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THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE AND ITS ROLE IN SHAPING EUROPEAN CULTURE

The Ottomans were not just blood-thirsty warriors or decadent courtiers as depicted in common images but much more advanced, intelligent and able statesmen, explorers and merchants.

Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem NAS
IKV Secretary General

Like the Roman Empire it [the Ottoman Empire] was a multi-ethnic, multilingual, multiracial, multireligious empire... It was a European Empire that remains an integral part of European culture and history. That is one of the main points argued by historian Marc David Baer in his book titled "The Ottomans: Khans, Caesars and Caliphs". The Ottoman Empire played a "central role" in European history, extending its rule over the Balkans before it ventured into the East. Edirne (Hadrianopolis of the Byzantine Empire) was taken over by the Ottomans between 1361 and 1371, while the conquest of Trabzon in Eastern Black Sea coast happened a century later in 1461. The Ottomans ruled over nearly a quarter of Europe by the 15th and 16th centuries as far as Hungary. Trade relations with Western Europe were also extensive during this period. The capital of the Ottoman Empire, İstanbul, which remains the central point of attraction in today's Turkey as well, was and continues to be a European city.

The multi-ethnic and multicultural composition of the Ottoman Empire was a source of richness and dynamism. Kılıç Ali Pasha, who presided over the Ottoman navy during the Battle of Lepanto, was a Calabrian who converted to Islam in order to enter into Ottoman service. Several other important figures in Ottoman history such as the architect of the Süleymaniye and Selimiye Mosques Mimar Sinan was also of Christian roots and was recruited to serve among the Janissaries. Hence, the success of the Ottomans lay in intermingling the West and East and providing for conducive conditions for people of various backgrounds

to thrive in the service of the Empire. This understanding contradicts several prejudices and preconceptions about the Ottomans which still persist in the West.

History of the "Forgotten Giant": Ottomans as the "New Romans"

In his influential book, Baer noted that the Ottomans identified themselves as the "new Romans" owing to their conception as inheritors of Byzantium:

"Arabs, Persians, Indian and Turks referred to the Ottoman rulers as Caesars and their dominion as the Roman Empire," writes Baer. "Beginning with the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople, some Western European writers did too... Why have we forgotten what Europeans thought five hundred years ago? The Ottomans did not evolve in parallel with Europe; their story is the unacknowledged part of the story the West tells about itself."

William Dalrymple, in his essay on Baer's book published in the Financial Times on 24 November 2021, referred to the Ottoman Empire as the "Forgotten Giant" and noted that research on the Ottoman Empire by historians is far from being extensive and adequate. Baer, as a result of his extensive research in the Topkapı Palace archives, challenged old assumptions and prejudices which mostly viewed the Ottomans as fierce warriors who retreated both in terms of borders and power after the 17th century. In the words of Dalrymple, "Today, if they are remembered at all,



the Ottomans are usually dismissed in the west as aggressive but ultimately decadent and intellectually incurious warriors who controlled an old-fashioned land empire and who were ultimately defeated by the intellectual firepower of European science, then finally outflanked by its growing transcontinental sea power." Baer in his influential book shows us that these superficial assumptions may not really reflect the truth about the Ottomans.

Map of Piri Reis: Ottomans Rising up to the Challenge of the Age of Explorations

In his book, Baer explained the origins of Piri Reis' map dating back to the 16th century, which included the coastline of the New World. Baer wrote about the background to this map by Piri Reis: "He had

based it on Columbus's original, which is lost, and even interviewed a crew member from Columbus's voyages. To produce for the sultan one of the most complete and accurate maps of the world, Piri Reis had consulted ancient Ptolemaic, medieval Arab, and contemporary Portuguese and Spanish maps." Baer explained that the interest of Ottomans in geography, astronomy and nautical sciences reflected a desire to rival the Portuguese and Spanish in their discoveries and not to be left behind. After the conquest of Egypt in the 16th century, the Ottomans became a major maritime power not only in the Mediterranean but also the Indian Ocean,

aiming to have control over the trade route to south-east Asia. The Sultans referred to themselves as "Lord of the Two Seas and Two Continents," and "Masters of the Seven Climes".

The Ottomans, at the height of their power between the 15th and 17th centuries, were the most powerful actor over a large part of the world, including Europe, Asia and Africa. Diverse peoples from different ethnic backgrounds, speaking different languages and adhering to different religions lived in the territories ruled by the Ottomans. Yet these differences were not viewed by the Ottomans as sources of weakness or instability. Baer described this diversity and the Ottomans' approach as "a kind of pluralist equilibrium — what Spanish historians have called *convivencia* or "living

together" — which had no parallel in Christendom". He noted that Jews, who had been evicted from Granada, found refuge in the Ottoman Empire.

The Ottoman global vision and influence over a large territory spanning Eurasia is ably described in the following excerpt from Baer's book delivered by William Dalrymple in his essay: "From his palace on the Bosphorus, the 16th-century Grand Vizier, Mehmed Sokollu Pasha, a Serbian convert from Christianity and son-in-law of Selim II, simultaneously planned canals between the Don and the Volga, and the Red Sea and the Mediterranean; one day he might send artillery experts to the Sultanate of Aceh, Sumatra, to cut off the Malacca Strait and dispatch agents to fan rebellion against the Portuguese across the Indian Ocean; the next, choose a new king of Poland to thwart the Russians; the third, dispatch musketeers to fight as guerrillas on the side of Morisco rebels in Andalusia." He ordered pictures from Venice and commissioned an eleven-arched bridge over the Drina river. His inner circle included "Jewish courtiers, Venetian ambassadors and members of the Ottoman Greek elite."

In a nutshell, Marc David Baer's book "The Ottomans, Caesars and Caliphs" presents an eloquent, refined and insightful approach to the history of the Ottomans as a central actor in shaping European history and culture. The Ottomans were not just blood-thirsty warriors or decadent courtiers as depicted in common images but much more advanced, intelligent and able statesmen, explorers and merchants. Consequently, it would be a mistake to look at history today and construct an otherness between Europe and the Ottoman Empire. Such a perception sadly influences debates about Turkey's suitability for EU membership even today.



