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SEVERE CRITICISM ISSUED IN TURKEY'S RECENT PROGRESS REPORT

Despite progress made in Turkey's EU accession with the opening of two chapters since the previous Progress Report, serious backsliding have been recorded in the newly released Progress Report in areas such as freedom of expression, fundamental rights and the functioning of the market economy.

The European Commission published its 19th Turkey Progress Report on 9 November 2016. The European Commission's regular Progress Reports constitute a main instrument assessing annually Turkey's efforts and level of alignment towards the EU membership goal within three areas; political criteria, economic criteria and ability to assume the EU *acquis*.

This year, the Commission generally underlined some backsliding in certain areas, mostly related to fundamental rights and freedoms. Nevertheless it has praised the outstanding efforts of various stakeholders in Turkey providing shelter to about 3 million refugees and reminded the importance of re-invigorating and deepening the relations in all key areas of common interest such as the Customs Union and the High-Level Energy Dialogue. As emphasised within the 2016 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy, the Commission plans to

move the adoption of the annual progress reports from Autumn to Spring. Therefore, the 20th Progress Report is expected to be published in Spring 2018.

With respect to compliance with the political criteria, the Commission assessed that prior to the failed coup attempt which constituted a grave threat for Turkish democracy on the night of 15 July, Turkey has engaged in a heavy legislative agenda in order to implement ambitious government reforms and to fulfil the remaining criteria within the framework of the Visa Liberalisation Roadmap. Yet, the effects of the 15 July coup attempt along with the measures taken in the context of the state of emergency had a wide impact on the tone and content of the evaluations regarding the political criteria. In this respect, together with the post-coup measures, the situation in the South Eastern region and the Commission's assessments regarding the situation of freedom expression in Turkey



were undoubtedly the determining elements.

Public administration and judicial system are also key areas that the Commission closely monitors as part of the political criteria. Both in

public administration and judicial system, removals and suspension from some professions, dismissals and arrests were found alarming by the Commission. It has been emphasised that the judiciary must

work in an environment allowing it to perform its duties in an independent and impartial manner, with the executive and legislature fully respecting the separation of powers. **PAGE 2**

"EU ACCESSION PROCESS REMAINS IMPORTANT FOR TURKEY BUT THERE IS AN URGENT NEED TO RESTORE RELATIONS"



Following the publication of the 19th Progress Report, IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu considers the report published at a time when Turkey is undergoing state-of-emergency highly critical. He explained that as a result of the slow-down experienced in Turkey's EU accession negotiations, the progress reports are no more serving their original purpose of enhancing Turkey's rapprochement with the EU.

Nonetheless, he stressed that regardless of the current situation, Turkey still needs to

focus on the EU. He further emphasised that EU criteria and EU values should continue to serve as an anchor for the reforms in Turkey. He stressed that the fulfilment of these criteria were important for ensuring the welfare and raising the quality of life of the Turkish citizens.

Touching upon the importance of the modernisation of the Turkey-EU Customs Union, IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu explained as follows: "In addition to the EU negotiations process, the modernisation process

of the Customs Union will enable to develop agricultural, industrial and services sectors by integrating Turkey in the EU's internal market and to improve its position in the global value chain and its national income by increasing trade relations. In that respect, it is claimed that the modernisation of the Customs Union and the revitalisation of EU accession negotiations would help to escape the middle income trap and would lead to an increase of the GDP by 12.5 billion euros".

Stressing to the benefits for countries to join the EU, IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu further stressed the following: "Under the condition of keeping the goal of membership, with the revision of the Customs Union, Turkey will need to comply with the EU's internal market. As a result, Turkey will become a country who can produce and trade in compliance with the norms and standards of the Internal Market. This would contribute in enhancing Turkey's position in the international arena".



SEVERE CRITICISM ISSUED IN TURKEY'S RECENT PROGRESS REPORT

FROM THE FIRST PAGE

The Report puts concerns with respect to fundamental rights as its highest priority and points out to the shortcomings in the area of freedom of expression. The Commission claims that the selective and arbitrary application of Turkey's legislation on national security takes place and this situation leads to a negative impact on freedom of expression. Criminal cases against journalists and closure of media outlets are also causes for concern for the Commission. Finally, the Commission also strongly reiterated that the unequivocal rejection of the death penalty is an essential element of the Turkey-EU accession framework and with respect to Turkey's international obligations.

As regards to the economic criteria, the Commission confirms that Turkey has a functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with the competitive pressure and market forces within the EU. However, the Commission drew the attention to some important macro-economic imbalances, especially the high level of the current account deficit and unemployment as well as the inflation rate remaining above the official target. The deterioration in the business environment and the slowing pace of structural reforms in markets for goods, services and labour have been other areas of concern expressed by the Commission. As a result, the Commission noted a regression in Turkey's economic performance as a functioning market.

