bombs rained from the sky, while under fire, filled the squares, putting forth their determination and will for democracy.

Heroic law enforcement officers and honorable Turkish soldiers stayed true to their vows to prevent the success of the coup, endangering their lives. They caught the perpetrators red-handed.

Turkey acted as it should as a whole. Our democracy passed an exam of maturity.

Turkish democracy and the institutions of the Turkish Republic proved that they are strong enough to never again yield to brute force.

Those who made an attempt at the political and economic gains of our country in the last 93 years have failed.

We, prominent civil society organisations, are grateful that the dark hours of Friday night were overcome through unity and solidarity.

Today, we are here at the Veteran National Assembly to urge that the democratic understanding reached in Friday continue.

Going forward, we should never forget the understanding we've reached today. Common cause should reign.

This coup attempt which disregarded the fact that sovereignty is derived solely from the will of

the people has shown that the institutional infrastructure of our country must be strengthened.

The place where these precautions will take place and will be put into effect will be the Turkish Grand National Assembly.

The traitors must be judged according to the letter of the law and be brought to account in front of Turkish justice.

At the same time, the precautions necessary to prevent such heinous attacks should be put into effect.

We must not harm our heroic army and patriotic soldiers in any way.

We, the representatives of 538 syndicates, confederations, professional and civil society organisations of our country, have come to our great National Assembly to fulfill our duty to democracy.

We are preserving the national will.

It is all of our duty to leave behind a stronger, more peaceful, more prosperous and more democratic country for the future and our children. That is why we must all focus on our work."

TOBB COMMUNITY MET WITH PRESIDENT ERDOĞAN AND PRIME MINISTER YILDIRIM

TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu met with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım at the consultation meeting on 4 August 2016. IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu also attended these meetings held in Ankara.

During his speech on 4 August, TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu, along with the Presidents of the Chambers and Commodity Exchanges, stated that they stand by democracy, nation and government. Speaking at the Chamber-Exchange Presidents Consultation Meeting at the Presidential Palace, TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu indicated that the imperturbable stance and prioritising the economy

during these extraordinary times gives the business community morale and motivation. He added that they are determined to keep going without pause towards a stronger economy.

Moreover, they also revealed their reaction against the coup attempt on 19 July as 365 Chambers and Exchanges of 81 provinces and 160 counties by declaring that "Democracy is indispensable; National Will is Our Power; Solidarity is Our Future". In their visit to the Turkish Grand National Assembly on 20 July, they read the Declaration, along with 538 representatives of various NGOs. In his speech, TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu stated that they met with international investors and informed them about the



economic environment in Turkey. He stressed that Turkey can overcome all of these challenges and rank among the 10 largest economies in the world with more investments.

During the meeting with Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım, TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu underlined that as TOBB, they are determined to move forward without delay

and to strive to build a stronger economy. He also praised Prime Minister Yıldırım's efforts in regards to strengthening the real sector as well as increasing its competitive power. Prime Minister Yıldırım also stated that the business community has stood by the nation, justice and the rule of law without any doubt.

IKV HELD ITS 54th GENERAL COUNCIL

IKV's 54th General Council Meeting was held on 26 July 2016 in Istanbul with the participation of the Presidents and representatives of trustee and supporting organisations and IKV delegates.



The chair of the council was held by IKV Vice-Chairman and Dean of Yeditepe University Law Faculty Prof. Haluk Kabaalioglu who was assisted by IKV Board of Directors Member Ismail Gulle.

IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoglu realised the opening remarks where he briefed the participants about the activities conducted by IKV during the period covering July 2015-July 2016. In his speech, Chairman Zeytinoglu underlined that the illegal coup attempt against Turkey's democratic institutions conducted by a group penetrating the Turkish Armed Forces on the evening of 15 July 2016 has been prevented with the tough stance shown by all segments of the Turkish people. IKV Chairman Zeytinoglu highlighted the critical importance in taking the necessary measures to root away the treacherous networks which have agglomerated within certain spheres of the State apparatus.