IKV CHAIRMAN ZEYTİNOĞLU ATTENDED THE 40TH TURKEY-EU JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The 40th Meeting of the Turkey-EU Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) was held in İzmir on 22 and 23 November 2021. The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) President and Co-Chair of the Turkey-EU JCC M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, IKV Chairman and TOBB Vice President Ayhan Zeytinoğlu, Chairmen and representatives of HAK-İŞ Trade Union Confederation (HAK-İŞ), Confederation of Civil Servants' Unions (MEMUR-SEN), Confederation of Tradesmen and Craftsmen of Turkey (TESK), Confederation of Trade Unions of Turkey (TÜRK-İŞ), Turkish Confederation of Employer Associations (TİSK), Confederation of Public Employees' Unions of Turkey (Türkiye KAMU-SEN) and Chairmen of İzmir Chamber of Commerce, Aegean Region Chamber of Industry and the İzmir Commodity Exchange participated in the meeting. Conveying his views on Turkey-EU relations, the European Green Deal and the modernisation of the Customs Union at the JCC meeting, IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu pointed out to the importance of strengthening Turkey-EU relations and the modernisation of the Customs Union.

The opening speeches of the meeting were delivered by TOBB President and Turkey-EU JCC Co-Chair M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and Turkey-EU JCC Co-Chair Peter Clever, Acting Director General of European Commission's Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations Maciej Popowski, Head of the EU Delegation to Turkey



Ambassador Nikolaus Meyer-Landrut, President of the External Relations Section at EESC Dimitris Dimitriadis and Turkey's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs Ambassador Faruk Kaymakcı. TOBB President and Turkey-EU JCC Co-Chair Hisarcıklioğlu emphasized that the Turkish Wing of the JCC sees the relations between Turkey and the EU as a roadmap and a prescription for the transformation of Turkey's economic, business, social and humanitarian life.

TOBB President and Turkey-EU JCC Co-Chair Hisarcıklioğlu stated that the Turkish Wing of the JCC has always been a strong supporter of Turkey's relations with the EU. Hisarcıklioğlu explained that Turkey-EU relations needed closer dialogue more than ever. "Since 1995, the Turkey-EU JCC has managed to come together in good times and difficult times. Today, we convene once again united to show our support for the dialogue between Turkey and the EU. The Customs Union has been the most important tool in the transformation of the Turkish economy. Accession negotiations have expanded

this further. We have all felt the positive impact of the accession negotiations in many areas. We had an agenda that allowed us to think of a common future for both the EU and Turkey. Unfortunately, relations between Turkey and the EU have stagnated in recent years. On the other hand, we all know we need each other. It is not possible to continue the current situation as it is."

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs Ambassador Faruk Kaymakcı stated the following in his speech: "The positive agenda is something that needs to be worked out. Full membership is an important perspective. We know that's not going to happen tomorrow. If Turkey is asked to proceed on a reformist path, and is expected to act within the Copenhagen criteria, halting the full accession process is a source of demotivation. Turkey is not actually moving away, it used to be, but Turkey is being pushed away due to the actions of some Member States. We definitely want Turkey to be evaluated from a membership perspective. But you know the Customs Union

needs to be updated. In today's applications there are asymmetries and there are points that cause problems in terms of trade. But it is important to maintain the positive agenda between the EU and Turkey. It's important to have high-level meetings. Unfortunately, the suspension of our membership process for political reasons has been a demotivational practice for us."

EESC Member and Turkey-EU JCC Co-Chair Peter Clever said that despite all the difficulties faced by countries, they had to keep their communication channels open. Stressing the need to focus on two issues, Clever made the following points: "The first is changes in joint disaster management. We must have the same equipment and training. And in doing so, we need permission. The other is making the economy green; it's a necessity for all of us. We are currently acting in the Paris Agreement, we are happy with it; there is so much we can do together."

Meanwhile, Head of the EU Delegation to Turkey Ambassador Nikolaus Meyer-Landrut expressed his pleasure to be in İzmir and wished the meeting would prove productive. Drawing attention to climate change and migration as serious problems faced by all countries, Meyer-Landrut stated the following: "In terms of climate change, we welcomed Turkey's signing of the Paris Agreement. We're moving forward with this now. In that sense, I thank the authorities. Energy, transportation, environment, agriculture and education have been the basis of our financial agreements to date. Natural disaster issues are also an important topic, we often

encounter various events in this regard. As for migration, I would like to underline once again that Turkey has been a great host since the beginning of the Syrian crisis. Currently, 3.7 million Syrian migrants have been received, according to official records. Various committees for migrants have been established in Turkey. 4.3 billion euros in aid has already been provided. It is clear how much work needs to be done in Afghanistan, it was very important for Turkey to stop irregular migration flows through Belarus."

After the opening session, the JCC meeting continued with sessions on disaster management, the green economy and the modernisation of the Customs Union. A joint statement was adopted on the second day of the JCC meeting.

IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas also attended the JCC meeting and delivered a presentation in the session on the modernisation of the Customs Union. In her presentation, IKV Secretary General Nas stated that modernisation of the Customs Union has become even more urgent. Assoc. Prof. Nas emphasized that the transformations in the world economy and geopolitical uncertainties made it even more critical for Turkey and the EU to work together. The other speakers in the session, moderated by Turkey-EU JCC Co-Chair Peter Clever, were Aegean Region Chamber of Industry President Ender Yorgancılar, KAGİDER President Emine Erdem and Deputy Director General for International Agreements and EU at the Ministry of Trade Bahar Güçlü.

TOBB PRESIDENT HİSARCIKLIOĞLU PARTICIPATED IN THE 8TH TURKIC COUNCIL HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT

On 12 November 2021, TOBB and the Turkic Chamber of Commerce and Industry President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu attended the 8th Turkic Council Heads of State Summit organised under the theme "Green Technologies and Smart Cities in the Digital Age" on the Island of Democracy and Freedoms.