In contrast, Turkey is considered to be well-integrated with the EU single market in terms of trade and investments relations. Moreover, Turkey's efforts to further liberalise the energy sector (especially in the electricity market) have also been recognised. Nevertheless, there are still some important concerns from the EU side regarding the quality of education, gender equality as well as the support for research and development in Turkey.

In terms of Turkey's ability to assume the obligations of its membership, it is noted that Turkey has pursued the legislative alignment with the EU *acquis* but at a rather slow pace. According to this latest Progress Report, Turkey has made good progress in only five chapters, namely, Company Law; Energy; Trans-European Networks; Foreign, Security and Defence Policy as well as Justice, Freedom and Security. The Commission stressed the importance for Turkey to achieve the legislative alignment with the *acquis* and to ensure its enforcement.

EP ADOPTS CONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION ON TURKEY'S ACCESSION TALKS

Members of the European Parliament voted overwhelmingly in favour of a controversial resolution calling for a temporary halt to accession negotiations with Turkey.



On 24 November, the European Parliament voted overwhelmingly in favour of a non-binding resolution calling for a temporary halt to accession negotiations with Turkey, citing what members of the European Parliament (MEPs) claim were "disproportionate repressive measures" taken by the Turkish government in the aftermath of the 15 July coup attempt. The resolution was passed with 479 votes in favour to 37 against, while 107 MEPs chose to abstain.

In the resolution, MEPs condemn the measures taken by the government in the aftermath of the July 2016 coup attempt and call on the Commission and the Member States to initiate a temporary freeze of Turkey's accession talks while indicating their commitment to keep Turkey anchored to the EU. According to the resolution, MEPs pledge to review their position when the measures under the state of emergency are lifted. Concerning the debate on the reintroduction of capital punishment, MEPs state that the reintroduction of the capital punishment would have

led to a formal suspension of the accession talks. With regards to visa liberalisation the resolution notes that Turkey is yet to fulfil 7 out of the 72 benchmarks outlined in the visa liberalisation roadmap. Noting the significance Turkey attaches to upgrading the Customs Union, the resolution points out that suspending work on upgrading the Customs Union would have serious economic consequences for the country. The resolution which consists of a total of 10 articles, also expresses concern about recent statements disputing the Treaty of Lausanne. The resolution urges the Commission to reflect on the latest developments in Turkey in the mid-term review of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) set for 2017 and tasks the Commission for examining the possibility of increasing support to Turkish civil society. Moreover, the resolution calls on the Commission, the Council of Europe and the Venice Commission to offer additional judicial assistance to the Turkish authorities. Lastly, while underlining Turkey's role as an important partner for the EU, the MEPs in the resolution criticise Turkey

for allegedly not demonstrating the necessary political will to cooperate with the EU.

In her address to the MEPs during the plenary debate ahead of the vote, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini warned against halting accession talks with Turkey, indicating that it would create a lose-lose scenario for both sides. The most effective way to strengthen democracy in Turkey is by engaging with it, Mogherini said. Earlier this month, EU Foreign Ministers had debated the situation in Turkey in the Foreign Affairs Council meeting. The main message from their meeting was to continue dialogue and keep communication channels with Turkey open.

The resolution is not legally binding, as the European Parliament has no role in triggering the mechanism for the suspension of accession negotiations. However, the controversial resolution is worrying as a political and symbolic message from the European Parliament which is considered to represent over 500 million European citizens and risks deepening the rift between Turkey and the EU.

The resolution has caused major criticism on part of Turkey. The reaction at the highest level came from President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan who a day before the vote stated that regardless of the outcome of the vote, the controversial resolution would have no value for Turkey. In a statement following the adoption of the resolution, Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik, declared the resolution "null and void" and criticised the European Parliament for engaging in visionless and imprudent debates instead of showing solidarity with Turkey at a time when the country was involved in a heightened fight against terrorism.

IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu, in a written statement, underscored that the resolution did not serve the intended purpose. "The Parliamentarians, who propose this resolution, should know that in order to reverse the practices which they condemn in Turkey and to set the conditions for the termination of state of emergency as soon as possible, it would be a more rational and effective practice to accelerate the negotiation process, rather than to halt it", IKV Chairman commented. Pointing to the fact that Turkey was fighting against several terrorist organisations and engaged in a violent war at its borders, IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu indicated that at this difficult hour, it was of paramount importance for the EU to support and stand in solidarity with Turkey. "If the EU wants to influence the developments in Turkey positively and consolidate European values, it should take the necessary steps to speed up the accession process and adopt a comprehensive strategy to bring Turkey closer to the EU, rather than freezing the accession talks" IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu added.

