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RETHINK, REBUILD, REPOWER: PRIORITIES OF THE CZECH EU PRESIDENCY AND PROSPECTS FOR TÜRKİYE-EU RELATIONS

The Czech Republic, which will preside over the Council of the EU throughout the second half of 2022, will focus its programme on Ukraine, energy security, defence and cybersecurity, economy, and democratic values.

The Czech Republic, also known as Czechia, took over the Presidency of the Council of the EU from France for the second half of 2022 on 1 July 2022. The Czech Republic takes over the EU Presidency for the second time after its EU Presidency in the first half of 2009.

The Czech Republic will carry out this task with France and Sweden under the 11th Presidency Trio. Russia's intervention in Ukraine on 24 February 2022 not only brought a "security concern" to the EU agenda, but also affected the priorities of the Prague administration for the EU Presidency, which will last until the end of 2022. In this case, the priorities of the Presidency have been announced on 15 June 2022 at the Hrzánský Palace by Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala. Priorities include the management of the refugee crisis and Ukraine's post-war recovery, energy security, strengthening Europe's defence capabilities and cyberspace security, strategic resilience of the European economy, and the resilience of democratic institutions.

At the press conference, it was also announced that the motto of the Czech Presidency would be "Europe as a task: rethink, rebuild, repower", inspired by a speech delivered by former Czech President Václav Havel at the Charlemagne Award ceremony on 15 May 1996. The motto emphasises that the tasks ahead of Europe should be handled carefully and comprehensively. Within the scope of the motto, priorities and logo design, the Czech Republic has declared to the entire European nation that it sees its EU Presidency as a "call to duty".

The Main Priorities Set out by the Czech Presidency

First of all, Russia's intervention in Ukraine, which has been on the agenda of Europe since 24 February,



will be, unsurprisingly, one of the prior topics on the EU agenda during the Czech Presidency. This priority includes the continuation of the economic sanctions against Russia and the continuation of the military and political support given to Ukraine by the EU countries. In addition, it was announced that the situation of Ukrainian refugees who rushed into Eastern European countries as a result of the ongoing conflicts will be one of the issues to be addressed during the Czech Presidency.

Secondly, Russia's intervention in Ukraine deepened the energy security concerns of the EU. In particular, the efforts to impose sanctions on Russian oil and natural gas led to the objections of various EU countries who are dependent on Russian fossil fuels. For this reason, the energy security debates will continue to be one of the main subjects during the Czech Presidency. It was stated in the declaration that the EU could not be dependent on the countries that directly threaten its security and therefore had to end its dependence on Russian gas, oil, and coal. It was emphasised that the implementation of the REPowerEU should have been accelerated, and that energy sources should have been diversified by investing in low-emission and renewable energy.

Third, it was announced that defence and cybersecurity should be strengthened. In this context, it has

been noted that the implementation of the Strategic Compass, which constitutes the EU's military strategy for 2030, would be supported. However, these capabilities will be realised by cooperating with non-European partners under the umbrella of NATO. It was remarked that implementation efforts of the EU Hybrid Toolbox would be accelerated.

Fourth, the economy will become more prominent, particularly in relation to the global inflation trend, rising energy prices, and deterioration of the supply chain. The COVID-19 pandemic and Russia-Ukraine war have severely disrupted global supply chains and increased energy prices to a record level. Therefore, tackling these economic problems would be a priority of the Czech Presidency.

Last but not least, democratic values will be one of the main headings of the Czech Presidency. In this regard, the Prague administration has set some goals such as transparent financing of political parties, the independence of mass media and establishing an open dialogue with citizens in order to maintain and develop democratic values and the rule of law in the EU.

Türkiye-EU Relations Under the Czech Presidency

The future of Türkiye-EU relations during the Czech Presidency should also be mentioned in this regard. In domestic politics, Türkiye has

entered a period in which it shifted its focus to soaring inflation, supply chain problems, and the fight against terrorism. On the other hand, due to Russia's intervention in Ukraine, Türkiye's importance in terms of European security has increased and due to this fact, Türkiye developed a dynamic foreign policy agenda. These issues in domestic and foreign policy will become the determining factors in Türkiye-EU relations during the Czech Presidency.

Türkiye enjoys positive relations with the Czech Republic and the Prague administration supports Türkiye's EU membership process. Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš visited Türkiye in 2019 and emphasised that the two countries act together on many issues. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu wrote an article in the Czech newspaper *Lidove Noviny* last month. Noting that the Czech Presidency is an opportunity for Türkiye-EU relations, Çavuşoğlu emphasised that Türkiye contributed to the EU in many areas such as security, defence, foreign policy, energy security, economy, and migration management.

In April 2022, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs Ambassador Faruk Kaymakçı paid an official visit to the Deputy Foreign Minister for European Issues of Czech Republic Aleš Chmelař. During the meeting, they pointed out that

the cooperation between Türkiye, Czech Republic and the EU would be increased during the Czech EU Presidency, and that the two actors also agreed on reviving Türkiye's EU membership process.

In the first half of 2022, during the French Presidency of the Council of the EU, Türkiye and the EU attempted to turn a new page in their relationship and various high-level dialogue meetings were held in this regard. In this context, we have witnessed positive developments such as the first high-level agricultural dialogue between the two actors, the holding of a political dialogue meeting at the political directors' level, or the Türkiye-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee meeting after three years. Maintaining this momentum during the Czech Presidency is quite significant for the normalisation of Türkiye-EU relations, which have faced many crises in recent years. The Czech Republic's supportive attitude towards Türkiye may increase the dialogue and high-level meetings between the two actors.

