



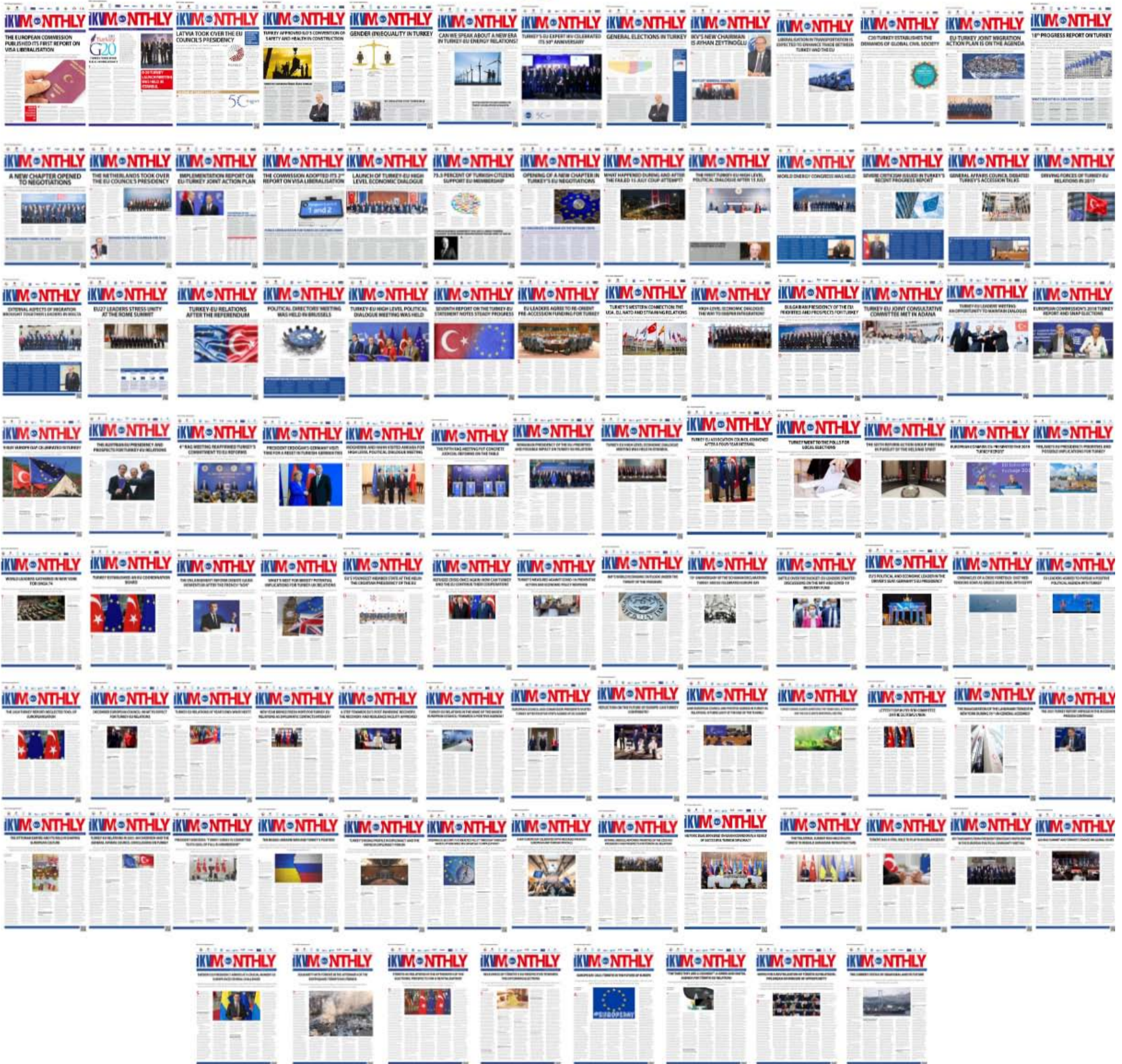
İKVNTHLY



SPECIAL ISSUE: 100 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

Celebrating 100th Issue





100TH ISSUE OF IKV MONTHLY

We are pleased to present the 100th issue of IKV Monthly. Our aim in starting the publication of this monthly bulletin was to provide news and analysis in English directed to an international audience about Türkiye and Türkiye's relations with the wider world particularly Europe and the European Union. Since then,

we were able to reach interested parties in Europe and elsewhere with short news and commentaries about major political and economic developments in the Turkish economy, politics and society with a view to the country's international relations.