TOBB AND OTHER JCC MEMBER ORGANISATIONS CRITICISED EP RESOLUTION ON TURKEY-EU RELATIONS

In a joint announcement, TOBB along with the other Turkey-EU Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) members (HAK-İŞ, MEMUR-SEN, TESK, TİSK, TÜRK-İŞ, TÜRK KAMUSEN, TZOB) criticised the motion for resolution adopted at the European Parliament (EP) to "temporarily freeze the accession negotiations with Turkey". They indicated that such an action portrays a one-sided perspective with respect to the latest developments in

Turkey and is devoid of any credible and objective grounds. Furthermore, they also highlighted the fact that it is not in concordance with the natural mission of the EP. It was also affirmed that there is a need to better explain the consequences of the 15 July coup attempt to their counterparts in the EU and further noted their wish that such a resolution would not lead to deterioration in Turkey-EU relations.

Furthermore, they also underscored the critical importance of a sound pursuit of Turkey's EU accession process as it represents one of the most significant anchors for Turkey in its steps with respect to its economic and social transformation. As such, it was also highlighted that current issues and challenges can only be overcome by further diversifying the communication channels

between the parties and achieving progress in the negotiations. As representatives of the Turkey-EU JCC, they noted their wish for Turkey's EU accession process to be pursued on a more rational basis and called upon the need to progress in the accession negotiations through a diversification of communications channels under the basis of long term approach in the interest of both parties.

NEW IKV PANEL REPORT ON REFUGEE CRISIS AND TURKEY-EU COOPERATION

IKV published a Panel Report entitled "Turkey-EU Cooperation along the Axis of Refugee Crisis". The report presents the remarks of the four distinguished speakers (Prof. Ayhan Kaya, Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas, Assoc. Prof. M. Murat Erdoğan and Damla Taşkın) in the panel discussion organised by IKV in cooperation with Istanbul Bilgi University European Institute on 2 June 2016. The report also includes a content analysis carried out by IKV Researcher Ahmet Ceran concerning the perceptions towards Turkey-EU cooperation.

The report that puts the challenge of providing alternative and "out of the box" approaches to the center of its methodology presents stimulating and profound opinions on various issues such as the current stance on the Turkey-EU Migration deal and the Visa Liberalisation Dialogue, social and political cohesion of the refugees both within Turkey and the EU, the refugees' integration to the Turkish labour market and the economic, cultural and historic interactions as well as the future of Turkey-EU relations. In the end, the increasing necessity towards a comprehensive and efficient migration policy has been underlined.



PANEL ON "EU FOR EVERYONE"



IKV EU Information Centre, in cooperation with the Marmara University, organised a panel entitled "EU for Everyone" on 16 November 2016.

As key speaker of the panel, IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas made a speech on the future of Turkey-EU relations. Prof. Nas stated that the EU is currently struggling on how to secure its core values, especially in a context of rising right-wing political parties in

several EU Member States. However she emphasised that, with its core values including respect for human rights, freedom of speech, democracy and the rule of law, the EU continues to be an important reference in regard to democratic institutions and better quality of life for Turkish citizens. IKV Secretary-General Prof. Nas also stressed that EU membership should remain as Turkey's strategic goal. Touching upon the Brexit, Prof. Nas also stated

that this development might create a new momentum and/or a new model in Turkey-EU relations. In the panel, Head of the Department of the EU Politics and International Relations from the EU Institute at Marmara University, Assoc. Prof. Yonca Özer underlined that the future of relations between Turkey and the EU will mostly depend on the results of UN talks on Cyprus and the ongoing modernisation process of Customs Union.