In conclusion, we should note as a warning that there are also various minefields that could increase the tension in Türkiye-EU relations during the Czech Presidency. For example, the EU's reaction to a possible new military operation by Türkiye in Northern Syria may create tensions in the relations. On the other hand, the EU's backing for Greece in the event of a possible escalation between Türkiye and Greece as a result of Athens' militarisation of the Eastern Aegean Islands is another minefield for the future of relations. Possible developments on these issues could de-escalate the tension amongst the parties if the dialogue would be increased instead of nonconstructive criticism, while another scenario could lead the current ongoing dialogue to be frozen, as has been experienced in previous years.



IKV AGENDA


IKV CHAIRMAN ZEYTİNOĞLU VISITED MALATYA GOVERNOR ŞAHİN

IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu, who visited Malatya for an event organised by IKV in association with the Malatya Chamber of Commerce and Industry, came together with Malatya Governor Hulusi Şahin on 27 June 2022.

IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu briefed Governor Şahin about IKV's activities and current issues in Türkiye-EU relations. Malatya Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman Oğuzhan Ata Sadıkoğlu was also amongst the participants in the meeting.

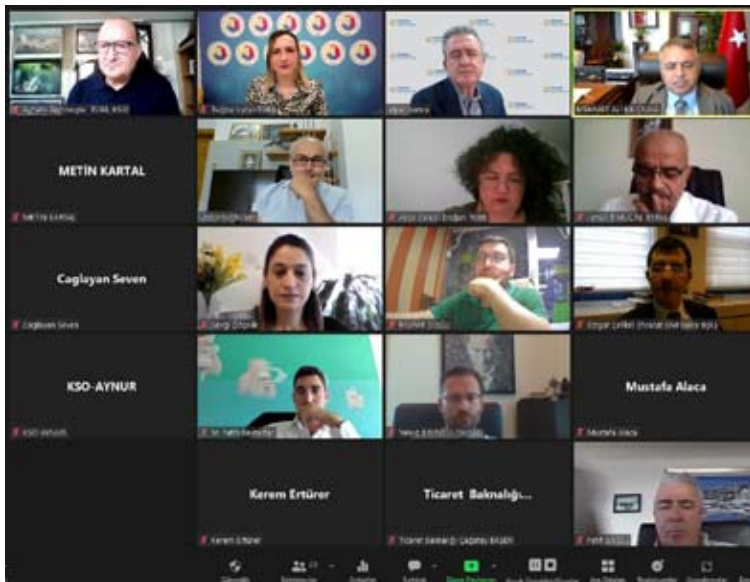


IKV ATTENDED THE KOCAELİ CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEES WORKSHOP

IKV attended the professional committees workshop organised by the Kocaeli Chamber of Industry on 11-12 June 2022. The workshop started with the opening speeches of IKV and

Kocaeli Chamber of Industry Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu and Kocaeli Chamber of Industry Council Chairman Tahsin Tuğrul. After the opening speeches, the workshop covered the industry's

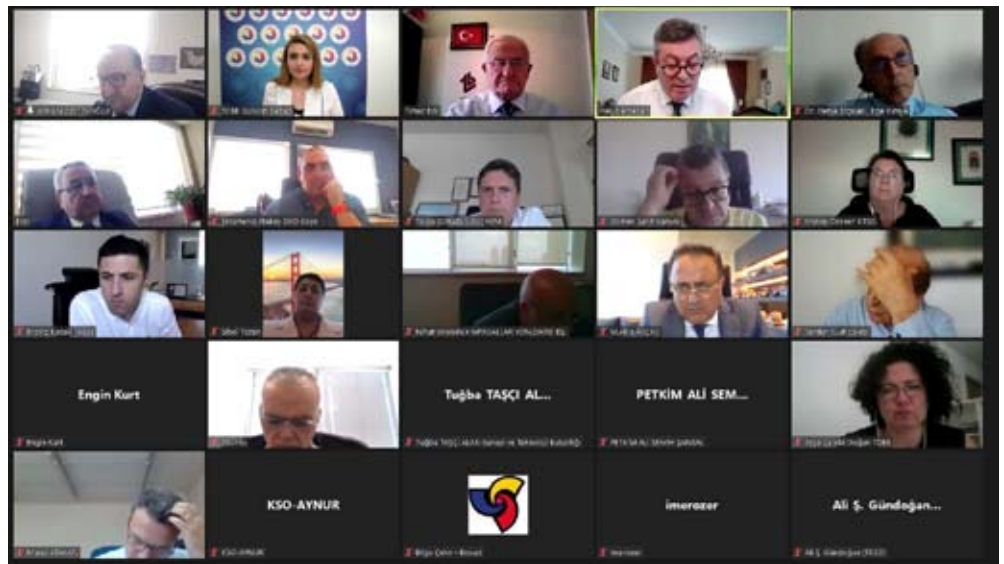
challenges, opportunities and expectations for the future. IKV Experts came together with the professional committee members at the workshop and supported the work.



IKV CHAIRMAN ZEYTİNOĞLU PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING OF AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY INDUSTRY COUNCIL

TOBB Automotive Supply Industry Council Meeting was held with the participation of IKV Chairman and TOBB Vice President Ayhan Zeytinoğlu under the chairmanship of Council Speaker Alper Kanca. The meeting started with the opening speech of Zeytinoğlu, who assessed the opportunities and potential challenges for the automotive sector. After the meeting, discussants noted

that the automotive sector is a large global sector employing 80 million people with a trade volume of 2.7 trillion dollars and that the automotive sector is the sector with the highest export figures in Türkiye. It was also stated that automotive sector is one of the important manufacturers of the world with 16.1 billion dollars of main industry and 16.5 billion dollars of sub-industry.