In this 100th issue, we aimed to present to you a general outlook to the first 100

issues of IKV monthly by focusing on the most noteworthy events and developments that took place in Türkiye and Türkiye-EU relations over the last years. We appreciate your feedback and wish you all the best during the centenary of the Turkish Republic.

-Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas,
IKV Secretary General

IKV ORGANISED A WEBINAR SERIES TITLED "FUTURE OF EUROPE AND TURKEY"

IKV EXCHANGED OPINIONS ON THE FUTURE OF TÜRKİYE-EU RELATIONS AT THE EP



IKV organised various webinar series under the title of "Future of Europe and Turkey" starting from 19 February 2021. Webinar series carried out in association with the Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate for EU Affairs.

- 19 February 2021 – The Future

- of Europe and Turkey
- 24 June 2021 – European Identity and the Future of Europe
- 10 December 2021 – European Green Deal and Turkey Towards a Climate Neutral Future
- 17 February 2022 – Health

- and Pandemic as an Area of Common Concern Between Turkey and Europe
- 28 June 2022 – EU as a Trade Actor, Global Value Chains and Türkiye
- 29 June 2022 – European Security and Future of EU Enlargement

IKV held a roundtable meeting at the EP hosted by Ryszard Czarnecki, President of the Türkiye Friendship Group on 24 April 2023. At the meeting attended by representatives of many think tanks and academicians, the future of Türkiye-EU relations and solution proposals for the existing problems in the relations after the Presidential and 28th term parliamentary elections to be held on 14 May 2023 were evaluated.

The meeting, attended by EP Member and Head of the EU-Türkiye Friendship Group Ryszard Czarnecki, EP Member and Türkiye Rapporteur Nacho Sanchez

Amor, IKV Chairperson and TOBB Vice President Ayhan Zeytinoğlu, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Türkiye to the EU Ambassador Faruk Kaymakçı, IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas, IKV Deputy Secretary General M. Gökhan Kilit, IKV Brussels Representative Haluk Nuray, EPC's Senior Policy Analyst Amanda Paul and representatives of many think-tanks and academicians evaluated the future of Türkiye-EU relations and solution proposals for existing problems in relations after 14 May 2023 Presidential and 28th term parliamentary elections.

(April 2023 – Issue 95)

IKV CHAIRMAN ZEYTİNOĞLU MET WITH EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER VÁRHELYI IN BRUSSELS

IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu visited Brussels on 13 and 14 October 2021 to hold a series of meetings on Turkey-EU relations. IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu started off his exchanges in Brussels by visiting Turkey's Permanent Delegation to the EU where he was received by Turkey's Permanent Delegate to the EU Ambassador Mehmet Kemal Bozay. During the meeting, the latest developments in Turkey-EU relations were discussed. Highlighting the importance of resuming high level dialogue meetings between Turkey and the EU, Ambassador Bozay congratulated IKV for its efforts aimed at improving Turkey-EU relations and noted that efforts for launching the Customs Union modernisation process would continue.

IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu visited European Commissioner



for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Olivér Várhelyi in his office. Emphasizing the importance of the continuation of Turkey's EU perspective and the goal of full membership during his visit, Zeytinoğlu highlighted Turkey's position

in terms of economic growth figures and as a leading supplier to the EU economy. During the meeting in which launching the Customs Union modernisation talks, visa liberalisation and high level dialogues on topics such as energy, climate and health

were discussed, information was provided on the activities and objectives of IKV.