TIMELINE NOVEMBER 2016

	1	○ Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik's visit to Greece (1-3 November)
Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu's visit to Switzerland (2-3 November)	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	○ TRNC President Akıncı's visit to Turkey
	6	○ Minister Çelik attended a working meeting with EU Ambassadors in Ankara
COP 22 in Marrakesh (7-18 November)	7	
Donald Trump won the US Presidential Election	8	
	9	○ European Commission published 2016 Turkey Progress Report
	10	○ Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland's visit to Turkey (10-12 November)
IKV attended the Kartepe Meetings (12-13 November)	11	
	12	
IKV and Friedrich Naumann Foundation organised a meeting on Turkey-EU relations in Kocaeli	13	
	14	
IKV launched its new Turkish e-Newsletter	15	○ Minister Çelik's visit to Brussels
	16	○ German Foreign Minister Frank Steinmeier's visit to Turkey
IKV Brief entitled "Why the Death Penalty Should Not Be Reinstated?" published	17	
	18	
	19	
IKV Brief entitled "The Challenge of Keeping Enlargement Alive in a Turbulent Time" published	20	
IKV hosted a panel on Common Agricultural Policy	21	○ NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg's visit to Turkey
	22	
IKV and Friedrich Naumann Foundation organised a meeting on Turkey-EU relations in Brussels	23	
	24	○ Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu's visit to the TRNC (24-25 November)
IKV and KAGIDER organised a panel on women's rights	25	
	26	○ Adoption of a resolution by the EP to freeze temporary the ongoing negotiations with Turkey
	27	
	28	
Minister for EU Affairs Ömer Çelik met with IKV Delegation in Brussels	29	○ Minister Çelik's visit to Brussels (29-30 November)
	30	

NEW PERSPECTIVES IN TURKEY-EU RELATIONS MEETING WAS HELD IN KOCAELİ

IKV, in cooperation with Friedrich Naumann Foundation organised the 5th meeting within the Project entitled “New Perspectives: Latest Developments in Turkey-EU Relations” at Kocaeli University on 14 November 2016.

The opening remarks of the meeting were realised by IKV and Kocaeli Chamber of Industry Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu. He reminded that Turkey-EU relations were going through a difficult period. In regard to the publication of the 19th Progress Report prepared by the European Commission, IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu further indicated that as a result of the slowing down of Turkey's EU accession negotiations, the progress reports are no more serving their original purpose of enhancing Turkey's rapprochement with the EU. Nonetheless, he stressed that regardless of the current situation, Turkey still needs to focus on the EU which represents a core anchor in Turkish foreign policy.

Moreover, IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu also reminded that the most important criticisms towards Turkey within the framework of the last Progress Report were in the areas of fundamental rights and the independence of the judiciary. In contrast with last year, the main difference was that this year, the

report also indicated backslides in the economic criteria.

Furthermore, he stressed that an important period is awaiting Turkey with the process of modernisation of the Customs Union which would have direct effects upon the Turkish economy, helping to tackle current difficulties faced by the business community and creating new opportunities for both parties. He also added that the modernisation of the Customs Union along with the enlargement of its scope would help Turkey in enhancing its ranking with respect to the global value chains and that more trade would be to the benefit of all and would lead to increase in the national wealth.

In his opening remarks, Kocaeli University Rector Prof. Sadettin Hülagü indicated that relations with the West have always been a priority in Turkey's foreign policy, thus underlying critical importance in studying thoroughly Turkey's relations with the West and particularly with the EU. In addition, Prof. Hülagü also reminded the words of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan which had

underscored that the reforms performed within the framework of the EU accession process are made first and foremost in order to uplift the living standards of the Turkish citizens. Regardless of the fact that Turkey does eventually become an EU Member State, he stressed that it is of utmost importance for Turkey to be a country with strong democratic values and a prosperous economy.

Upon completion of the opening remarks, a panel was realised under the moderation of IKV Research Director Çisel İleri and composed of IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas, Kocaeli University International Relations Lecturer Assoc. Prof. İrfan Kaya Ülger, Marmara University EU Institute Chairman of the EU Policy and International Relations Department Assoc. Prof. Yonca Özer and Assoc. Prof. Selcen Öner from the Social Studies Institute at Bahçeşehir University. The latest developments in Turkey-EU relations, the possible effects of Brexit upon the EU and the perception and support towards the EU in Turkey were the main topics discussed at the panel.



SEMINAR ON TURKEY-EU RELATIONS AND THE ECONOMY IN BRUSSELS

In the seminar which was held on 24 November, the latest developments in Turkey-EU relations and the revision of the Customs Union were discussed in detail.

The sixth seminar of IKV's project entitled “New Perspectives in Turkey-EU relations” was held on 24 November 2016 in Brussels. The seminar which was entitled “A Balancing Act: Turkey-EU Relations and the Economy” consisted of two panels and moderated by Barçın Yınanç from Hürriyet Daily News.

In the first panel, SWP Berlin Senior Fellow Günther Seufertand and Ankara University Lecturer Prof. Sanem Baykal discussed the latest developments in Turkey-EU relations and the need for further efforts to overcome the existing difficulties in relations. Seufert mentioned that Turkey and the EU shall continue to work together especially in the areas where common interests of both



parties prevail. Prof. Baykal emphasised that common values are as important as common interests. She also added that the Ankara Agreement has envisaged integration between Turkey and the EU and for that purpose a customs union was established instead of a trade agreement.