Moreover, he also reminded that IKV has joined ranks in a joint declaration condemning the coup attempt issued under the coordination of TOBB at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey with the participation of 538 trade



unions, confederations, trade bodies and civil society organisations. He stressed that IKV would continue to stand for democracy and in this respect he underscored the critical role played by Turkish citizens. Furthermore, he indicated his belief in the resilience of Turkey's democratic system and institutions and expressed his hope in the further development of Turkey-EU relations and notably the finalisation of the visa liberalisation process by October 2016.

At the opening session of the General Council, TOBB Vice-

Chairman Halim Mete, ISO Chairman Erdal Bahcivan, ISTIB Chairman Ali Kopuz, IKHIB Chairman Ismail Gulle, TIM Deputy Chairman Mustafa Cikrikcioğlu and TISK Secretary-General Bulent Pirlir also addressed also members of IKV's General Council. As for the representatives of the trustee organisations which have also expressed their strong stance against the coup attempt, they indicated that IKV will continue to play a key role as "Turkey's EU Expert" in the next period during which Turkey's EU membership perspective will be even more at the forefront.

TURKEY-EU JCC MEMBERS' VISIT TO PRESIDENT ERDOĞAN

Turkey-EU Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) Delegation visited President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in 26 July 2016. Co-Chair of the Turkey-EU JCC Delegation and TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarciklioğlu stated that the Turkish people have overcome a great crisis. TOBB President Hisarciklioğlu said that the profession organisations, trade

unions and confederations which make up the Turkish wing of the Turkey-EU JCC, have stood against the coup attempt along with the Turkish nation from the very beginning, urging both our nation and members to preserve democracy. Stating that there is a great amount of misinformation abroad, President Hisarciklioğlu indicated that TOBB is ready to take

a more active role in that respect. He highlighted that they have already had contacts with their respective foreign counterparts where they were reminded about the strength of Turkey's democracy and economy. Moreover, TOBB President Hisarciklioğlu also added that TOBB will continue in that endeavour and contribute in strengthening Turkey's economy.

TIMELINE JULY-AUGUST 2016

Slovakia took over the EU Presidency	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	6	
NATO Summit in Warsaw	7	
	8	
	9	
	10	
	11	
	12	
	13	
	14	Terrorist Attack in Nice
Failed coup attempt in Turkey	15	
	16	TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarciklioğlu and members of the JCC paid a visit to the TGNA
	17	
	18	
	19	
	20	IKV took part in the joint declaration from NGOs at the TNGA
	21	
	22	
	23	
	24	
	25	
	26	IKV held its 54 th General Council
Minister for EU Affairs Ömer Çelik met with EU Ambassadors	27	
	28	IKV Brief entitled "Brexit and its Aftermath: Future Scenarios for the EU and the UK" published
IKV Brief entitled "Turkish-Belgian Relations and their Importance from the EU Perspective" published	29	
	30	
	31	
	1	
	2	
	3	Council of Europe Secretary-General Thorbjørn Jagland's visit to Turkey
TOBB Community met with President Erdoğan and Prime Minister Yıldırım	4	
	5	
	6	
	7	"Democracy and Martyrs Rally" held in Istanbul
	8	
	9	President Erdoğan's visit to Russia
	10	
	11	
	12	IKV Brief entitled "Make-or-Break Time for a Cyprus Settlement" published
	13	
	14	
	15	
	16	OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Christine Muttönen's visit to Turkey
EU Heads of Mission paid a visit to the TGNA	17	
	18	
	19	
US Vice-President Joe Biden's, Estonian Minister of Foreign Affairs Marina Kaljurand's, EP Turkey Rapporteur Kati Piri and EP Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Elmar Brok's visit to Turkey	20	Terrorist Attack in Gaziantep
	21	
	22	
	23	
	24	
President Erdoğan received TRNC President Mustafa Akıncı	25	Slovak Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Lajcak's, German Minister of State for Europe Michael Roth's visit to Turkey
	26	
Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu's visit to Greece	27	
	28	
Dutch Foreign Minister Koenders' visit to Turkey (28-29 August)	29	Terrorist attack on CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu's convoy
	30	
	31	

SLOVAKIA TOOK OVER THE EU COUNCIL'S PRESIDENCY

Slovakia took over the EU Council's Presidency for six months from the Netherlands as of 1 July 2016. The Slovak Presidency comes just at a very critical time with the Brexit decision.