IKV CHAIRMAN ZEYTİNOĞLU ATTENDED TOBB CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COUNCIL MEETING

On 24 June 2022, IKV Chairman and TOBB Vice President Ayhan Zeytinoğlu co-chaired the TOBB Chemical Industry Council Meeting, which addressed the problems of the sector, with Council President Timur Erk. Following the opening speeches of Zeytinoğlu and Erk, discussions were made with the Council Members on the current situation of the sector.

At the meeting, where the problems in the supply of raw materials and intermediate inputs were discussed in detail, the problems experienced in the

supply chain were highlighted. It was stated that the recession in the chemical sector globally caused a decrease in the export rates of the chemical sector in Türkiye.

While stating that the chemical industry is a sector that has to export the goods produced by imported raw materials, Council Members emphasised that the problems experienced in the supply chain may lead to bigger problems in the coming days and that they need to make some exceptions for the sector for precautionary purposes.

The latest situation in the chemical industry, the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) and the European Green Deal were amongst those discussed at the meeting. In addition, information was provided on the studies carried out on European Green Deal issues.

The representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change stated that they were aware of the importance of the REACH regulation for the sector and underscored that they would support the sector in this regard area.

İKv AGENDA

CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE AND CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES VISITED İKV

Civil Society Dialogue and Civil Society Sector Representatives, consisting of the Head of Project Implementation Department of the Directorate for EU Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs A. Hakan Atik, EU Affairs Expert Sinem İçöz Bölükbaşı, Team Leader for Technical Assistance of Civil Society Dialogue Cengiz Çiftçi, Technical Assistance for Civil Society Dialogue and Civil Society Support Programmes Pınar Alkan and Technical Support Team Dialogue Network Specialist Hayriye Ataş, visited İKV on 15 June 2022 and met with İKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas, Deputy Secretary General M. Gökhan Kilit and Research

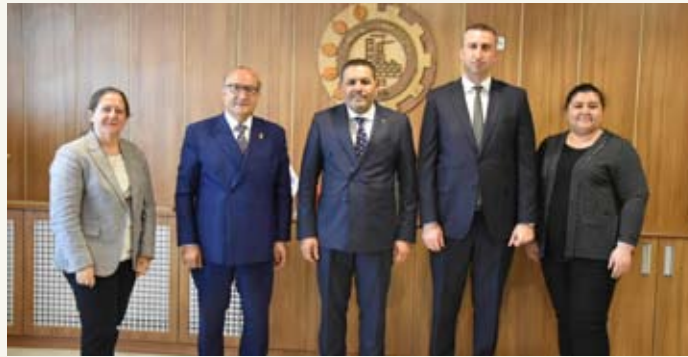


Director Çisel İleri. During the visit, the current situation in Türkiye-EU relations, the role and importance of civil society in the development of

relations, and the contribution of civil society to Türkiye's EU membership process in the upcoming period were discussed.

İKv DISCUSSED THE IMPACT OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL ON TÜRKİYE-EU RELATIONS IN MALATYA

İKv organised a conference entitled "The European Green Deal and its Impacts on Türkiye-EU Relations" hosted by the Malatya Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 27 June 2022. The opening speeches of the conference were delivered by İKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu, Malatya Governor Hulusi Şahin, and Malatya Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman Oğuzhan Ata. In his opening speech, İKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu emphasised that the EU has implemented a new green growth strategy that includes energy efficiency, transition to renewable energy, and the implementation of circular economy principles, and in this context, all main policies of the EU such as industry, trade, energy, agriculture, and transport are being renewed. In the panel session, presentations were made by the İKV delegation. İKV Secretary General



Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas gave a presentation on the European Green Deal and its implications for Türkiye-EU relations and discussed the European Green Deal process. Following Assoc. Prof. Nas, İKV Deputy Secretary General M. Gökhan Kilit delivered a speech on the current developments in Türkiye-EU relations, Türkiye-EU Customs Union, and the Customs Union modernisation process,

and provided information on the Türkiye-EU trade and current issues. Finally, Research Director Çisel İleri gave a presentation on Türkiye-EU Financial Cooperation, EU funds and programmes and informed the participants about the EU funding opportunities which the business community and civil society can benefit from. The conference concluded with the closing speech by İKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu.

NEW PUBLICATION BY İKV ON THE GLOBAL CLIMATE POLICIES

In order to minimise the negative effects of climate change, it is of great importance to limit global warming to 1.5°C. However, the world must be rendered climate neutral by the middle of the century in order to achieve this goal. Hence, several countries, institutions and organisations, especially the EU, continue to put forward many policies

and strategies towards achieving a climate neutral world.

The publication entitled "Global Efforts on the Way to A Climate Neutral World" (in Turkish), authored by İKV Researcher N. Melis Bostanoğlu, aims to examine the global climate policies put forth by the major economies in order to achieve a climate-neutral world.



TIMELINE JUNE 2022

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3	İKv Secretary General Nas participated in the meeting entitled "Türkiye and Germany in a Changing World".
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5	İKv Secretary General Nas spoke at the Türkiye-EU Forum of Maltepe Municipality.
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8	9th Turkish-Dutch Bilateral Conference was convened in Ankara.
9	İKv Secretary General Nas spoke at the Green Deal Event in Bursa Organised Industrial Zone.
10	İKv Secretary General Nas spoke at the 12th Green Economy Conference.
11	İKv attended the Kocaeli Chamber of Industry Professional Committees Workshop.
12	
13	The EU provided additional 50 million euros for the vulnerable refugees in Türkiye.
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15	Civil Society Dialogue and Civil Society Sector Representatives visited İKV.
16	Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu went on a Balkan trip.
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20	Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu met with UK Foreign Secretary Truss.
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23	İKv Secretary General Nas spoke at the closing meeting of the COBENEFITS Project.
24	İKv Chairman Zeytinoğlu attended the TOBB Chemical Industry Council meeting.
25	
26	İKv discussed the impact of the European Green Deal on Türkiye-EU Relations in Malatya.
27	
28	İKv organised a webinar entitled "EU as a Trade Actor, Global Value Chains and Türkiye".
29	İKv organised a webinar entitled "European Security and the Future of EU Enlargement".
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31	