For his part, Commissioner Várhelyi stated that Turkey is an important neighbour and a strategic partner for the EU. Noting that the ratification of the Paris Climate Agreement by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) was a very promising development, Várhelyi expressed the EU's readiness to support Turkey's alignment with the European Green Deal. Underlining that Turkey continues to be a candidate country, Várhelyi pointed out that the process would continue depending on the fulfilment of the necessary requirements. Várhelyi congratulated IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu for his work and wished him success.

IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu also met with Thomas Frellesen, Head of the Turkey Division at the European External Action Service (EEAS) and Baiba Aleksejuka Tavaresa, member responsible for Turkey at the cabinet of EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Josep Borrell Fontelles. During the meetings, the 2021 EU Enlargement Strategy and the Turkey Report, which are expected to be published soon, the role of civil society in Turkey-EU relations and steps towards revitalising Turkey-EU relations were discussed. IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu was accompanied by IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas and Brussels Representative Haluk Nuray. (November 2021 – Issue 78)

RESULTS OF IKV'S EU PERCEPTIONS SURVEY WERE PRESENTED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE

IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu shared the findings of the IKV survey on perceptions on EU and Turkey's EU membership with journalists at a press conference organised by IKV on 8 January 2018. The survey commissioned by IKV was conducted on 18-19 November 2017 by the Realta Research Company in 18 cities with 1,311 respondents. The findings of the public opinion survey were first presented in December 2017 during the Turkey-EU High-Level Economic Dialogue meeting in Brussels.

The survey shows that support for EU membership among the Turkish public is around 79 percent whereas belief that Turkey will join



the bloc in the near future stands much lower at 31.2 percent.

Commenting on the results of the survey, IKV Chairman stated: "Despite all the challenges and obstacles, a large majority of respondents (78.9 percent) continue

to support Turkey's EU membership. It is of great importance that despite all the problems experienced throughout 2017, there is still a high level of support for EU membership in Turkey. This is a message to the government that people have a will

towards a rapprochement with the EU and that the necessary reform steps should be taken."

"At the same time, it is a warning to the EU. The results not only reveal that policies aimed at excluding Turkey lack vision and common sense, but also that it is morally and strategically wrong to exclude a country which overwhelmingly supports EU membership", IKV Chairman added.

On the survey's findings regarding belief in Turkey's EU membership in the short run, IKV Chairman said: "These results reveal that the developments, which have taken place throughout Turkey's negotiation process, with the negotiations coming to a freezing

point, the negative approach adopted by some Member States towards Turkey as well as the slowdown in reforms in Turkey, have resulted in a decline in the belief in Turkey's prospective membership in the EU."

IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu indicated that when asked about the reasons underlying their support for Turkey's EU membership respondents cited expectations related to free movement, democratisation and prosperity whereas economic reasons, double standards applied to Turkey by the EU and prejudice along with the cultural differences were cited as main obstacles to Turkey's EU membership goal.

(January 2018 – Issue 36)

IKV ORGANISED A SEMINAR ON TURKEY-EU RELATIONS IN RIGA

In the opening remarks of the seminar, Senior Vice-President of Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, Gunnar Ljungdahl stressed that Turkey's internal dynamics have changed in the historical process. He also underlined that Turkey and Latvia are united in a common ground in political aspects. IKV Vice-Chairman and Dean of Faculty of Law of Yeditepe University in his opening speech Prof. Haluk Kabaalioglu, drew attention to the Cyprus issue, visa requirements and structural problems of Turkey-EU Customs Union which does not allow Turkey to compete in equal terms with its European counterparts. Turkish Ambassador to Latvia, His Excellency Hayri Hayret Yalav, in his opening speech, underlined that the EU membership is essential for Turkey due to historical and geographical ties. Defining Turkey's accession process as a comprehensive reform movement, His Excellency Ambassador Yalav highlighted that Turkey's EU membership will be a catalyst for strengthening universal values. During the panel moderated by IKV Vice-Chairman



Prof. Kabaalioglu, Prof. Daunis Auers from the University of Latvia and Stockholm School of Economics in Riga explained in his presentation that while EU's enlargement perspective prior to the 2004 Enlargement was not seen as a priority for EU citizens, after 10 years citizens took a more active role in this process. Prof. Auers underlined that migration has become an important issue both for citizens and decision-makers especially in the aftermath of the 2004 Enlargement.