As a member of the EU since 2004, Slovakia is assuming the EU's rotating presidency for the first time. The Programme of the Slovak EU Presidency focuses on four main priorities which are as follows: An economically strong Europe, a modern single market, sustainable migration and asylum policies and a globally engaged Europe.

Priorities of the Slovak Presidency

The Slovak Presidency aims to create a better environment for the investments so as to support the EU's sustainable economic growth and the creation of new job opportunities for all EU citizens. In this respect, the establishment of a Capital Markets Union is of crucial importance since it will present alternative financial sources for the SMEs. The Slovak Presidency will encourage Member States to pursue with the implementation of their structural reforms. Furthermore, the Slovak Presidency will also seek to build the fiscal pillar of the Economic and Monetary Policy and to complete the establishment of the Banking Union. Discussions over the 2017 budget of the EU will also constitute an important item in the economic agenda of the Slovak Presidency.

Despite the success story of the Single Market, it can be observed that some obstacles are still obstructing the good functioning of the Single Market. In this respect, the Slovak Presidency will take measures to further strengthen and deepen the Single Market integration. For instance, as regards to the Single Digital Market, the Slovak EU Presidency will focus in removing the obstacles in digital economy, the promotion of electronic services, facilitating the market access as well as reinforcing the protection of consumers. One of the other priorities of the Slovak Presidency regarding the Single Market is the establishment of an Energy Union through which the EU wants to increase the security of the energy supply in the EU.



Regarding the migration issue which is currently one of the most important topics concerning both Turkey and the EU, the Slovak Presidency wants to reinforce the security and the protection of the EU's external borders. In this respect, the Slovak Presidency will prioritise the implementation of a Smart Border Package aiming to

fight against irregular migration and to accelerate and simplify the entry procedures with the use of new emerging and modern technologies. Further efforts to reinforce cooperation with third countries, mainly with countries of transit and origin of migrants are also envisaged during the Slovak Presidency.

Lastly, with the aim to reinforce the global role of the EU, the Slovak Presidency will pursue efforts to strengthen the economic and trade relations with key partners. It foresees to continue leading policies promoting stability, prosperity and democracy in the neighbourhood. In this respect, the enlargement policy is considered to be an essential tool for ensuring stability in the region.

Holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU for the first time, Slovakia will assume its Presidency at a very critical and challenging time since it just after the referendum results in Britain. This could undermine the realisation of some of the action plans foreseen by the Slovak Presidency. The success of the Slovak Presidency will mostly depend not only how it will manage the process regarding Brexit but also how it will restore confidence in the European project among European citizens.



Slovak Presidency and Turkey's EU accession process

As mentioned above, the Slovak Presidency will put greater emphasis upon the enlargement policy. In this respect, it is aimed to make concrete progress in the ongoing accession process of the Western Balkans and Turkey. Indeed, during Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik's visit to Slovakia in June 2016, Slovakia Minister of Foreign and European Miroslav Lajčák ensured that the Slovak government is supporting Turkey's EU accession

process. He also expressed his wish to open new chapters to negotiations in Turkey's EU accession process.

All this put aside, Turkey is considered as a key partner, especially in the area of migration. In its Programme, the Slovak Presidency highlighted the importance of the cooperation between Turkey and the EU in terms of mitigating illegal migration flows. Without doubt, reinforcing this cooperation would continue to be a main priority for the Slovak Presidency.

IKV PUBLISHED A REPORT ON BREXIT AND ITS AFTERMATH

The results of the referendum which was held in Britain on 23 June 2016 came out in favour of leaving the EU. Therefore, "Brexit" was added to the other existential crises which are testing the integrity of the EU such as the refugee crisis, the Eurozone crisis and international terrorism. Britain, by leaving the EU will require a negotiations process which would in effect lead to a new relationship with the EU to emerge.