IKV ORGANISED A WEBINAR ON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND EU ENLARGEMENT

On 29 June 2022, IKV organised a webinar entitled "European Security and the Future of EU Enlargement" as part of the "Future of Europe and Türkiye" Webinar Series carried out in association with the Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate for EU Affairs. The opening speeches of the webinar, which was moderated by IKV Deputy Secretary General M. Gökhan Kilit, were delivered by IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs Ambassador Faruk Kaymakçı.

In her opening speech, IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas emphasised that the security community, seen as the EU's greatest achievement, was threatened by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the classical understanding of security was revived. Highlighting that the importance of Article 5 of NATO was re-understood, Assoc. Prof. Nas stated that the EU enlargement process has added great dynamism to the EU and accelerated its internal reform process and initiatives in the field of security.

Delivering the second opening speech, Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Kaymakçı underscored that Türkiye's contribution to European defence is far greater than that of many European countries. Moreover, Ambassador Kaymakçı stated that Türkiye could consider taking part in the European Political Community



provided that this was not seen as an alternative to the membership process and the views of the participating countries were to be handled fairly.

Following the opening speeches, the webinar continued with a panel discussion with the participation of distinguished academics. In the panel session, Prof. Tarık Oğuzlu from İstanbul Aydın University, Assoc. Prof. Sinem Kocamaz from Ege University, and CEPS Research Fellow Zachary Paikin shared their views on European security in the aftermath of Russia's intervention in Ukraine and the future of the enlargement policy in light of the European Council's decision to grant candidate status to Ukraine and Moldova.

IKV ORGANISED A WEBINAR ENTITLED "EU AS A TRADE ACTOR, GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS AND TÜRKİYE"

IKV organised a webinar entitled "EU as a Trade Actor, Global Value Chains and Türkiye" on 28 June 2022 as part of the "Future of Europe and Türkiye" Webinar series carried out in association with the Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate for EU Affairs.

The opening speeches of the webinar, which was moderated by IKV Deputy Secretary General M. Gökhan Kilit, were delivered by IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu, Deputy Minister of Trade Mustafa Tuzcu, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs Ambassador Faruk Kaymakçı.

The webinar continued with the special addresses by Deputy Director General of Ministry of Trade Bahar Güçlü and Head of Unit at European Commission-DG Trade Nele Eichhorn. While Deputy Director General of Ministry of Trade Bahar Güçlü voiced her belief that Türkiye's integration into the global value chain would increase synchronisation, the Head of Unit at the European Commission's DG Trade Nele Eichhorn pointed out the current problems experienced in Türkiye-EU Customs Union.

Following the opening speeches, the webinar continued with a panel discussion which was moderated by IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas. In the panel session, Visiting Associate in LSE International



Trade Policy Unit Stephen Woolcock, TEPAV Director of G20 Studies Center Assoc. Prof. Sait Akman, CEPS Senior Researcher Milan Elkerbout, and Assoc. Prof. Pınar İpek from TOBB University shared their views on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war on global value chains, how the EU policy will be shaped in the face of the disruptions in global value chains, and the global energy problems. Türkiye's strategic importance in global value chains, and the future of Türkiye-EU trade were also addressed during the webinar.

IKV SECRETARY GENERAL NAS PARTICIPATED IN VARIOUS PROGRAMMES AND EVENTS



In June 2022, IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas discussed Türkiye-EU relations and crucial foreign policy issues in various events and programmes.

On 3 June 2022, IKV Secretary General Nas participated in the

Istanbul-based conference of the Berlin Bosphorus Initiatives on "Türkiye and Germany in a Changing World" at Turkish-German University. IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas moderated a session on Türkiye-EU Statement during

the conference in which global developments as well as Türkiye-EU-Germany relations were discussed.

Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas attended the "EU and Türkiye in the New Era Forum" organised by Maltepe Municipality on 5 June 2022. Assoc. Prof. Nas took part as a speaker in the panel discussing the economic relations between Türkiye and the EU. Assoc. Prof. Nas informed the participants about the status of the Türkiye-EU Customs Union, which forms the basis of economic relations between Türkiye and the EU, its modernisation process, and the impacts of the European Green Deal. The panel was also broadcasted live by KRT television.

On 9 June 2022, IKV Secretary General Nas participated as a speaker at the "Risks, Opportunities and Green Deal" meeting hosted by the Bursa Chamber of Commerce and Industry and organised in cooperation with Bursa Organised Industrial Zone, Bursa Industrialists

and Businessmen Association, and Dünya Newspaper. At the meeting moderated by Editor-in-Chief of Dünya Newspaper Hakan Gültaş, after conveying the meaning and scope of the Green Deal Assoc. Prof. Nas explained how it would affect Türkiye and what awaits the Turkish business world with the adoption of the Green Deal. The meeting was broadcasted live on Dünya Web TV.

On 10 June 2022, IKV Secretary General Nas made a presentation at the 12th Green Economy Conference organised by the Green Thought Association and supported by the Heinrich Böll Foundation. Speakers from the EU and Türkiye attended the conference, which was organised with the theme of "The Present and the Future of Just Transition in Difficult Times." Assoc. Prof. Nas participated in the "The Impact of Current Issues on Transition" session and made a presentation titled "European Green Deal, Green Transformation and the Effects of the Russia-Ukraine War."