During her presentation, Jean Monnet Chair-holder and Chair of EU Studies Department of the Graduate School of Social

Sciences at Dokuz Eylül University Prof. Canan Balkir noted that Turkey's potential in terms of competitiveness in the international market is not being fully realized, although Turkey has already become a country attracting European investors. Prof. Balkir added that although Turkey is the 17th biggest economy in the world, it is ranked as 44th among 148 countries in regard to R&D technologies which is considered to be a "relatively innovative" country according to the European Commission's Innovation Union Scoreboard.

Dr. Sait Akman from the TEPAV Trade Studies Centre touched upon

the impact of the new Free Trade Agreements signed by the EU on Turkey. He explained that it was unacceptable that the industrial goods originating from these countries which have signed a trade agreement with the EU can enter Turkey through the EU without paying customs while Turkey's exports continue to be subject to high tariffs of these countries. Dr. Akman stressed that this situation creates an asymmetrical structure.

IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas in her speech explained that, taking into account the effect of EU reforms upon Turkish Foreign Policy, one can discern an Europeanization effect on Turkey's foreign policy. She noted that Turkey's increasing activism in foreign policy is evident since 2002 and a total of 65 new diplomatic representations have been opened abroad. Furthermore, IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Nas reminded that the official development aids of Turkey have reached 3.3 billion dollars. However, she added that Europeanization of Turkey's foreign policy came to a halt due to the stagnation of

Turkey's EU accession process and the overwhelming priority given to the Middle East and adjacent regions among foreign policy priorities. Assoc. Prof. Nas further explained that the recent turmoil in close proximity to both Turkey and the EU necessitates effective cooperation among both sides in foreign policy, and added that currently Turkey and the EU lack a common strategic cooperation in the field of foreign policy.

Lastly, IKV Deputy Secretary General and Research Director Melih Özsoz shared with the participants the results of the Visa Hotline Project carried out in cooperation with ECAS and with the support of TOBB. Özsoz further pointed out that a new process had started in December 2013 with the signature of the Turkey-EU Readmission Agreement. Within the framework of this process, in the light of the 72 criteria determined in the Visa Liberalisation Dialogue. Özsoz pointed out that Turkey has fulfilled or is close in fulfilling 22 criteria, it has partially fulfilled 40 criteria and it has not fulfilled at all 10 criteria. *(June 2015 – Issue 8)*



IKV EU INFORMATION CENTER ORGANISED EU SIMULATION FOR YOUTH

IKV İstanbul EU Information Center organised an event entitled "EU Simulation for Young: International Relations" on 10-11 May 2022 on the occasion of 9 May Europe Day and European Year of Youth. The European Parliament and the European Council were simulated during

the event and many participants from different universities located in İstanbul discussed EU enlargement and EU foreign policy. IKV Deputy Secretary General M. Gökhan Kilit made the opening speech of the event. Stating that support for Turkey's EU membership process is very

high amongst young people, M. Gökhan Kilit emphasised that IKV would continue to work in order to increase the awareness of the Turkish society, especially young people, regarding the EU. At the closing session of the event, a certificate and award ceremony was held. *(June 2022 – Issue 85)*

HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES

SENIOR EU OFFICIALS PAID WORKING VISITS TO TURKEY



On 3-4 March 2020 EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell together with the Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič paid an official visit to Turkey. The visit took place ahead of the informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers and the extraordinary Foreign Affairs Council meeting organised on 5-6 March 2020 in Zagreb. High Representative Borrell and Commissioner Lenarčič held meetings with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Vice-President Fuat Oktay.