IKV prepared a publication on Brexit with the aim of analysing the results of the referendum and possible Brexit from the perspective not only of the EU and Britain but also of candidate countries such as Turkey. Considering that no country has left the EU before, Britain's process



of leaving the EU is an important case study for the European integration. The way the process will be handled depends on the negotiations between the EU and Britain. It is clear that the impact of Brexit upon the future of the EU in political and economic terms will be important.

IKV SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATED IN JEAN MONNET SEMINAR AT BILGI UNIVERSITY

The seminar titled "European Governance after Brexit" organised by Istanbul Bilgi University's Jean Monnet Chair Assoc. Prof. Dr. Senem Aydin Duzgit on 14 July 2016, aimed to tackle the condition of EU integration in the aftermath of the Brexit vote.

IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Çiğdem Nas made a presentation during the Jean Monnet seminar about the issue of EU's migration governance and effects of the Brexit vote. She argued that with increasing levels of migration towards the EU, it became much more challenging for EU institutions to govern this area within the framework of a proper balance between security and freedom. The right-wing, anti-EU and anti-immigration rhetoric that determined the result of the British



referendum on EU membership constitutes a limiting factor in the formulation of a progressive migration policy.

Other speakers at the seminar were Prof. Thomas Diez from Tubingen University and Assist. Prof. Dr. Başak Alpan from Middle East Technical University. Prof. Diez explained how the Brexit

referendum took place, which factors were important factors in the vote to leave the EU and the probable effects of Brexit on EU governance. Assist. Prof. Dr. Alpan analysed the Brexit process in terms of European identity and concluded that this may be an opportunity for Europe to reassert itself and place the EU project on a stronger basis.

THE IMPACT OF THE COUP ATTEMPT ON ECONOMY

The Turkish economy is proving its resilience against the failed military coup attempt of 15 July. Despite a decline in the value of the Turkish lira against major currencies after the coup attempt, it can be said that the markets recovered in a short period of time.

The financial markets reacted immediately to the coup attempt. The Turkish lira depreciated against the US dollar nearly by 5.5% in the evening of 15 July. However, the currency recovered quickly and rose by 1.4% on the following days. In the middle of August, the Turkish lira appreciated against the US dollar and reached its highest level since the coup attempt. Furthermore, the stock exchange was also affected negatively by the coup attempt. The main index of Borsa Istanbul (BIST 100) declined nearly by 9%. Nonetheless, despite concerns of possible deterioration in the financial market, the worst case scenario has been averted and the BIST 100 index regained value.

Following the political uncertainty reigning in the country, one of the "Big Three" rating agencies Standard & Poor's downgraded on 20 July 2016 Turkey's foreign currency rating from "BB+" to "BB" and also revised its outlook to negative. In its announcement, the agency stated that if prolonged, the political uncertainty could cause the

deterioration of the investment environment and thus put additional pressure upon Turkey's balance of payments. However, it is noteworthy to point out that Standard & Poor's new rating was determined just before the announcement of the three-month state of emergency and the precautionary measures to ensure the good functioning of the markets. On the other hand, Fitch announced on 19 August 2016 that it maintained its sovereign rating on Turkey at "BBB-" but lowered its outlook to "negative" from "stable".

Precautionary Measures Taken by the Turkish Government

The Turkish financial system has proved its strength and its capacity to minimise the negative effects on the economy in the aftermath of the coup attempt. The precautionary measure as taken by the Central Bank of Turkey to avoid possible liquidity problems played a crucial role in the recovery process. Local investors also contributed to this process by trying to protect market share by making purchases.



The Central Bank announced on 17 July 2016 a series of precautionary measures to minimise the adverse effects of the coup attempt and to ensure the efficient functioning of the markets. In order to restore confidence among investors and stabilise the financial market, the Central Bank ensured first of all that unlimited liquidity will be provided to the banks. The Central Bank took

additional measures afterwards to support the efficient liquidity management of banks. In this respect, the Central Bank cut its overnight lending rate on 19 July 2016 by a quarter points from 9% to 8.75%.