Intervening in the second panel, İKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu, explained that the Turkish economy performed relatively well and was successful in fulfilling the Maastricht criteria compared to many other Member States. As for Director of EDAM Sinan Ülgen, he emphasised that the revision

of the Customs Union will create a win-win situation for both Turkey and the EU. Furthermore, he raised the question and the need for more clarification regarding the fifth article of the European Parliament's resolution of 24 November 2016 with respect to the upgrading of the Customs Union. IPC-Stiftung

Mercator Senior Fellow Ioannis N. Grigoriadis, pointed out to the strong economic ties between Turkey and the EU whereas European Commission DG Trade Coordinator on Turkey Alfio Anzalone gave brief information regarding the preparations of the Commission on the revision of the Turkey-EU Customs Union.

SEMINAR ON THE CUSTOMS UNION IN THE LIGHT OF COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

IKV EU Information Centre organised a seminar entitled "Agricultural Policies within the context of the Customs Union" on 22 November 2016. The opening remarks at the panel were released by IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas, who was followed by the presentations of Senior Expert on rural development Halil Agah and EU Project Specialist Acar Şensoy.

In his presentation, Senior Expert Agah touched upon the global challenges in the agricultural sector such as climate change, food safety, water management and epidemic diseases. He also spoke about various issues related to sustainable agriculture such as renewable energy, organic farming, landless agriculture, consumer-focused agriculture, food safety and security, biotechnology and biodiversity as well as watershed management.

According to Senior Expert Agah, Turkey has succeeded in branding in recent years over 145 different products for both the domestic and international markets. Russia, Germany, Romania, Ukraine and Saudi Arabia are the five main countries to which Turkey has

exported agricultural products in 2015. He emphasised that Turkey has a dynamic and large internal market and constitutes an important agricultural power. With regards to aquaculture, indicating that Turkey is the third fastest growing country in the world, Senior Expert Agah explained that there is still room for further improvement on Turkey's part in regards to its export performance of aquaculture products to the EU. He explained that introducing a technological system that integrates legislation, marketing systems and organisation structures could increase organic farming. Furthermore, he underlined the importance of the rapidly growing biofuels market and the need to introduce renewable energy cooperatives and associations in Turkey as well as in other countries.

In his presentation, EU Project Specialist Acar Şensoy summarised the EU common agricultural policy since 1960s and explained the evolution of the policy in parallel to internal and external conditions. In this respect, he stated that boosting agricultural productivity generated a surplus of supply



and the need for reforms in the following years. The main reasons for the establishment of the common agricultural policy were to provide sufficient agricultural product, improve food safety, modernise the farms, protect the environment and improve the animal welfare. He explained that the main policy change

to common agricultural policy has been to minimise the direct support to farmers and to replace it by a new system of market mechanism where the support is directed to the farmers according to market conditions. Şensoy revealed detailed information about the three main points of this new system which are direct

payments, market regulations and rural development programmes.

Lastly, Şensoy also gave information about EU support for the rural development aiming to enhance innovation and competitiveness, to encourage sustainable forest management and develop ecosystems for the agriculture and forest.

IKV ATTENDED KOSANO'S TRAINING SEMINAR ON TURKEY'S CREDIT RATINGS

IKV attended the annual Joint Professional Committee organised by Kocaeli Chamber of Industry (KOSANO) which was held at Kartepe on 12-13 November 2016. The opening remarks of the meetings were realised by KOSANO Secretary-General Memet Barış Turabi, KOSANO and IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu and KOSANO Assembly Chairman Hasan Tahsin Tuğrul. Following the opening remarks, a workshop was held where 8 different groups

presented their views on Turkey's credit rating dynamics.

Following the workshop, a panel under the moderation of Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu entitled "Turkey's Credit Rating and its Effects" was held with the participation of PwC Turkey Advisory Partner Hüsnü Dinçsoy, Piri Reis University Rector Prof. Oral Erdoğan and IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas. In the panel, it was revealed that 16.8 billion dollars of foreign direct investments (FDI) were realised

in Turkey in 2015 and that thus Turkey ranked 22 in the world in terms of the amount of FDIs received. It was also emphasised that lately Turkey became a primary production centre in its own region thus presenting new investment opportunities. Another point highlighted was the fact that the pace of mergers and acquisitions is slowing down globally but that investment flows are significantly important in China, South Korea and the Middle East. Moreover, it was also

noted that Turkey is currently having difficulties in finding international financing and that political uncertainty had an adverse effect upon investments.