On 23 June 2022, Nas attended the closing meeting of the Mobilizing the Social and Economic Co-benefits of Climate Action and Renewable Energy (COBENEFITS) Project and delivered a speech in the panel session. The meeting of the project, carried out by Sabancı University Istanbul Policy Center (IPC), was held in Ankara. At the closing meeting of the project, the project's findings and policy recommendations were presented by the project partners and the research team. In the panel session, moderated by Sabancı University IPC Climate Studies Coordinator Dr. Ümit Şahin, IKV Secretary General Çiğdem Nas, Prof. Ebru Voyvoda from Middle East Technical University, and Deputy Head of the Climate Change Department at the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change Dr. Abdulkadir Bektaş discussed Türkiye's climate change policies, the importance of the transition to renewable energy and the effects of the European Green Deal.

HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES

FOREIGN MINISTER ÇAVUŞOĞLU MET WITH HIS CZECH, IRISH AND NORWEGIAN COUNTERPARTS

Foreign Minister and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu visited the Czech Republic on 10-11 June 2022 to attend the 4th Asia-Europe Political Forum. The visit is Türkiye's first foreign ministerial visit to the country in 13 years. During his two-day visit, Minister Çavuşoğlu met with Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavský and Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Czech Republic Markéta Pekarová Adamová. Current global challenges, interparliamentary relations, recent developments in Ukraine, Türkiye's initiative to create a corridor for ensuring grain exports, trade prospects between the two countries and NATO enlargement were amongst the topics discussed. During the joint press conference with Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavský, Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu praised the UN plan for Ukraine and reiterated Türkiye's invitation to host a four-way meeting with representatives from the



UN, Russia, and Ukraine. He stressed the critical importance of grain export and commended the growing trade between the two countries nearing the target of 5 billion dollars. The first Joint Committee on Economy and Trade was also said to be scheduled. With respect to the enlargement in

NATO, Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu stated that Türkiye has communicated its concerns and expectations regarding Sweden and Finland. Minister Lipavský defined migration, energy security, human rights, and rule of law as areas where they want to establish dialogue with Türkiye.

On 15 June 2022, Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu hosted a trilateral meeting with Irish Foreign and Defence Minister Simon Coveney and Norwegian Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt in Ankara. As both countries are non-permanent members of the UN Security Council where a

vote is scheduled on 10 July 2022 for the renewal of the UN mandate enabling aid into north-western Syria, regional developments, in particular the situation in Syria were the main topics discussed. Norwegian Foreign Minister praised the "tremendous efforts" that are being carried out by Ankara, the UN, and the humanitarian organisations in the area. The leaders expressed their "strong commitment to Syria's political unity and territorial integrity and the leading role of the Astana process in the peaceful settlement of the Syrian issue" as well as their determination to overcome the threat to the national security of neighbouring countries. Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu had also met separately with his Irish and Norwegian counterparts before the trilateral meeting to discuss bilateral relations, the situation in Ukraine and economic cooperation and NATO enlargement.



TÜRKİYE AND THE NETHERLANDS TO EXPAND BILATERAL RELATIONS

The 9th Turkish-Dutch (*Wittenburg*) Bilateral Conference, which aims to improve bilateral relations and cooperation between Türkiye and the Netherlands, was held on 8 June 2022. Since 2008, the Wittenburg Conference meetings have been organised on a rotating basis, co-chaired by the foreign ministers, with working groups of the two countries exchanging views. The conference offers a chance for officials from both sides to discuss various issues, including migration, security, and economic issues.

While the 8th Wittenburg was held via video conference in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year it was held in Ankara. During the conference, five working groups comprising representatives of the two countries exchanged views on Türkiye-EU relations, the Turkish-Dutch community, the

fight against terrorism, energy, and climate. Regional issues, the current situation in Syria, grain exports, and the war in Ukraine were also addressed.

During the joint statement following the meeting, Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu and Dutch Foreign Minister Hoekstra made important statements on the bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu voiced both countries' desire to increase the trade volume between Türkiye and the Netherlands from 11 billion dollars to 20 billion dollars. While emphasising the increase in the mutual direct investment of the two countries, Minister Çavuşoğlu stressed that both parties expect this amount to increase further in the coming period. For this, Minister Çavuşoğlu highlighted the need for the Joint Economic and Trade Commission (JETCO)

meeting to be convened as soon as possible. Both ministers also discussed the integration and rights of approximately 500,000 people of Turkish descent living in the Netherlands and emphasised that the welfare and peace of the Dutch-Turkish community were amongst the responsibilities of both countries.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hoekstra praised the broad and deep relationship Netherlands enjoys with Türkiye and described Türkiye as an important business partner. At the same time, Dutch Minister Hoekstra also hailed Türkiye's efforts to "bring the parties to the negotiating table" after the war in Ukraine. While stating that Türkiye is right in its fight against terrorism, Minister Hoekstra added that the Netherlands will continue to cooperate with Türkiye in this regard.



MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE AKAR ATTENDED THE MEETING OF NATO MINISTERS OF DEFENCE

On 15 June 2022, the Defence Minister Hulusi Akar arrived at the NATO Headquarters in Brussels to attend the Defence Ministers' Meeting chaired by the Secretary-General of the Alliance.

The preparations for the 28-29 June NATO Summit in Madrid were completed by the NATO's Defence Ministers during the meeting. The necessity to considerably bolster the Alliance's defence and deterrence was also discussed by the defence ministers. Plans for long-term assistance to Ukraine on Russia's invasion were also addressed.

On the side-lines of the meeting, Defence Minister Akar had bilateral talks with his Lithuanian, Latvian, Albanian and French counterparts on regional defence and security issues.