The quick response taken by the government to minimise the adverse effect of the political situation in Turkey is important for the restoration of confidence

in the business and investment environments. In addition to these precautionary measures, Turkey's sound macro fundamentals will contribute without doubt to the improvement of financial markets. Furthermore, the fact that all four major parties condemned the coup attempt undermined the argument of increased risk of polarisation and is providing a more favourable environment for foreign investors.



NATO LEADERS MET IN WARSAW

NATO leaders gathered on 8-9 July 2016 in Warsaw. How to deal with an assertive Russia and issues such as the Syrian conflict, terrorism, migration and refugees were the main items on the agenda of the Summit.

During the summit EU and NATO signed a joint declaration to intensify their strategic cooperation. With the EU-NATO Joint Declaration co-signed by the President of the European Council Donald Tusk, President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, given the common

challenges they face, the two Brussels-based organisations decided to step up their efforts in finding new ways of working together in confronting the common challenges they face. To strengthen their cooperation, NATO and the EU agreed on the urgency of boosting their ability to counter hybrid threats, broadening and adapting their operational cooperation including

at sea and on migration, expanding their coordination on cyber security and defence, developing coherent defence capabilities, facilitating stronger defence industry, stepping up their coordination on exercises, and fostering the resilience of their partners in the East and South.

During the Summit, NATO leaders decided to strengthen the Alliance's

military presence in the Eastern flank by deploying four allied multinational battalions to Poland, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia. In the Summit, Allies declared Initial Operational Capability of NATO's Ballistic Missile Defence and recognised cyberspace as a new operational domain. Moreover, in line with the objective to protect stability through support for partners, NATO

leaders decided to start a training and capacity building mission in Iraq. Leaders also approved a plan to allow NATO Airborne Warning and Control System surveillance planes to provide direct support to the Global Coalition against ISIL and agreed to broaden the Alliance's role in the Central Mediterranean.

TURKEY CONTINUES TO BE THE TARGET OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

During this summer, Turkey and many other countries around the world continued to be hit by terrorist attacks. On 14 July, a terrorist drove a cargo truck into a crowd celebrating Bastille Day in Nice killing more than 80 people and wounding more than 400 people. This is the third major attack in France following the Charlie Hebdo killings in January 2015 and a

series of coordinated terrorist attacks in Paris in November 2015.

During July and August, terrorist attacks took place in various provinces of the southeastern region of Turkey including Diyarbakır, Van, Elazığ, Bitlis, Şanlıurfa, Muş, Gaziantep and Cizre. On 20 August, a suicide attack during a wedding party caused the death of 56

people among which women and children. Following this attack, EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini and European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn released a joint press release expressing their continuing

solidarity to the government of Turkey and its people. They ensure they will continue to strengthen their cooperation with the Turkish authorities to prevent and counter terrorism.

As İKV, we condemn in the strongest terms these abominable terrorist attacks and present our condolences to the families of

the victims and to all our nation and wish a steady recovery for the injured. We would like to stress once more that we strongly condemn all terrorist attacks and lament terrorism regardless of its origin or nature. It is of utmost importance to highlight the necessity for our nation to be united against such attacks which are targeting Turkey's integrity.

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE JAGLAND'S VISIT TO TURKEY

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjørn Jagland paid an official visit to Ankara on 3 August 2016. During the meetings, regional and international issues were discussed.



In his first meeting in Ankara, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Jagland met with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Justice Bekir Bozdağ, the leaders of the opposition parties and the Speaker of the Turkish Parliament İsmail Kahraman. During these meetings, the Secretary General Jagland condemned the coup attempt and expressed his condolences to President Erdoğan. During the meetings, regional and international issues were also discussed. Furthermore, Secretary General Jagland visited the TGNA and saw the damaged areas of the building as a result of the coup attempt.

During the meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Çavuşoğlu, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Jagland indicated that there is little understanding in the EU about the latest development occurred in Turkey after the coup attempt. In order to fully understand the current political environment in Turkey, he highlighted the importance for Turkey to investigate and prosecute those people involved in the coup attempt. According to the Secretary General, this can only be achieved by being fully aligned with the European Convention on Human Rights and related case laws. He added that both Turkey and the EU need each other. Therefore, he underscored the importance for the EU to help Turkey in this situation.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE COUP ATTEMPT IN TURKEY

The Foreign Affairs Council's most important message was that the EU remained committed to working together with a democratic, inclusive and stable Turkey.