High Representative Borrell also met with Defence Minister Hulusi Akar, Interior Minister Süleyman

Soylu and Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu. Meanwhile, Commissioner Lenarčič had discussions with Labour Minister Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk, President of the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) Mehmet Güllüoğlu, and President of Turkish Red Crescent and Vice President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Kerem Kinik.

During the meetings, the parties focused on the situation in Idlib, the refugee crisis and Turkey-EU relations. EU High Representative Borrell expressed that Turkey and the EU had a common interest to end the conflict in Syria and stressed the

need for Turkey and the EU to work together in addressing common challenges. Borrell announced an additional 170 million euro in humanitarian aid to continue assisting the most vulnerable people in Syria. Borrell emphasised that they needed to bring a new dynamic into Turkey-EU relations, which would contribute to addressing the situation in Syria, and improving the overall international security.

During his meeting with EU High Representative Borrell, Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu reiterated Turkey's dissatisfaction with the EU's failure to keep its promises regarding the refugees. Stating that Turkey could no longer shoulder the heavy refugee burden alone, Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu called on the EU to take responsibility.

Moreover, on 4 March 2020 President of the European Council Charles Michel paid an official visit to Turkey and met with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The situation on the EU's sea and land borders, the crisis in Syria, the refugee problem on the Turkish-Greek border were the main issues on the agenda. (March 2020 – Issue 59)

HEAD OF EU DELEGATION TO TÜRKİYE AND ECHO DIRECTOR PRESENTED WITH THE STATE MEDAL



Following the earthquake disaster in 11 provinces of Türkiye on February 6th, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan presented the State Medal of the Republic of Türkiye to the Head of the EU Delegation to domestic and foreign teams who came to affected regions to help with the search and rescue efforts. Among those who received the State Medal on behalf of the EU were Türkiye Ambassador Nikolaus Meyer-Landrut and Director for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) Hans Das. Representatives of EU Member States and international organisations also took part in the ceremony.

At the presentation of the medal, President Erdoğan emphasized the destructiveness of the earthquakes and expressed his gratitude to international organisations for their support. 1,750 search and rescue staff and 111 search dogs were sent to Türkiye through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism after the earthquake.

In an interview, Pekka Tiainen, the coordinator of EU assistance in Türkiye's earthquake zone stated that it is a great honour to receive a medal. Tiainen also stated that Türkiye is a part of the European Civil Protection Mechanism and added that he would like to visit Türkiye again in the future.

(April 2023 – Issue 95)

HIGH-LEVEL VISITS BETWEEN TURKEY AND EUROPE INTENSIFIED IN JULY

In July, high-level visits between Turkey and EU Member States intensified. Firstly, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and Culture and Tourism Minister Mehmet Nuri Ersoy paid an official visit to Germany on 2 July 2020. Turkey's exclusion from the EU's safe travel list and Germany's decision to prolong the travel warning for 160 countries including Turkey were the main topics on the agenda of the visit. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas informed that Germany will be reviewing the situation regarding Turkey with European authorities every two weeks. Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu expressed Ankara's intention to develop Turkey-EU relations in a healthier way during Germany's EU Presidency.

Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu visited the UK on 8 July and came together with Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab. The main topic on the agenda of the visit was the FTA to be signed between Turkey and the UK. Since the UK is Turkey's second largest trade partner, concluding an FTA right



after the Brexit transition period is of utmost importance. Immigration was another topic raised during the visit. Ankara intends to secure for its citizens a special regime similar to the Ankara Agreement once the UK starts implementing its new immigration regime. Bilateral relations in the post-pandemic era, cooperation in areas such as tourism, health and defence along with regional issues were also discussed in the context of the visit.

Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu continued his exchanges with his counterparts from the EU in Ankara. On 14 July, he met with

Malta's European and Foreign Affairs Minister Evarist Bartolo. Speaking at the joint press conference, Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu stressed Ankara and Valletta's desire for stability and peace in the region, and expressed Turkey's willingness to intensify bilateral relations with Malta.