On 16 June 2022, Minister Akar met with his Greek counterpart Nikos Panagiotopoulos at the meeting and discussed maintaining dialogue to ease recently heightened tensions. Minister Akar also reiterated that Athens must comply with international agreements and refrain from arming the Aegean Sea islands, which have demilitarised status.

TÜRKİYE INVOLVED IN INTENSE DIPLOMACY TRAFFIC AT THE MADRID SUMMIT

This year's NATO Summit was held in the capital of Spain, Madrid, on 28-30 June 2022. The agenda of the Summit included profound and important issues such as the adoption of the new NATO Strategic Concept, which determines NATO's response to the upcoming challenges, the strengthening of NATO's Eastern Flank, and the comprehensive military aid package for Ukraine.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan went to Madrid on 28 June to attend the NATO Summit. During the three-day historic Summit, Erdoğan was involved in intense diplomacy traffic and held bilateral meetings on the fight against terrorism, Sweden and Finland's NATO membership applications and Türkiye's security concerns, as well as the current situation of the Russia-Ukraine war, with several leaders including US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, French President Emmanuel Macron and the European Council President Charles Michel.



One day before the NATO Heads of State and Government meeting, on 28 June, Erdoğan had four-way talks with NATO

Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, Finnish President Sauli Niinisto, and Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson to discuss Türkiye's

objections for the Nordic countries' membership applications to the Alliance due to Sweden's and Finland's tolerance and support

terrorist groups. Following the talks, Türkiye, Sweden and Finland signed a trilateral memorandum. By the memorandum, Sweden and Finland agreed to show solidarity towards Türkiye in its fight against terrorism and not to support the PKK/YPG, and FETÖ terrorist organisations while also lifting the arms embargo on Türkiye. The Turkish presidency declared that Türkiye got what it wanted in a written statement after the memorandum.

On 29 June, NATO leaders discussed global challenges. For the first time, Indo-Pacific partners, including Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea participated in a NATO Summit. The EU and Georgia also attended the Summit. In addition, Sweden and Finland were invited to become NATO members. Allies approved NATO's new Strategic Concept, which addressed the challenges brought about by China for the first time and decided to increase defence investment and support to Ukraine.

FOREIGN MINISTER ÇAVUŞOĞLU WENT ON A BALKAN TRIP

Foreign Minister and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu paid official visits to Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo on 15-19 June 2022. During Minister Çavuşoğlu's Balkan trip, regional, and international issues as well as bilateral relations, were discussed with a focus on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Minister Çavuşoğlu's first station was Serbia on 16 June 2022. During the joint press conference with his Serbian counterpart Nikola Selaković, Minister Çavuşoğlu stated that an agreement would be signed as soon as possible for Turkish and Serbian citizens to be able to travel to each other's countries with only their national identity cards. Referring to the dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo, Minister Çavuşoğlu also stressed the important role Serbia plays in maintaining stability in the Balkans and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Minister Çavuşoğlu arrived in North Macedonia later on and participated in the 2nd Prespa Dialogue Forum. Çavuşoğlu also came together with Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg and Croatian President Zoran Milanović.

Croatia was the third station of Minister Çavuşoğlu's Balkan tour on



17 June 2022. Minister Çavuşoğlu met with Croatian Foreign Minister Gordan Grlić-Radman in Zagreb. At the joint press conference held following the meeting, Minister

Çavuşoğlu underscored Croatia's constant support for Türkiye's EU membership bid while also reminding Türkiye's support for Croatia's OECD membership

negotiations. Stating that Turkish companies' interest in Croatia has increased in recent years, Minister Çavuşoğlu highlighted that these companies would make investments

as well as important projects in various sectors. While asserting that mutual incentives for Croatian companies to invest in Türkiye should be increased, he pointed out defence industry as a potential area for cooperation.

Bosnia and Herzegovina was the next station on Minister Çavuşoğlu's Balkan trip. Minister Çavuşoğlu, at the press conference after the meeting with his Bosnian counterpart Jasmina Turkovic, reiterated Türkiye's strong support for the country and stated that Türkiye would not allow any new disagreements in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Minister Çavuşoğlu made the last trip to Kosovo on 19 June 2022. Speaking at the joint press conference with his Kosovan counterpart Donika Gërvalla-Schwarz, Minister Çavuşoğlu stated that Türkiye has frequently voiced that it would not allow the region to return to the dark days of the 1990s and that it has been engaging in all kinds of work for this purpose. Minister Çavuşoğlu also added his belief that an agreement must be reached and further added Türkiye's support for a dialogue process between Serbia and Kosovo.

TURKEY REBRANDS AS TÜRKİYE INTERNATIONALLY

By changing its official name, Türkiye aims to better reflect its culture and values.

Turkey is now called "Türkiye" officially, following the country's campaigns to rebrand itself since December 2021. The need to rename the internationally recognised name of the country arose from the desire to preserve and glorify the country's culture and values. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also highlighted Türkiye as the "best projection and expression of the Turkish people's culture, civilisation, and values". The UN registered 'Türkiye' as the country's new name to replace 'Turkey' on 1 June 2022, in line with the prior request by Ankara. NATO and several international institutions also approved the official name change, while the EU institutions were informed about the country's new official name.

The reason for rebranding the country's name does not only originate from the desire to better reflect Turkish culture and values but also to dispel some of the negative connotations associated with the word of "turkey". Googling the term "turkey" leads to a confusing series of images, articles and, dictionary definitions associating



the country with a large bird. Hence, the move is seen as part of a push by Ankara to rebrand the country and distance it from the bird of the same name and negative connotations associated with it.