The Foreign Affairs Council meeting was held on 18 July 2016 in order to discuss EU Global Strategy, fight against terrorism, migration, EU strategy on China and Latin America. Ahead of the Council meeting, EU Foreign Ministers met with the US Secretary of State, John Kerry to highlight the strength of the transatlantic partnership and its importance in addressing foreign and global challenges.

The Foreign Affairs Council announced that the EU strongly condemns the attempted coup in Turkey and reiterates

its full support to the legitimate institutions of the country. They also welcomed the common position of the political parties in support of Turkey's democracy. The importance of ensuring full respect for all democratic institutions including the elected government and the TGNA was emphasised in the Council's conclusions. Moreover, the need to respect democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms and the right of everyone to a fair trial in full compliance with the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and



Fundamental Freedoms, including Protocol 13 on the abolition of the death penalty was underlined by

the Council. The main message of the Council was that the EU remained committed to working

together with a democratic, inclusive and stable Turkey to address our common challenges.

1.4 BILLION EUROS FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES IN TURKEY

The European Commission adopted on 28 July 2016 the "Special Measure" worth of 1.415 billion euros to support Syrian refugees' living conditions in Turkey. The

Measure will be mobilised to finance actions in the areas of education, health, municipal and social infrastructures as well as socio-economic support. Previously allocated funds in

the amount of 79 million euros have been contracted to various stakeholders.

Under the Facility for Refugees allocated 2.155 billion euros in total, the

Special Measure comes on top of a total of 740 million euros that has been allocated for humanitarian and non-humanitarian assistance to date. In this regard, the EU has

allocated a significant part of the 3 billion euros, which is part of the Turkey-EU Refugee Deal. As of today, 229 million euros of the allocated amount has been contracted.

TRNC PRESIDENT VISITS ANKARA

TRNC President Mustafa Akıncı paid a one-day working visit to Turkey on 17 August 2016. Expressing solidarity with the Turkish people following the 15 July coup attempt and discussing the state of play in the ongoing reunification talks in Cyprus were the two items on Akıncı's agenda.

In the context of his visit, President Akıncı was received by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Following their meeting, they held a joint news conference where both leaders confirmed their determination for a settlement to the Cyprus issue by the end of 2016. Regarding the ongoing reunification talks on the Island, President Erdoğan confirmed that Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots want a fair, lasting and comprehensive solution and will continue to exert every effort in this respect. "The objective of these efforts is to establish a new viable bi-zonal and bi-communal partnership between the two equal parties on the Island this year within the scope of UN parameters", President Erdoğan stated. Underscoring that a prospective settlement of the Cyprus issue would contribute to the security, stability and prosperity

of the region, President Erdoğan pointed that the true potential of the Island will be manifested after a prospective settlement.

TRNC President Akıncı expressed the Turkish Cypriot people's solidarity with the Turkish people against the coup attempt. President Akıncı confirmed that the reunification talks have reached a turning point. Pointing to the pre-election period set to kick off in 2017 in the South and unilateral hydrocarbon exploration activities foreseen by the Greek Cypriot side in 2017, President Akıncı highlighted that the reasonable way was to reach a settlement in 2016 as the current window of opportunity could be lost in 2017. President Akıncı also noted that it will take the new UN Secretary-General to succeed Ban Ki-Moon, whose mandate is set to end in

December 2016, time to learn the Cyprus file and the window of opportunity will be gone.

TRNC President stressed the importance of the seven meetings scheduled between 23 August and 14 September and added "If we manage to achieve good progress during the meetings, we can open a door to a new process in September where we will be much more hopeful". President Akıncı indicated that equality, freedom and security are the three crucial elements for the Turkish Cypriot side in a prospective settlement deal.

In the context of his visit to Ankara, TRNC President Akıncı also met with Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım and came together with the Chief of the Turkish General Staff General. Hulusi Akar and visited the TGNA which was bombed on the night of 15 July.