The 8th Turkic Council Heads of State Summit, which was hosted by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, was attended by President İlham Aliyev of Azerbaijan, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan, President Sadyr Japarov of Kyrgyzstan, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan,

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov of Turkmenistan, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán of Hungary and Turkic Council Secretary General Baghdad Amreyev. President Erdoğan thanked TOBB at the press conference held after the 8th Summit of Heads of State of the Turkic Council.



İKV AGENDA

İKV CHAIRMAN ZEYTİNOĞLU VISITED DİYARBAKIR

İKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu, İKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas, İKV Deputy Secretary General M. Gökhan Kilit and İKV Research Director Çişel İleri visited Diyarbakır to hold a series of meetings on 6 December 2021.

İKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu and the accompanying delegation paid a courtesy visit to Diyarbakır Governor Münir Karaloğlu, Diyarbakır Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman and İKV Board Member Mehmet Kaya, and Diyarbakır Commodity Exchange Chairman Engin Yeşil. During the meetings, current



developments in Turkey-EU relations, modernisation of the Customs Union and the European Green Deal were discussed.

İKV DISCUSSED THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL IN DİYARBAKIR

İKV organised a panel titled "The Paris Climate Agreement and European Green Deal, Modernisation of the Turkey-EU Customs Union and EU Funding Opportunities" in Diyarbakır. The panel, which was hosted by Diyarbakır Chamber of Commerce and Industry EU Information Center, was held in cooperation with Diyarbakır Organized Industrial Zone and the EU Delegation to Turkey.

The opening speeches of the panel were delivered by İKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu, Diyarbakır Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman Mehmet Kaya and Diyarbakır Organized Industrial Zone Chairman Mustafa Fidan. In the panel, which was moderated by Diyarbakır Chamber



of Commerce and Industry Assembly President Celalettin Birtane, İKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas gave a presentation on the Paris Climate Agreement and the European Green

Deal while İKV Deputy Secretary General M. Gökhan Kilit discussed the modernisation of the Turkey-EU Customs Union and İKV Research Director Çişel İleri talked about IPA funds and EU programmes.

İKV CHAIRMAN ZEYTİNOĞLU PARTICIPATED IN THE WORLD CHAMBERS CONGRESS IN DUBAI

İKV Chairman and TOBB Vice President Ayhan Zeytinoğlu participated in the 12th World Chambers Congress held under the theme "Generation Next: Chambers 4.0" in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates between 23 and 25 November 2021. Organised by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and its World Chambers Federation (WCF), the World Chambers Congress stands out as the only global forum enabling chamber leaders and representatives to share best-practices, exchange insights, develop networks, address current business issues and discover new areas of innovation.



The 12th edition of the World Chambers Congress, which was held in hybrid format for the first time, brought together more than 1,000 chamber and business leaders from 110 countries. The three-day World Chambers Congress featured 44 sessions with over 80 speakers.

At the World Chambers Competition 2021 ceremony held on the final day of the World Chambers Congress, TOBB received the Special Award presented for the support it provided for organising the safe passage of ICC staff from Kabul to Istanbul.

TIMELINE NOVEMBER 2021

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5	İKV Secretary General Nas discussed the European Green Deal at the event jointly organised by the International Relations Council and Bodrum Municipality.
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8	Turkish Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu held a phone conversation with his Polish counterpart Rau on the migrant crisis on the EU border with Belarus.
9	İKV Secretary General Nas participated in the webinar hosted by the European Neighbourhood Council.
10	
11	Hungarian Prime Minister Orbán paid an official visit to Turkey.
12	Turkey hosted the 8 th Summit of the Turkic Council.
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15	İKV Secretary General Nas took part in the webinar held in association with Gedik University.
16	İKV Secretary General Nas spoke at the online panel hosted by the Turkish-German University.
17	İKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu attended the 48 th AICO General Assembly Meeting.
18	İKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu participated in the working meeting held at the Austrian Embassy.
19	İKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu participated in the working meeting held at the Austrian Embassy.
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22	İKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu attended the 40 th Turkey-EU JCC Meeting in İzmir.
23	İKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu participated in the 12 th World Chambers Congress in Dubai, UAE.
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26	İKV marked its 56 th anniversary.
27	The policy brief authored by Prof. Bahri Yılmaz from Sabancı University on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (in Turkish) was published from İKV Brief series.
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29	The World Health Assembly gathered for a special session on developing an intergovernmental agreement on future pandemics.
30	Turkish Minister of Health Koca and European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Kyriakides met for the Turkey-EU High-Level Dialogue on Public Health.



IKV EU INFORMATION CENTER ORGANISED A PANEL ON THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

IKV Istanbul EU Information Center organised a panel on the occasion of "International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women" at Wyndham Grand Istanbul Levent Hotel on 1 December 2021. The panel was moderated by IKV Deputy Secretary General M. Gökhan Kilit who talked about EU's Gender Equality Strategy and the negative effects the COVID-19 pandemic caused particularly on women. During the panel, leading academics held an in-depth discussion on gender equality and the legal, social and media dimensions of violence against women in the context of both Turkey and the EU.