GİRESUN TOMBUL HAZELNUTS WERE GRANTED A PROTECTED DESIGNATION OF ORIGIN STATUS BY THE EU



Giresun, a city located in the Black Sea region of Türkiye, on 20 June 2022. The *Tombul* hazelnut is named after its well-rounded bulky look. The announcement published by the European Commission also emphasised its characteristics of being "easy to chew" and leaving an "intensive" taste.

Hazelnut Agricultural Sales Cooperatives (FISKOBIRLIK) applied to the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI)

for the registration of the Giresun *Tombul* hazelnuts as a geographical indication on 26 April 2018. With the approval of the registration for the PDO, which was published in the EU Official Gazette, Giresun *Tombul* hazelnuts have become Türkiye's 8th product registered as a geographical indication after "Antep Baklava", "Aydın Figs", "Bayramiç Beyazı", "Malatya Apricot", "Aydın Chestnut", "Taşkoprü Garlic" and "Milas Olive Oil" and also entitled to be protected by the EU.

The EU granted Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) status for *Tombul* hazelnuts from

OECD REVISED TÜRKİYE'S GROWTH FORECAST UPWARDS

On 8 June 2022, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) revised Türkiye's growth and inflation predictions for this year upward. The Paris-based policy forum, which analyses and advises its 38 member states, raised Türkiye's GDP prediction from 3.3% to 3.7% for 2022.

According to the OECD, Türkiye's GDP will remain moderate throughout the projected period following a robust comeback in 2021. The forecast also predicts a possible decrease in consumer expenditure due to high inflation and falling consumer confidence. Following this, the OECD has raised its average inflation predictions in response to the fact that Türkiye's supportive monetary policy, along with rising commodity and food prices is expected to keep consumer



inflation over 70% throughout this year. In light of this, the prediction for average consumer prices for this year was raised from 23.9% to 72.0%, while the forecast for 2023 was raised from 21.7% to 38.9%. The OECD reduced its projected unemployment rates for 2022 and 2023 from 12.5% to 11.8% and from 12.6% to 11.8% respectively.

The OECD was expected to provide its prediction in March

2022, but due to the uncertainties surrounding the war, it has delayed its detailed assessment so far. It was stated at the time that the war may reduce global GDP growth by "more than one percentage point." The assessment indicates that the Russia-Ukraine war will eventually affect the Turkish economy as the geopolitical issues and financial market uncertainties will stifle investment.

TÜRKİYE TO SAVE UP 146 BILLION DOLLARS WITH AMBITIOUS CLIMATE ACTION



Türkiye has made a significant amount of advancement in the fields of combating climate change and uptake of renewable energy in recent years. Türkiye, the 12th in the world and 5th in Europe in terms of its installed capacity in renewables, has avoided 100 million tons of additional emissions per year due to the measures it has taken in its fight against climate change. While the renewables accounted for 54% of the country's installed power, 97% of the power plants built last year were powered by renewable energy sources.

Furthermore, the World Bank's "Türkiye-Country and Climate Development Report", the first of the series which

aim to analyse the pathways countries can take to attain their development goals, demonstrates that Türkiye has the potential to save approximately 146 billion dollars by 2040, mostly due to reduced fuel imports and health benefits resulting from lower air pollution. However, to achieve this "resilient and net zero development pathway" (RNZP), Türkiye must take effective and appropriate actions and enhance climate adaptation and mitigation. The report also underscores that while the RNZP could facilitate Türkiye in achieving its development and climate goals, it requires a significant change in current trends and key policies.

EU ALLOCATED 50 MILLION EUROS WORTH OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO SUPPORT REFUGEES IN TÜRKİYE

On 14 June 2022, the EU announced additional 50 million euros to support vulnerable refugees and their host communities in Türkiye. The European Commission highlighted that this humanitarian assistance would go to specialised health care services while helping address protection issues, including legal counselling, psychosocial support, and access to civil documentation in the meantime. This funding is in addition to the EU Social Safety Net (ESSN), which currently provides cash assistance to more than 1.5 million people in Türkiye. The ESSN helps the refugees with their needs such as food, medicine, transport, or rent.

With 4 million, including 3.7 million Syrians who have fled the war in their country, Türkiye hosts



the largest refugee population in the world. The new 50 million euros is part of the 3 billion euros package announced by the European Commission in June 2021 to support refugees in Türkiye until 2024. This additional humanitarian aid is on top of the 325 million euros already announced in December 2021, bringing the total EU humanitarian funding for Türkiye since 2012 to an amount which is close to 3.34 billion euros.

THE MAIN OBSERVATIONS IN THE EP 2021 REPORT ON TÜRKİYE AND ANKARA'S REACTION

Maintaining its call for a formal suspension of the negotiations, the EP Report on Türkiye failed once again to contribute to the revitalisation of Türkiye-EU relations.

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The European Parliament (EP) adopted its Resolution on the 2021 Report on Türkiye by 448 votes in favour, 67 against, and 107 abstentions on 7 June 2022. While acknowledging that last year saw a slight improvement in the general state of play in Türkiye-EU relations as indicated by the launch of new high-level dialogues on numerous topics such as climate change, migration, and public health, the report painted a bleak picture regarding the political criteria.

Critical Tone on Compliance with the Political Criteria

In its overall analysis of the latest developments in Türkiye-EU relations, a highly critical tone on Türkiye's adherence to the Copenhagen political criteria was evident throughout the report. The rule of law, judicial independence, fundamental rights, and freedoms as well as the economic situation in Türkiye were amongst the areas over which MEPs expressed deep concern. Arguing that there has been a constant backsliding in Türkiye's commitments regarding the accession criteria over the past two years, it was stated that the EP "cannot envisage any resumption of accession negotiations with Türkiye", while failing to acknowledge that the opening of Chapters 23 and 24 on the judiciary and fundamental rights and justice, freedom, and security, which are unilaterally blocked by the Greek Cypriot Administration, would help Türkiye address the shortcomings in these areas.