THIRD BOSPHORUS BRIDGE WAS INAUGURATED



Istanbul's Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge was inaugurated on 26 August 2016. The Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge the construction of which began in May 2013 was opened in an official ceremony attended by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım, foreign dignitaries and representatives from the press.

One of the longest suspension bridges in the world, Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge is 58.5 meters wide. The total length of the bridge is 2,164 metres and its length over the Bosphorus is 1,408 metres. It has 8 lanes of highway and two lanes of

railway. The longest combined motorway/railway bridge in the world costed approximately 3 billion dollars. The rail system will be integrated into the Marmaray and Istanbul Metro which will connect Atatürk International Airport, Sabiha Gökçen International Airport and the third airport which is still under construction. The project also includes the Northern Marmara Highway which has 19 junctions and linking roads. The total length of the motorway is approximately 15 km. The motorway which is located in Odayeri-Paşaköy is planned to be completed by 2023.

CHRISTIAN BERGER APPOINTED AS NEW HEAD OF EU DELEGATION TO TURKEY

High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini appointed Christian Berger as new head of EU Delegation to Turkey on 27 July 2016. Christian Berger, an Austrian national, has been a deputy managing director for North Africa, Middle East, Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Iraq in the European External Action Service (EEAS) since 2011. In previous positions, Christian

Berger had served with the United Nations in the Middle East (1986-1987 with UNDOF with respect to the Golan Heights and 1988-1994 with UNRWA in Jerusalem and Gaza). From 1994 till 1997, he was working at the OSCE in Vienna. In 1997, he joined the European institutions and served in various positions with respect to Middle East issues. As IKV, we would like to congratulate Christian Berger in his new position and wish him success in his future endeavor.



EU OFFICIALS' VISIT TO TURKEY

A senior officials' delegation from the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) visited Turkey between 22 and 24 August 2016. Director-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations at the European Commission Christian Danielsson, and Managing Director for Europe & Central Asia at the EEAS Thomas Mayr-Harting held discussions with the Turkish authorities on Turkey-EU relations. They were accompanied by Director

for Strategy and Turkey at the European Commission Simon Mordue and Director Western Europe, Western Balkans and Turkey at the EEAS Angelina Eichhorst.

In addition to high-level meetings with the Turkish authorities, Director-General Danielsson visited the Women & Girls Safe Spaces for refugees on 24 August 2016. The Women & Girls Safe Spaces in Ankara's district Altındağ, is funded by the EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil

Protection Department (ECHO) and implemented in partnership with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). The Women & Girl Safe Spaces project plays a key role in providing a safe environment to the most vulnerable refugee women and girls living in the country.

With the help of a recent increase in EU funding of 9 million euros, UNFPA will be able to expand its assistance to cover 20 Women & Girls Safe Spaces across Turkey, providing support to up to 430,000 refugees.

THE NORMALISATION OF TURKEY-RUSSIA RELATIONS: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EUROPE

The normalisation of relations between Ankara and Moscow has vast implications for both countries along with the EU. It may constitute a window of opportunity for further cooperation.

Deniz SERVANTIE, IKV Junior Researcher

Throughout their long and tumultuous history, Turkey and Russia have often been at odds. From the late 16th to the early 20th centuries, the two nations have engaged in multiple wars. Nonetheless, during Turkey's War of Independence, the Turkish revolutionary movement led by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk benefited from Soviet assistance in both financial and military ways, contributing significantly to the victory of the revolutionary forces and later to the proclamation of the Turkish Republic in 1923. The two parties had cordial relations in the 1920s and early 1930s and Turkey's first five-year economic and industrial development plan between 1934 and 1938 was largely inspired by the Soviet experience. Nevertheless, relations would be strained again with the end of the Second World War which saw an ever more powerful Soviet Union, as the then Soviet leader Joseph Stalin claimed the provinces of Kars and Ardahan from Turkey. This would naturally facilitate Turkey's burgeoning relations with the West as it would also benefit from the Marshall Plan, and later, thanks to its contribution to the Korean War, its full accession to NATO.