With respect to Turkey's EU accession process, while attention was drawn to the obstacles hampering the progress in the negotiations, it was also pointed out that the Visa Liberalisation Dialogue and the modernisation of the Customs Union were important in enhancing Turkey-EU relations.

Moreover, it was also indicated that in the latest Progress Report published by the Commission, for the first time, it was noted that there was also a backslide with respect to Turkey's compliance with the economic criteria. In that respect, it was highlighted that it is of critical importance for Turkey to implement thoroughly EU norms in order to further progress in its EU accession process.

TERRORIST ATTACKS IN TURKEY

Different provinces across Turkey continue to be the target of terrorist attacks. On 24 November 2016, a car bomb attack near a local government building in the

southern province of Adana killed 2 people and wounded more than 30 people. On the same day, another bomb explosion took place in the south-eastern province of Şırnak,

killing one soldier and wounding at least 5 people. In the aftermath of these tragic events, the European External Affairs Spokesperson released a statement to express

the EU's continuing solidarity with Turkey, its government and its people and to reaffirm the EU's commitment in working closely with Turkey to fight against all forms

of terrorism. As IKV, we strongly condemn all terrorist attacks and extend our deepest condolences to those who lost their lives and wish a fast recovery to those injured.

CYPRUS REUNIFICATION TALKS FACE A MAJOR SETBACK

As the talks in Switzerland ended without the necessary convergence to move the process to the next phase, uncertainty looms over the UN sponsored Cyprus reunification talks.

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) President Mustafa Akıncı and Greek Cypriot leader Nicos Anastasiades met in the Swiss resort of Mont Pèlerin, for the second time on 20-21 November 2016 to agree on the criteria for territorial adjustments and set the date for convening a five-party conference with the participation of the three guarantor powers to discuss the chapter of security and guarantees. Following the first round of intensive talks earlier in November, the talks were paused upon a request from the Greek Cypriot side. They returned to the Swiss resort on 20 November to continue their discussions on territorial adjustments. However, the Mont Pèlerin talks, which would have unlocked the final phase in the latest round of UN-mediated talks, seem to have reached an impasse. According to the statement made by the UN Spokesperson in Cyprus, "Despite their best efforts, they [the leaders] have not been able to achieve the necessary further convergences on criteria for territorial adjustment that would have paved the way for the last phase of the talks." On 21 November, the leaders returned to the island to reflect on the way forward. The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson in a statement expressed disappointment in the outcome of the talks. "A valuable opportunity has been missed at this critical stage of the process" the statement said. Emphasising



Turkey's determination for a viable settlement of the Cyprus issue, the statement called for setting the date of the five-party conference without further delay and with a view for the negotiations to continue.

TRNC President Mustafa Akıncı, in a press conference stated that the talks resulted in a deadlock due to the unfair attitude of the Greek Cypriot side. According to President Akıncı, the Greek Cypriot side pressed to finalise the chapter of territory to its favour at the initial stages of the talks rather waiting for the five-party conference phase and

aimed to strip the Turkish Cypriot side off its bargaining power. Had the talks on territory been successful, the two sides would have met to come together with the three guarantors at a five-party conference which would have taken place on 17-19 December 2016, Akıncı stated.

As uncertainty looms over the future of the talks, senior diplomats and foreign ministers have stepped in to bring the leaders back to the negotiation table to resume the current round of talks which has been regarded by many as the best chance

in over a decade to resolve the Cyprus issue. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, EU High Representative Federica Mogherini, US Vice-President Joe Biden were among the many senior figures who held calls with both sides. Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu also paid a working visit to the TRNC on 24-25 November 2016.

UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser Espen Barth Eide held separate talks with both leaders. Following his exchanges with TRNC President Akıncı, Eide told the reporters that the current

situation was not a break, but probably the most significant setback in the talks since May 2015. Eide noted that both leaders had expressed a continued desire to find a way to solve the Cyprus issue. He further stated that he did not believe restarting the talks would be an easy task but that the UN was doing its best to help through shuttle diplomacy. Efforts to convince the leaders to resume the talks are set to continue with key US and UK officials scheduled to visit the island within the next few days.

JOINT SEMINAR ON THE PLACE OF WOMEN IN THE BUSINESS WORLD

IKV EU Information Centre, in cooperation with KAGİDER, organised a conference entitled "Place of Women in the Business World" on 25 November 2016 at the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. In the meeting which was attended by a large number of academicians, students and representatives of women's rights associations, the opening remarks were realised by KAGİDER Board of Directors Member Servisimin Cömert Birced and IKV EU Information Centre Coordinator M. Gökhan Kilit.