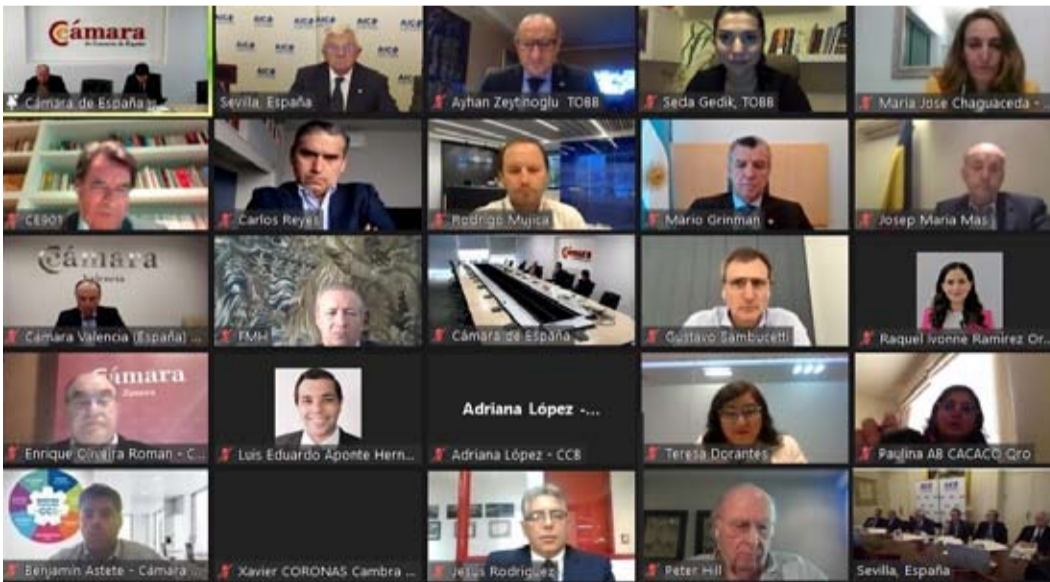
Speaking at the panel, Dean of Koç University Law School and UNESCO Chair Holder on Gender Equality and Sustainable Development Prof. Bertil Emrah Oder analysed Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention. Indicating that considerable steps had been taken for gender equality in the past 20 years, Prof. Oder stated that while withdrawing from the Istanbul Convention was formally possible, undoing the substantial gains acquired through the Convention was essentially impossible.

Founder and Director of Women in Foreign Policy

Initiative and Dean of Okan University Faculty of Business and Administrative Sciences Prof. Zeynep Alemdar evaluated violence against women from a foreign policy dimension. Underscoring that violence against women influenced states' foreign policies, Prof. Alemdar pointed out that conflicts decreased when the number of women parliamentarians increased.

IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas stressed that 30% of all women in the world have been subjected to physical or sexual violence, and in most cases the violence came from close partners. Emphasizing that violence against women was a social matter, Assoc. Prof. Nas said that violence was always the perpetrator's fault and entirely the perpetrator's responsibility.

The final panellist, Head of the Faculty of Communication Sciences, Cinema and Television Department at Anadolu University Prof. Erol Nezih Orhon noted that gender equality is not given utmost importance in movies, TV series, and commercials. Focusing on how the portrayal of women in the media affected them adversely, Prof. Orhon stated that women were depicted as being in a constant need to be loved and liked but not necessarily respected.



IKV CHAIRMAN ZEYTİNOĞLU PARTICIPATED IN THE 48TH AICO GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

On 18 November 2021, the Ibero-American Association of Chambers of Commerce (AICO) held its 48th General Assembly Meeting online hosted by Term President Seville Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Maritime Affairs and

Services. IKV Chairman and TOBB Vice President Ayhan Zeytinoğlu attended the meeting representing Turkey, along with the Presidents of chambers of commerce unions of 23 Ibero-American countries and AICO member companies.



IKV CHAIRMAN ZEYTİNOĞLU ATTENDED THE WORKING MEETING AT THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY

IKV Chairman and TOBB Vice President Ayhan Zeytinoğlu attended the working meeting hosted by Austrian Ambassador Johannes Wimmer on 19 November 2021. Ambassador Wimmer was joined by Undersecretary

of Commerce Christian Maier and representatives of Austrian companies with investments in Turkey. During the meeting, views were exchanged on economic and investment relations between Turkey and Austria.

IKV SECRETARY GENERAL NAS DISCUSSED TURKEY-EU RELATIONS IN VARIOUS EVENTS



IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas discussed Turkey-EU relations and prominent global issues in various events throughout November. IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Nas spoke at the panel titled "Green Deal and Turkey's Energy Agenda" jointly organised by International Relations Council and Bodrum Municipality on 6 November 2021. Emphasizing the transformation underway in the light of the European Green Deal, she evaluated its reflections on different policies and its effects on Turkey. On 10 November, IKV Secretary General Nas participated in the webinar hosted by the European Neighbourhood Council (ENC) as part of the "Beyond Erasmus" training programme and discussed state of play in Turkey-EU relations and expectations for the future.

On 16 November, Assoc. Prof. Nas spoke at the webinar organised by IKV in association with Gedik University ASEAN Application and Research Center. In the webinar titled "EU-China and Germany Relations after the German Elections", the policies of the new government to be formed in Germany and the changes that could be expected in the post-Merkel period were discussed. A day later, Assoc. Prof. Nas participated in the online panel organised within the scope of the Turkish-German University's EU and International Relations Master's Programme. Stating that Turkey-EU relations have become quite tense, complex and uncertain in the recent period, Nas underlined that despite all the problems, the relations are indispensable for both sides.

HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES

SPANISH PRIME MINISTER SÁNCHEZ AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION VICE-PRESIDENT SCHINAS VISITED TURKEY



Two significant visits from the EU were made to Turkey in the third week of November. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez paid an official visit to Ankara for the 7th Turkey-Spain Intergovernmental Summit on 17 November 2021. One day after this visit, European Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas visited Turkey to hold a series of meetings.

During the 7th Turkey-Spain Intergovernmental Summit in Ankara, six new agreements covering areas such as industry, technology, youth and sports, energy and social security were signed. After the summit, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez held a joint press conference. President Erdoğan expressed his gratitude to Spanish

Prime Minister Sánchez for his support to Turkey's EU membership goal and urged the EU to approach Turkey from a strategic perspective. President Erdoğan also pointed out that the EU must take concrete steps for the modernisation of the Customs Union and for granting visa liberalisation to Turkish citizens as soon as possible.

Especially bilateral cooperation in the defence industry was highlighted during the summit. In this regard, President Erdoğan stated that Turkey and Spain were two important countries that ensured the defence and security of Europe from the east and west. Emphasizing the importance of the amphibious assault ship, TCG Anadolu, manufactured together with Spain, he mentioned possible common projects such as larger air-capable ships and submarines.

Another important visit to Ankara was made by European Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas who is responsible for coordinating migration and security policies of the Union. Commission Vice-President Schinas visited Turkey on 18 and 19 November in the context of his tour of the partner countries key for dealing with the migrant crisis caused by the Belarusian regime. Within the scope of his visit to Turkey, Schinas met with Vice President Fuat Oktay, Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu. The visit and meetings were aimed at further reinforcing the overall cooperation on migration and security between Turkey and the EU.