A New Era in Turkey-Russia Relations

With the end of the Cold War and the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, a new page was opened in relations between Turkey and Russia. Trade ties have greatly improved as Turkey is now one of Russia's largest trading partners. Furthermore, Russia became Turkey's single largest provider of energy and Turkish businessmen throughout the 1990s and early 21st century have been more than eager to further increase their already blossoming investments in Russia. Cultural ties were also further enhanced as Turkey became the top foreign destination for flocks of Russian tourists who would quickly outpace German and other European tourists visiting the country. These cordial and friendly



relations have, nonetheless been strained by an unfortunate incident which took place on 24 November 2015. That day, a Russian Su-24 combat aircraft was shot down following claims that it had violated Turkey's airspace along the Turkish-Syrian border. This led to an escalation in tensions between the two nations, climaxing in the unilateral decision from Moscow to impose sanctions upon certain sectors of the Turkish economy (i.e. agricultural products entering the Russian market), the reinstatement of visas for Turkish nationals entering the Russian territory, further limitations for Turkish businesses working in Russia, etc.

Turkey-Russia Relations Reset

The parties, nonetheless, tried to keep in close contact in an effort to resolve the situation diplomatically. The process of normalisation started in June 2016 as President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan publicly expressed his regrets to Russian President Vladimir Putin for the downing of the Russian jet. The two leaders re-established high-level contacts which were deemed as being constructive and in a positive nature by both parties. This later led to the visit of President Erdoğan to Russia on 9 August 2016.

It was President Erdoğan's first visit outside of Turkey following the failed coup attempt which had taken place on 15 July 2016. One should remind, in that context, that Russian President Vladimir Putin was among the first leaders to express his public condemnation of the coup attempt. Upon President Erdoğan's visit, Russian President Putin indicated Russia's willingness to further strengthen cooperation with Turkey in a broad array of subjects and highlighted the necessity to revive trade and economic ties between the two nations. Moreover, there have also been indications that the parties are willing to coordinate their efforts in the fight against international terrorism and chiefly the threat posed by Daesh in Syria and beyond. In that respect, Russia has been described as a key player and both parties have shown willingness to coordinate their efforts to find a long lasting solution to the Syrian crisis.

Another critical subject which was assessed by the two leaders was energy, an area where the EU is also significantly involved. Indeed, talks regarding a Turkish Stream pipeline project have

resumed, aimed at facilitating the arrival of Russian gas to Turkey and later its transit to the EU. Turkey can play a critical role for the EU in that respect. Russia boasts one of the largest reserves of energy in the world, with approximately 80 billion barrels of proven oil reserves and the EU is thus crucially dependent on energy imports from Russia. In 2012, 53.4% of its energy consumption was comprised of imported energy with a third of its oil and gas originating directly from Russia, which is therefore the EU and Turkey's single largest energy partner.

An Opportunity for Europe

Nevertheless, it is of utmost importance to stress that the reset in Turkey's ties with Russia should not be seen in any way as an alternative to its place within the framework of the Euro-Atlantic family and its willingness to be fully a part of the European family. Indeed, Turkish leaders have been quite vocal in underlining the necessity to further progress in Turkey's EU accession process, advance and conclude the visa liberalisation dialogue with the objective of visa-free travel for Turkish nationals in the EU and further pursue the modernisation of the Customs

Union between Turkey and the EU.

As such, one can say that the reset in ties between Turkey and Russia can contribute positively in the global fight against terrorism as the USA, the EU and other international partners work in coordination against terrorist organisations such as ISIS which constitute a direct challenge to peace and stability in the Middle East and well beyond. Moreover, Turkey's strategic location in terms of the energy sector with its proximity with Russia, the Caucasus and Central Asia is a strong asset for the EU and new projects in that sector can stimulate cross-border investments and further facilitate the EU's energy needs. The EU, Turkey and Russia are key actors and it is in their mutual interest to work in partnership in the fight against terrorism, criminal networks, the refugee crisis and other challenges.

One should hope that both parties will further work in a spirit of partnership for peace and stability in the Middle East and coordinate their efforts to find credible and constructive solutions to the many different challenges which the international system faces.