On 27 July, Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu came together with Spain's Foreign Affairs, EU and Cooperation Minister Arancha González Laya. At the meeting, bilateral relations and regional issues including Libya and the Eastern Mediterranean were discussed.

(July & August 2020 – Issue 63)

EU HIGH REPRESENTATIVE BORRELL PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO TURKEY

On 6 July 2020, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell paid a two-day visit to Turkey and met with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu. During Borrell's second visit



to Turkey in four months, the parties discussed the future of Turkey-EU relations, along with the latest developments in the Mediterranean region. EU High Representative Borrell also came together with National Defence Minister Hulusi Akar.

Speaking at the joint press conference, Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu stressed that Turkey was transparent and open to dialogue concerning the Libyan crisis, the Eastern Mediterranean, and Turkey's EU bid, and it had all the right to expect the same attitude in return. Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu said that if the EU chose to impose sanctions concerning developments in the Eastern Mediterranean, Turkey would respond accordingly. Moreover, recalling that France's claims about

an incident involving Turkish frigates allegedly harassing a French frigate taking part in a NATO mission in the Mediterranean had been proven

wrong, Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu urged France to apologise to Turkey. Lastly, referring to the state of play in the visa liberalisation dialogue, Çavuşoğlu said that Turkey was expecting a positive step from the European side.

For his part, High Representative Borrell emphasized Turkey's importance as a key partner of the EU and a candidate country for accession. "The fact that we in Europe discuss extensively and frequently about Turkey just reflects the importance that we attach to this relationship", he added. While describing the situation as being far from ideal, Borrell indicated his belief that Turkey and EU had a mutual interest to get out of this situation and chart a new and positive trajectory.

(July & August 2020 – Issue 63)

TURKEY REBRANDS AS TÜRKİYE INTERNATIONALLY

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 Erdoğan 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. (July 2022 – Issue 86)

TURKEY INVESTMENT FUND WAS ESTABLISHED



Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Şimşek and TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkıoğlu signed the protocol on the establishment of the fund. TIF is considered to be "the fund of funds" that serves as investment for other funds financing the new technological initiatives. TIF aims at developing financing for Turkish SME's innovative initiatives.

It is foreseen that the fund will invest in SMEs which have the potential to develop innovative technologies, products and services that will create higher added value for the Turkish economy. The initial volume of TIF is set to be at 150 million TL of which 80 million will be granted by TOBB, 20 million will be contributed by KOBİ A.Ş and the remaining amount will be provided by the Treasury. The fund size is expected to grow to 250 million TL with the contribution of domestic and foreign investors over the next two years. First steps of the fund were

taken by the Young Entrepreneurs Council and the Venture Capital of TOBB in 2011 and it is finalised by the Treasury.

During his speech at the ceremony, Deputy Prime Minister Şimşek pointed out that Turkey needs to establish a solid ecosystem to boost the digital economy and that TIF will be a crucial constituent of this system. He also noted that the government will restructure the Turkish Development Bank in order to create new financing for innovative ideas and R&D projects.

TOBB President Hisarcıkıoğlu noted that TIF is a new generation support model for innovative companies and the digital economy in Turkey. He expressed that the public sector should use its resources to help develop the internet ecosystem and at the same time venture capital funds should choose the right companies to invest in this ecosystem. (February 2016 – Issue 16)

TURKEY CONTRIBUTED TO THE EU'S CORONAVIRUS GLOBAL RESPONSE INITIATIVE

On 4 May 2020, the European Commission launched the Coronavirus Global Response Initiative in a bid to raise 7.5 billion euros through a worldwide pledging marathon. The initiative is comprised of three partnerships to ensure the development and universal deployment of diagnostics, treatments and vaccines against COVID-19. It has been developed as a response to a call to action by the WHO and an initial group of health actors for global collaboration to accelerate the development of coronavirus health technologies on 24 April. In this regard, the European Commission has launched a global pledging campaign inviting governments, international organisations, business leaders, citizens, public figures, philanthropists and artists to take part in the initiative along with raising worldwide awareness about efforts to fight COVID-19.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan joined the virtual pledging conference, chaired by European Commission President Ursula von der



Leyen, during which 7.4 billion euros were raised. President Erdoğan expressed Turkey's complete support for the EU's initiative by underlining that COVID-19 "has turned into a unique global test" for humanity.