Taking measures for tackling the migration problem at Belarus-Poland border such as restricting ticket sales to Belarus by Turkish Airlines (THY) was crucial in terms of reducing the short

term effects of the issue. Commission Vice-President Schinas also emphasized this and extended his thanks to the Turkish government. In addition, he also came together with THY General Director Bilal Ekşi in order to express his gratitude for the measures taken.

In conclusion, these two visits were very fruitful for the future of Turkey's relations with the EU. The Turkey-Spain Intergovernmental Summit and the agreements signed showed that Turkey and the EU countries keep trying to develop bilateral cooperation in various areas. Vice-President Schinas' visit, which focused on migration management and the role of Turkey, also revealed the efforts of the EU and Turkey for maintaining a positive agenda. Lastly, the visit reinforced Turkey's support for migration and refugees and the atmosphere for renewing the 18 March Turkey-EU Statement.

TURKEY HOSTED THE 8TH SUMMIT OF THE TURKIC COUNCIL



The 8th Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council) was held in Istanbul's Democracy and Freedoms Island on 12 November 2021. Founded in 2009, the Turkic Council consists of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, and Uzbekistan as member countries while Turkmenistan and Hungary have observer status.

Within the scope of the meeting, the name of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States was officially changed to the "Organization of Turkic States". The Council also took a remarkable decision by adopting a document titled "Turkic World Vision 2040," which refers to reachable and results-oriented targets on foreign policy, security, economic cooperation, inter-communal ties and relations with foreign actors until 2040.

Speaking after the summit, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan called on the members of the Turkic Council to act together in the fight against global problems such as terrorism, climate change, xenophobia, and Islamophobia. Indicating that all non-tariff barriers should be lifted among Turkic Council countries, President Erdoğan highlighted the importance of diversifying and strengthening cooperation in economy, trade and mutual investments. President Erdoğan also stated that the isolation

and the embargoes that the Turkish Cypriots were facing could be eased with the current member countries' contribution.

Ahead of the summit, Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Orbán, whose country enjoys observer status in the Turkic Council, paid an official visit to Turkey to co-chair the 5th Meeting of the Hungarian-Turkish High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council with President Erdoğan. In the context of Orbán's visit, nine cooperation agreements were signed between Turkey and Hungary in the military, industry, science, technology, culture, tourism, sports and youth domains.

Speaking at the joint press conference after his meeting with Hungarian Prime Minister Orbán, President Erdoğan indicated that Turkey was determined to advance its cooperation and solidarity with Hungary, which is Turkey's strategic partner, and expressed Turkey's goal to increase the bilateral trade volume with Hungary to 6 billion dollars. For his part, Orbán said that bilateral cooperation in research, science, training, and nuclear energy was ongoing. Stating that Europe was in need of allies who could improve its lines of defence, Orbán underscored that Turkey was one of the countries contributing to Europe's defence the most.

TURKEY JOINED THE ERASMUS+, HORIZON EUROPE AND EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS PROGRAMMES



On 27 October 2021, Turkey formally joined three new generation EU programmes in the areas of research and innovation, education and mobility for the period 2021-2027. The agreements granting Turkey association status to Horizon Europe, Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes were signed by Turkey's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs Ambassador Faruk Kaymakcı and European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture and Youth Mariya Gabriel in Brussels.

Horizon Europe programme, which is the world's largest civilian R&D and innovation programme, is designed especially for increasing the collaboration between industry and universities. Public and private institutions, NGOs and SMEs will also be able to benefit from the funding grants of the Horizon Europe programme. TÜBİTAK is the national coordination unit of the programme encompassing many fields such as climate change, space, industry, food and energy, especially green development and digitalisation in Turkey. Under the Horizon 2020 programme, covering the 2014-2020 period, Turkish participants signed 748 projects, 1087

projects partnerships and 186 SME partnerships receiving a support of approximately 277 million euros while 334.8 thousand euros was contributed per projects.

Operating under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate for EU Affairs, the Turkish National Agency carries out the Erasmus+ and ESC programmes. Approximately, 60 thousand people benefit from the Erasmus+ programme in Turkey every year. Erasmus+ enables young people to understand the world, discover new skills, expand their horizons and participate in social responsibility projects. Between 2014 and 2020, 740 million euros were provided to projects from Turkey under the Erasmus+ programme. The new Erasmus+ programme is allocated a total budget of 28.4 billion euros. The ESC, which offers young people between the ages of 18-30 the opportunity to participate in solidarity and volunteering activities, will have a total budget of 1 billion euros between 2021-2027. The programme, in which 50 thousand young people have participated so far, consists of various projects covering almost every region of Europe.

In a statement, European Commissioner Gabriel welcomed Turkey to Horizon Europe, Erasmus+ and ESC programmes and indicated that Turkey's participation in the programmes would not only further strengthen their capacities, but also support Turkey's integration into the European Research Area and European Education Area. For his part, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Kaymakcı said that participation in EU programmes was an indicator that Europe should be in Turkey's horizon and highlighted the contributions Turkey could offer to the new generation EU programmes.

MIGRANT CRISIS ON THE EU BORDER WITH BELARUS AND TURKEY'S POSITION

Reaffirming its support for Poland, Latvia and Lithuania in the midst of the influx of refugees, Turkey has taken additional measures and intensified diplomatic contacts with affected states.

Poland and the EU have accused Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko of retaliatory measures against EU sanctions by specifically inviting and forcing migrants to the Polish border. The EU countries bordering Belarus - Lithuania, Latvia and Poland - have reported a dramatic increase in the number of irregular border crossings since August 2021. According to the latest EU figures, 7,935 people have tried to cross the border between Belarus and the EU in 2021 compared to just 150 in the previous year. As a result, the Polish authorities reinforced border guards and mobilized more than 15,000 soldiers after a large group of migrants, accompanied by the Belarusian military, marched towards the country's border. Following these developments, Turkey was accused of having supported and flown migrants to Belarus through Turkish Airlines during a migrant crisis.