On the other hand, pointing out Türkiye's strategic importance in political, economic, and foreign policy terms, MEPs acknowledged Türkiye's role as a key partner and a vital NATO ally. Welcoming the statements made by senior Turkish officials confirming Ankara's commitment to the EU membership goal, the EP encouraged Ankara to translate these into action while urging the Council to resume the



meetings of the Türkiye-EU Association Council and the high-level dialogues on thematic and sectoral areas covering foreign policy, economy, energy, and transport all of which have been suspended by the EU Foreign Affairs Council since July 2019.

Praise for Türkiye's Role in the Ukraine Crisis and Migration Cooperation

In their assessment of Turkish foreign policy, MEPs praised Türkiye's foreign policy choices regarding the Russia-Ukraine war. Ankara's clear support for the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, its decision to invoke the Montreux Convention along with its mediation efforts between Moscow and Kyiv received special appreciation from the MEPs who at the same time urged Ankara to align with EU sanctions on Russia.

Cooperation on refugees was another area where Türkiye's role received great appreciation. Hailing Türkiye's efforts and generosity in hosting the largest refugee population in the world, the EP highlighted the importance of both sides delivering on their end of the Türkiye-EU Statement of 18 March 2016. The fact that MEPs focused on Türkiye's commitments while making no mention of the EU's failure to comply with the political provisions of the Statement which had made the deal attractive to Türkiye in the first place, constitutes a selective evaluation of the Statement on the part of the EP.

Regarding the Türkiye-EU Customs Union, the EP voiced support for the launch of modernisation talks while arguing that the process should be based on Türkiye's fulfilment of its obligations under the Additional Protocol to the Ankara Agreement accompanied by a strong human rights conditionality as a new element which would be decisive in the modernisation process. MEPs also expressed support for visa liberalisation, which they noted is of great importance for Turkish citizens and would constitute an important step in fostering people-to-people contacts between Türkiye and the EU. In this regard, the importance of meeting the six remaining benchmarks particularly the revision of Türkiye's anti-terrorism law and data protection legislation was underlined.

In the report, the European Green Deal was highlighted as an important opportunity for the parties to align their trade and climate policies. In this respect, the recent steps by Türkiye in joining the global climate regime received special attention. Commending Ankara's decision to ratify the Paris Climate Agreement accompanied by its declared goal of becoming climate-neutral by 2053 and its announcement to adapt to the Green Deal, MEPs urged the EU to support Türkiye in these endeavours.

Last year's change in the organisational chart of the European Commission's DG NEAR placing the unit in charge of relations for Türkiye under "Neighbourhood South" did not go

unnoticed in the report. MEPs criticised the move as a regrettable development and a serious political mistake which caused a backlash from Ankara along with all pro-European actors in Türkiye.

As regards foreign policy, the report underlined the decisive role foreign and security policy cooperation with Türkiye would play in determining the success of the EU's future security initiatives. Regarding Türkiye's reservations on NATO membership bids by Finland and Sweden, MEPs encouraged Ankara to handle these in good faith and in a constructive manner. Expressing the belief that Türkiye-EU cooperation could be achieved in numerous geographies including Ukraine and Afghanistan, MEPs called for the reversal of the downward trend in Türkiye's alignment with EU's foreign and security policy declarations. The recent rapprochement between Türkiye and Armenia described by the launch of normalisation talks and resumption of direct flights was hailed as a highly positive development for regional security. However, as regards the Eastern Mediterranean, the report pointed to the precariousness of de-escalation and echoing the views of the Greek and Greek Cypriot duo, unduly put the blame on Türkiye for recent signs of escalation. A similar approach was evident in the paragraphs on the Cyprus issue, where Ankara was asked to give up on the vision of a two-state solution.

Against this background, MEPs concluded that the EP found no arguments "to modify its conditional position concerning the formal

suspension of the accession negotiations". Inviting the parties to review their relations, the EP suggested that the parties consider additional ways to complement the process including through a modernised Association Agreement.

Türkiye's Reaction to the Report

Unsurprisingly, the report was slammed as shallow and non-visionary by the Turkish Foreign Ministry which reacted with a statement rejecting the assessments in the report for being biased and unrealistic. The statement went on to say that the EP has lost both its credibility and trustworthiness in the eyes of the Turkish public. The paragraphs on democracy, rule of law as well as the Aegean, East Med and Cyprus issues were declared as "null and void" while Ankara's expectation that the EU fulfil its obligations towards Türkiye was reiterated. In this respect, the Ministry urged the EU to revitalise the accession process, accelerate the visa liberalisation process, launch Customs Union modernisation talks, enhance cooperation in the fight against terrorism and activate the Voluntary Humanitarian Admission Scheme.

The non-binding 2021 Report on Türkiye, which constitutes the EP's interpretation of the European Commission's annual country report on Türkiye, is of advisory nature and therefore bears no legal effect. Nonetheless, the report represents how the EP views the state of play in Türkiye-EU relations as well as the developments in the country within the past year. Given the fact that the need to revitalise the relations between Türkiye and the EU has become more urgent than ever in the wake of Russia's war on Ukraine, it is unfortunate that the EP continues to maintain its unacceptable call for the suspension of accession talks. Although this year's report is slightly more positive compared to the previous one as it voices support for visa liberalisation and Customs Union modernisation along with the resumption of high-level dialogues, it fails to make objective assessments and thus risks further damaging EP's reputation in the eyes of the Turkish public.