During the conference, Sabancı University Independent Women Directors Project Manager Sevda Alkan realised a presentation entitled "Workplace Policies Towards Women Faced with Domestic Violence" where she pinpointed the difficulties and violence faced by women in the workplace.

The second presentation entitled "Place of the EU Perspective in Woman's Professional Life" was realised by Yıldız Technical University lecturer Dr. Ece Paralı Öztan. In her presentation, she revealed some striking statistics. For instance, while 35 percent of women working in employment outside of agriculture in Turkey have a university degree, the ration for men is only 15 percent. Indicating the importance of developing part time working system, Dr. Öztan underscored the need to develop a strategy enhancing both the participation of men and women in the workforce. Furthermore, she also noted that the assumption that "women do not prefer this department" expressed by companies is misleading and added that only 7 percent of a population of 27 million women who are able to work are actually working.



MINISTER FOR EU AFFAIRS ÇELİK'S VISITS TO THE EU

Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik made an official visit to Greece and Belgium during November 2016 to discuss the latest developments in Turkey-EU relations.

Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik paid a visit to Greece on 1-3 November 2016. During his visit, Minister Çelik was received by Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras. He also held meetings with Foreign Minister Nikolaos Kotziás and Alternate Minister for Public Order and Citizen Protection Nikos Kostas. Furthermore, he held a joint presence conference with his Greek counterpart Nikos Xydakis. During his visits, the two parties discussed the latest developments in Turkey-EU relations, Turkey's EU accession process, the ongoing migration crisis and cooperation in a variety of areas within bilateral relations. Moreover, Minister Çelik also had the opportunity to hold meetings with members of the Turkish minority of Western Thrace.

A few days later, Minister Çelik went to Brussels on 15 November 2016. Upon his visit, he held meetings with High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini and President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz. At the occasion of his visits, Turkey-EU relations in all its various aspects, cooperation with



respect to the ongoing migration crisis among other fields was discussed in detail.

Minister Çelik paid a visit to Brussels again on 29-30 November 2016 where he met with First Vice-President of the Commission Frans Timmermans, Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris Avramopoulos and Commissioner for the Security Union Sir Julian King. The visit of Minister Çelik was of significant importance as it is the first visit of the Turkish official following the motion for resolution adopted

at the European Parliament regarding a temporary freeze of accession negotiations with Turkey. The latest developments in Turkey-EU relations, dialogue and cooperation with the EU with respect to the refugee crisis and progress in the Visa Liberalisation Dialogue were among the main items which were discussed at the meetings. Following the meetings, at the occasion of a press conference, Minister Çelik highlighted both parties willingness to further cooperate and find solutions to remaining

issues. With respect to the refugee crisis, he underlined that neither Turkey nor its neighbourhood were in a position to further share the burden of new flows and thus pointed out to the critical importance of stronger cooperation between the parties in order to prevent such flows.

At the occasion of his visit to Brussels, Minister Çelik also had meetings with IKV Delegation represented by IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu, IKV Vice-Chairman Prof. Halûk Kabaaloğlu, IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas

and IKV Brussels Representative Haluk Nuray. Furthermore, Minister Çelik also attended the "Turkey-EU Civil Society Meetings" where representatives from the Turkish and EU press, civil society organisations, academic and business communities were also present. Minister Çelik indicated that this meeting represented the first one of a series of four meetings to be held in four different capitals with the aim of bringing together journalists, businessmen, academicians and representatives of civil society organisations.

EU OFFICIALS VOICED CONCERNS UPON THE ARRESTS OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Several EU officials reacted following the decision to detain several Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly on 4 November 2016.

In a joint statement, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn expressed their concern regarding the detention of HDP members including the HDP Party Co-Chairs Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ on charges alleging support of terrorist activities. They reiterated that the EU considers the actions against the terrorist organisation as legitimate but indicated the importance that such actions should not undermine the basic principles of democracy. They further called upon Turkey to take the necessary measures in order to safeguard its parliamentary democracy, including full respect for human rights and the rule of law.



Furthermore, President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz also reacted, noting that such detentions are a cause for concern for the state of political pluralism in Turkey. He added that the HDP represents the third biggest political group in the Turkish Grand National Assembly. He further indicated that such developments should be

addressed as a matter of urgency as Turkey is a candidate country to the EU. In his statement, he also noted the need for a sustainable relationship between Turkey and the EU and called upon the Turkish government to abide by its democratic commitments within the framework of its European aspirations.



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

Secretary-General of the Council of Europe (CoE) Thorbjørn Jagland has visited Turkey on 10 November for a series of high level meetings. During his visit, Secretary-General Jagland met with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Justice Bekir Bozdağ, Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik, President of the Turkish Constitutional Court Zühtü Arslan and representatives of the opposition parties.