Turkey rejected these allegations in a written statement issued by the Turkish Foreign Ministry on 11 November 2021. Indicating Turkey's position as a country hosting the largest number of refugees in the



world over the past decade, the statement underlined that Turkey acknowledged the challenges faced by Poland, Lithuania and Latvia and reiterated the country's full support for its allies. In addition, the Foreign Ministry reminded that Turkey has missed no opportunity to stress the importance of taking the necessary steps to combat irregular migration and human trafficking, and urged the international community to approach the issue with a sense of responsibility and sensitivity. Finally, the statement by the Ministry expressed Turkey's wish for the problem between the concerned parties to be resolved "in moderation" and voiced Ankara's readiness to provide all necessary assistance in this regard.

Meanwhile, diplomatic traffic between Turkey and the EU countries affected by the irregular migrant crisis induced by the Lukashenko regime intensified. Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and his Polish counterpart Zbigniew Rau discussed the migrant crisis on the Polish-Belarusian border over a phone call on 10 November. Çavuşoğlu expressed regret over the baseless allegations targeting Turkey and the Turkish Airlines. Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu also held a phone call with his Latvian counterpart Edgars Rinkēvičs amid the ongoing migrant crisis with Belarus during which the Latvian Foreign Minister thanked Turkey for the measures taken in this regard.

Turkey's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (SHGM) announced that Turkey will no longer allow citizens from Syria, Yemen and Iraq to buy plane tickets from the country to Minsk while the migrants are on the border Belarus and the EU. President of the European Council Charles Michel thanked Turkey for the arrangement to prevent the citizens of Iraq, Syria and Yemen from buying one-way tickets and boarding planes to Belarus at Turkish airports.



FDI INFLOWS TO TURKEY REACHED PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS

Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to Turkey rebounded and approached pre-pandemic levels. According to the latest data announced by the Central Bank of Turkey, FDI inflows to Turkey increased by 89% annually reaching 9,828 million dollars in the first nine months of 2021, while cumulative FDI inflows to Turkey amounted to 12.1 billion dollars in the last 12 months.

The sectoral breakdown of the FDI inflows to Turkey reveals that wholesale and retail trade, manufacturing industry, information and communication technologies, financial services and logistics and warehousing activities were among the top five sectors receiving investment during the first three quarters of 2021. The UK, USA, the Netherlands, United

Arab Emirates, Switzerland, Luxembourg, South Korea, Germany, Japan and Qatar were recorded as the top 10 countries in the FDI inflows to Turkey. The figures show that diversity in sectoral and regional breakdown of incoming FDI in Turkey expanded in the first nine months of 2021.

Global foreign companies are interested in Turkey in areas such as information technologies, automotive and mobility, energy, chemistry, machinery, life sciences and financial services. Venture capital funds are a new centre of attraction in Turkey for foreign companies while early stage investments in technology start-ups reached 1.411 billion dollars in the first nine months of this year and are expected to increase further in the coming period.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC FORECAST AUTUMN 2021 EDITION: PROJECTIONS ON THE TURKISH ECONOMY

The European Commission published the European Economic Forecast for Autumn 2021 on 11 November 2021. While the Commission states that the EU economy was rebounding from the pandemic-induced recession faster than anticipated, there is also an expectation for expansionary tendencies. Although the European economy struggles to tackle the inflationist pressures and the rise in energy prices, from the perspective of the Commission and the European Central Bank the future looks hopeful.

In the section evaluating Turkey's economic performance, the Commission indicates that Turkey experienced a stronger-than-expected economic recovery in the first half of the year. It is also predicted that growth will slow down in the next two years as all domestic demand components excluding

stocks become fixed. The anticipated recovery in the travel and tourism sectors together with the projections for exports, point to a positive picture.

On the other hand, expansionary monetary policy and global price pressures will keep inflation high in Turkey. However, the Commission



warns that the recovery process may be derailed with the low credibility in the field of monetary policy and possible geopolitical tensions.

In the meantime, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey (CBRT) decided to cut its benchmark one-week repo rate from 16% to 15%. With this latest cut, CBRT has reduced the key rate by 400 basis points since September 2021.

In the Economic Forecast Report, it is expected that Turkey will close this year with a growth rate of 9% and maintain this growth trend with 4% in 2022 and 2023. Although the recovery in the labour market is visible, it is projected that the short term increase in consumption will slow down due high inflation and the decrease in purchasing power.

Finally, Turkey's current account deficit prediction for the end of the year was projected as 2.7%, 2.2% for 2022 and 1.6% for 2023.

TURKEY CONTINUES TO MEET CLIMATE TARGETS IN PLASTIC RECYCLING AND RENEWABLES



Recycling plastic waste is seen central to Turkey's aim to reach its zero-emission target by 2053. According to Turkish Recyclers Association (GEKADER), Turkey saves 1 billion dollars per year by reusing 1.1 million tons of plastic waste, while the recycling ratio has risen to 22.4% from 13% under the Turkish Zero Waste project which kicked off 11 years ago. The plastic waste sector generates 1 billion dollars annually by employing around 350,000 personnel in 1,300 firms.

On the other hand, Turkey is committed to renewable energy targets as much as waste recycling to become resilient to

the climate crisis. Turkey's power capacity in renewable energy is approximately 53,000 megawatts as of the end of October while the country has reached the 10,000 megawatts wind energy milestone recently, Energy and Natural Resources Minister Fatih Dönmez announced on 22 November 2021.

During his speech at the opening of the 11th Turkey Energy Summit, Minister Dönmez said that the share of renewable energy sources in electricity production exceeded 42% in 2019 and 2020, and thus the 2023 target has already been achieved.

TURKEY TO RECEIVE 1.5 BILLION EURO FINANCING FROM EBRD

Already the largest country of operation of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) by annual investment and portfolio, with more than 14 billion euros of cumulative investments since 2009, Turkey's recent ratification of the Paris Agreement and its net-zero commitment paved the way for more funds to flow from the Bank to Turkey. President of the EBRD Odile Renaud-Basso announced that the EBRD is to provide around 1.5 billion euros in financing for the Turkish economy, roughly half of which is expected to be in green financing this year. She said that the EBRD's commitment to the continued success of the Turkish economy and the resilience of its private sector can be seen in the green financing it offers to Turkey, among which is the first externally verified green loan in Turkish manufacturing worth 150 million euros, a part of which is



structured in line with the Green Loan Principles of the Loan Market Association. Mentioning the Bank's plans to double financing for female entrepreneurs and the expected approval by the EBRD Board of Directors of 500 million euros in Green Economy Financing Facility (GEFF) on 24 November 2021, Renaud-Basso emphasized the importance of sustainability and urged Turkey to put forward the updated nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and a long-term strategic action plan to achieve the climate goals and the transition to a net zero emission.

Recently, more climate investment opportunities from France, Germany, the World Bank and the UN to Turkey have been announced in the form of 3.1 billion dollars' worth of climate funds seem to be coming Turkey's way as announced last week.

On another note, as a country hosting the largest Syrian refugee population, Turkey ratified a grant agreement signed with the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) and the EU Delegation to Turkey on 11 November. The agreement worth 79.3 million euros has been signed on 28 September to carry out a major refugee healthcare project titled "Strengthening Healthcare Infrastructure for All". The project involves the construction and renovation of a number of migrant health centres, the renovation of physiotherapy and rehabilitation units in public hospitals, as well as the purchase of medical equipment and supplies. The project is expected to be completed by 30 May 2024.

EU PROLONGED THE EAST MED SANCTIONS REGIME BY ONE YEAR

On 11 November 2021, the EU Council reviewed the sanctions framework regarding Turkey's drilling activities in the Eastern Mediterranean and adopted a decision extending it until 12 November 2022. The sanctions framework, which consists of an EU-wide travel ban and an asset freeze for persons and entities involved in hydrocarbon drilling activities that the EU considers unauthorised, was extended for the first time last year. In addition, EU persons and entities have been barred from disbursing funds to the persons and entities included in the sanctions list. The extension of the sanctions framework implies that EU could add new persons or entities into the sanctions list which currently includes two senior Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) officials.

As it can be recalled, the sanctions framework was agreed by EU foreign ministers on 11 November 2019 as a follow up to the EU Council Conclusions of 14 October 2019. On 27 February 2021, Vice-President and member of the Board of Directors of



TPAO, Mehmet Ferruh Akalın and the Deputy Director of the Exploration Department of TPAO, Ali Coşkun Namoğlu were added on the sanctions list.

The decision to extend the sanctions regime for an additional year runs counter to the spirit of the "positive agenda" which Turkey and the EU are trying to create following a year marked by tension over hydrocarbon exploration rights in the Eastern Mediterranean. Given the steps that Turkey has taken to de-escalate the tension in the region, which were welcomed in the European Council conclusions of 25 March 2021, it would only be fair for the EU to reciprocate by reversing this decision.

NETFLIX SERIES "THE CLUB" PROVIDES A GLIMPSE OF 1950S TURKEY

The most recent addition to the family of Netflix Turkey original series "The Club" has caused quite a stir among its audience both in Turkey and abroad.

A mini-series of six episodes directed by Zeynep Günay Tan and Seren Yüce, "The Club" focuses on a series of events taking place at a 1950s nightclub in İstanbul, an ex-convict Jewish woman called Matilda who works there and her relationship with her daughter during the multicultural İstanbul of the 1950s. The series has won praises from the Turkish Jewish community as well as from non-Jews alike, for its attention to detail, the costumes, scenery, screenplay, and acting. However, the series is also well received for other reasons. One of them is the fact that Turkish Jews' mannerisms and their use of the Ladino language are very well reflected in the series and that "Jewish people are portrayed as regular people, some of them good, and some of them bad", in the words of Ivo Molinas, editor-in-chief of *Şalom* weekly newspaper. The fact that the social and political events of that period including the Wealth Tax— known in the non-Muslim



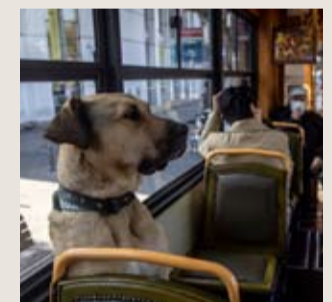
community, but not as much in the Muslim community— are not left out and thus helps raise awareness about a part of Turkey's history is also considered an important factor in the interest for the series.

"The Club" comes after the success of other Netflix Turkish original series among which are "The Protector", the first one broadcast in 2018 and "The Gift", broadcast later on in December 2019. Others followed since, each successful in their own right, resulting in Turkey to become one of the top countries selling its productions

internationally. In fact, according to a recent research conducted by an independent international consulting firm to reveal the impact of the Netflix's Turkish productions on the national economy, their contributions to the Turkish culture and its contributions to the job market in the creative industry of the country, Netflix productions have generated around 583 million liras (52 million dollars) for Turkey's economy so far while employing over a total of 3,300 people both during and after the production of the series.

STAR OF İSTANBUL'S TRANSPORT: THE COMMUTER DOG BOJİ

A street dog named "Boji" has become popular among the residents of İstanbul and on social media as a regular İstanbul commuter. He uses the city's public transport systems to get around, walks among the passengers on İstanbul's ferries, trams and buses as if he were just another commuter. "We noticed a dog using our metros and trains and he knows where to go. He knows where to get out. It's like he has a purpose" said Aylin Erol of Metro İstanbul. Since noticing the dog's movements, the İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality officials began tracking his commutes via microchip and phone app. His tracking device data shows that historic tram lines are the dog's favourite mode of transport, but he is also a frequent subway commuter. Boji sometimes travels up to 30 kilometres and 29 stations a day using subway trains, ferries, buses, and İstanbul's historic trams. Boji learned how and where to get on and off the trains and ferries, also respects public transport rules, and waits for disembarking passengers before hopping on the train.