President Erdoğan received the Secretary-General Jagland at the Beştepe Presidential Complex in Ankara and they discussed Turkey-EU relations

and the post-coup attempt atmosphere in Turkey. Prime Minister Yıldırım met with Secretary-General Jagland and thanked him for the solidarity shown by the Council after the coup attempt. Both parties shared their wish to enhance cooperation between Turkey and the CoE. Prime Minister Yıldırım also emphasized the importance of the CoE's support for Turkey in this "critical period". During the meeting held between Minister Çelik and Secretary-General Jagland, they exchanged views on the latest developments including the future of Europe after Brexit, Turkey-EU relations, 2016 Turkey Progress Report and the ongoing accession process.

TURKEY IN CLIMATE TALKS: A BIG QUESTION MARK

Paris Agreement on climate change sets a new global policy framework for all Parties. Turkey as a candidate to the EU needs to take part in this process by providing a clean roadmap for its climate actions.

İlge KIVILCIM,
IKV Researcher

In the aftermath of a historic approval process, the Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 December 2016 after fulfilling two criteria which are the ratification of the agreement by at least 55 Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) accounting for at least an estimated 55 percent of the total global greenhouse gas emissions. It is clear to many that climate talks under the UN are not satisfactory for the global community even though the Paris Agreement is underway. However, several countries translate their national objectives into a low carbon economy.

New Course on Global Efforts

Recently, the Paris Agreement was ratified by 116 Parties including the EU, the US, China and Australia representing almost 80 percent of global emissions. Regarding the key elements of Paris Agreement, it recognises the need of holding the temperature increase below 2 Celsius above pre-industrial level and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2100. To reach these goals, the Agreement will put in place financial supports, technology transfer and capacity building mechanisms. The Agreement will provide a transparent framework for actions taken by all Parties as well as a global stocktake every 5 years to assess national commitments. The Agreement also builds on supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

More importantly, following the early entry into force of the Agreement, there were discussions about how to implement the post-2020 roadmap. Therefore, the 22nd Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC (hereafter, COP 22), which was held between 7 and 18 November 2016 in Marrakech, was essential to discuss in throughout the implementation process of the



Agreement. During COP 22, governments set a rapid deadline of 2018 to complete the rules mentioned under the Agreement through the Marrakech Action Proclamation.

Turkey Stuck On Its "Special Demands" at the UN Talks

Turkey still has a low performance in regards to its climate change policy during the negotiations under the UN. Turkey's persistence to focus on its "special demands" limits its efforts in tackling with global climate change. What are these "special demands" limiting Turkey's contributions in global climate actions?

Even though Turkey as an OECD country is listed in Annex I in the UNFCCC, Turkey cannot participate in the flexibility mechanisms within

the scope of the UNFCCC regime. Therefore, Turkey asks for a special recognition under the Convention and the Paris Agreement: Turkey's demands are mainly based on a "differentiation" and "finance" clause during the COP meetings. In the last meeting of the UN climate talks in Marrakech, Turkey requested to be considered as a "developing country". Furthermore, Turkey asked developed countries for financial support to meet its national mitigation target (up to 21 percent reduction in emissions from business as usual level by 2030). However, Turkey's demands were not addressed in both the Paris Agreement and the outcomes of COP 22.

Above all, it is too early to state that climate talks under the UN are on track. However, the global trend

shifted to a low-carbon economy through the Paris Agreement. This undergoing process has already started to shape the new climate regime globally. For example, the US presented a roadmap for mitigation targets of 80 percent below 2005 by 2050 at COP 22. Mexico as a developing country set a clear pathway including 50 percent mitigation target by 2050.

Moreover, according to Article 2 of the Paris Agreement, the developing countries should continue enhancing their mitigation targets while developed countries should take the lead by reducing their emissions. This constitutes actually one of the main rules of the Agreement that Turkey should follow while shaping its national objectives. Turkey should translate its long-term plans into more ambitious policies

consistent with the Agreement. Instead of focusing on national demands, Turkey should ratify the Agreement as soon as possible. This is crucial for Turkey not only for reducing emissions at the national level but also for having a space in the new regime of post-2020.

Scientific numbers also show that rapid action matters. According to the Turkish Statistic Institute, total emissions CO₂ equivalent increased by 125 percent between 1990 and 2014. Moreover, even though Turkey plans to increase the use of renewable energy sources in its electricity production (30 percent by 2023), it also plans to open new coal plants and increase the average cycle efficiencies of existing coal-fired thermal power plants until 2023.