The dog's name comes from the word "bogie" ("boji" in Turkish), the vehicle's framework that houses the wheel and axle since his favourite spot is sitting on top of the bogie and feeling the vibrations of the engine. İstanbulites from various districts of the city come across Boji on different occasions and share his images on social media. Boji has already gained over 100,000 followers on Twitter. Each post, whether on Twitter or Instagram, contains a message encouraging public transportation users to follow city safety rules. However, the most important thing Boji does is what he evokes to İstanbulites: "He reminds us that we can still enjoy İstanbul even as we rush around."

FROM GREAT EXPECTATIONS TO GREAT DISAPPOINTMENTS: THE 26TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

The gains achieved at the 26th Conference of the Parties held on 31 October-13 November 2021 fell short of expectations.

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The world has changed significantly since the first case of COVID-19 that emerged in early 2020. The COVID-19 has revealed the linkage between human-centred economic development and the outbreaks of infectious diseases, similar to the effects of climate change. It has also changed the production and consumption patterns substantially at the same time. Enclosed spaces and travelling have started to be avoided and this also led to the postponement of the Conference of the Parties (COP26), which was supposed to take place in late 2020 in Glasgow, the UK.

While the postponement of COP26 was a source of disappointment for everyone who was looking forward to more ambitious climate policies, developments such as the European Green Deal, the US' return to the Paris Agreement, and the carbon or climate-neutrality targets announced by major emitters have started to raise hopes. However, the outputs of the Sixth Assessment Report were alarming since the report signalled that the changes in climate would become catastrophic and irreversible if widespread, urgent, and rapid greenhouse gas emission reductions were not achieved in line with global warming of 1.5°C. This called for more ambitious climate action from all parties concerned, and COP26 was the best chance for increasing global climate ambition.

More Pledges, Increasing Ambitions

With approximately 50,000 people participating both online and offline, COP26 was the biggest COP to date. During the first two days of COP26, 120 heads of state and government participated in the World



Leaders' Summit and put forward new and more ambitious pledges. However, the absence of the leaders of Russia and China, Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping was criticised by many. While Russian President Vladimir Putin announced Russia's 2060 carbon neutrality target via a video, China and the US jointly stated that they will work together to implement more ambitious climate actions which would reduce greenhouse emissions in the current decade to prove otherwise.

US President Joe Biden also announced that the US will introduce measures to reduce emissions in forestry and agriculture, oil and natural gas sectors in a short while. On the other hand, with the net-zero pledges from the heads of state of India, Thailand, Nepal, Nigeria, and Vietnam, 90% of the global economy has now made net-zero commitments.

During the summit, at least 110 leaders that represent 85% of the world's forests also pledged to halt and reverse deforestation and degradation by 2030. Additionally, the EU also committed to mobilising 1 billion euros to protect the world's forests.

At least 104 leaders that represent 70% of the global economy committed to reducing methane emissions by 30% by 2030, under the Global Methane Pledge.

The Clean Energy Dilemma Continues

Energy makes up two-thirds of greenhouse gas emissions and thus contributes heavily to climate change. Moreover, current energy trends do not comply with the 2050 net-zero emissions scenario.

While the energy production and the greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere were significantly reduced in 2020 during the early times of the COVID-19 pandemic, fossil fuel use has once again started to rise lately. To make the 2050 net-zero emissions scenario a reality, electric production from coal must be reduced by 11% per year by 2030 and fully stopped by 2040. Therefore, many parties have started cooperating to halt coal power altogether. During COP26, 23 more countries declared that they would stop investing in coal in 30 years, and thus bringing the total number of countries pledging to quit coal to 48. Moreover, 20 countries including the US, Canada, and the UK vowed to stop investing in coal, natural gas, and oil overseas and to invest 1.8 billion dollars in renewable energy per year. However, economies such as Australia, Japan, South Korea, and China, which are dependent on coal, were criticised for not being among the pledgers who would stop investing in coal.

Never-ending Negotiations

Negotiations are an integral part of the COPs. In order for commitments to materialise, negotiations must be carried out successfully.

The COP25 was deemed a failure since negotiations for more ambitious wordings for measures on climate change, land use and the Article 6 of the Paris Agreement regarding international carbon markets fell through. The failure on reaching a deal made it impossible to finalise the Paris Rulebook.

Thus, COP26 was seen as a critical platform to address the issues that have not been able to be resolved for years. The UK Presidency of COP26 published a draft text that called on all parties to draw up net-zero strategies and accelerate climate actions by 2022. This draft was welcomed for including the "loss and damages" and a call to "stop fossil fuel investments", however it was also criticised for not being adequate.

Just as in the previous COPs, the parties had trouble reaching a deal on the outcome document which would be published following COP26. The failure to reach a compromise on the language regarding coal use resulted in the extension of the COP26 by one day. On the extra day of the negotiations, 13 November, 200 countries adopted a compromise deal which seeks to balance the interests and goals of the parties. The outcome document,

also known as the "Glasgow Climate Pact", had positive and negative connotations. The biggest gain of the pact was that after decades of trying, fossil fuel was finally linked with climate change in a COP outcome document. More ambitious actions were also foreseen on the "adaptation", "financing" and the "mitigation" sections of the document. However, the inability of the developed countries to put forward a financing source for loss and damages and to increase the financing for developing and least developed countries was criticised again.

Unlike the previous COPs, the parties finally reached a settlement on the Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and the Enhanced Transparency Framework and thus the Paris Rulebook could be finalised after six years.

However, the biggest disappointment of the COP26 was related to the language used for coal use. While the Glasgow Climate Pact initially included "the phase-out of unabated coal power and of inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels", after a last minute change to the pact by China and India, "the phase-out of unabated coal power" was watered down to "the phase-down of unabated coal power". This development is alarming, especially considering that according to the International Energy Agency 40% of the world's coal mines must be shut down and no new coal mines should be built by 2030 in order to limit global warming by 1.5°C.

Overall, it can be seen that COP26 had its ups and downs. Some think that it has the "least worst outcome" by expressing their disappointment but also claiming that it had to balance the differences of the needs and capabilities of the parties. Just as Patricia Espinosa, the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC said: "Negotiations are never easy... This is the nature of consensus and multilateralism". Countries are expected to revise their national plans and sit down at the negotiation table with stronger emission reduction commitments next year at COP27, set to take place in Egypt.