Turkey has always stressed the need for international cooperation in times of crises and proved its solidarity by sending different sorts of medical equipment to 80 countries since the beginning of March. President Erdoğan also reaffirmed his support for the theme "Vaccines for All" and indicated that everyone should have equal rights to reach and use the treatments to be developed against the coronavirus.

(May 2020 - Issue 61)

EU-FUNDED PROJECT ON MIGRATION MANAGEMENT IN TURKEY IS LAUNCHED

EU-funded project on migration management in Turkey was launched on 12 December. The project brings together the Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) with intent to support the legal and institutional reforms in migration management of Turkish authorities. Directorate General for Migration Management was established under the Ministry of Interior in 2013 with the adoption of Law on Foreigners and International Protection, that's purpose is to implement policies and strategies related to migration and ensure coordination between the related agencies and organisations. Turkey hosts over 3.4 million refugees of who 3 million are Syrians, making Turkey the largest refugee host country in the world. However, 90 percent of refugees live under very challenging circumstances including poor access to public services, education and healthcare. The main objective of the Law on Foreigners and International Protection is to provide assurance for the rights of migrants and international protection seekers by basing an effective asylum and migration management on a strong legal ground in Turkey.

In this context, the EU-Turkey co-funded project is designed to provide comprehensive capacity of DGMM and other migration institutions with the view to develop of work processes, referral mechanisms and also to accelerate the integration of migrants into the society. The 5.5 million euro-project will continue 3 years with close cooperation



of DGMM and IOM in order to decrease challenges of hosting over 3.4 billion refugees. Given its geopolitical position, Turkey is the main partner of the EU in the management of migratory flow which is why the EU has launched in total 3 billion euros to deliver efficient and complementary support to Syrian and other refugees in 2016-2017.

(December 2017 – Issue 35)

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, 1,087 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.

(December 2021 – Issue 79)

TURKEY'S FIRST INDIGENOUS CAR TOGG MADE ITS INTERNATIONAL DEBUT



Turkey's first domestically produced car, named after Turkey's Automobile Initiative Group (TOGG), made its public debut on 5 January 2022 at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES), the world's largest consumer electronics show held in Las Vegas. TOGG's C-SUV model was previously unveiled. On this occasion of TOGG's first international presentation, its C-Sedan model was introduced to the public.

During a press conference at the event, TOGG's CEO Gürcan Karakaş stated that TOGG defines itself as a technology company, not a traditional automotive manufacturer. TOGG's participation at CES, the fair for the latest technological innovations fits this purpose. Gürcan Karakaş said "we defined our C-SUV smart device as user-centric, smart, empathetic, connected, autonomous, shared and electric." Noting the automotive industry's

rapid transformation into a mobility ecosystem, Gürcan Karakaş indicated that the race in this transformation was just a beginning, and TOGG has a substantial advantage compared to its competitors.

Highlighting that TOGG aimed at producing one million vehicles in five different segments by 2030, Gürcan Karakaş stated that the first mass-production vehicle would be launched by the end of 2022, and the first vehicle in the C segment, which is the first electric SUV in continental Europe by a non-traditional manufacturer, would be launched in the first quarter of 2023.

Referring to the smart energy solutions included in TOGG's portfolio, Gürcan Karakaş noted that TOGG planned to produce its batteries in-house through Siro Silk Road Clean Energy Solutions, a joint venture with Farasis Energy. He also added that TOGG aimed to supply batteries for all types of electric vehicles and to establish a presence in non-automotive sectors as a battery and energy storage systems provider.

TOGG, which became the first Turkish brand to receive an iF Design Award in 2021 with its C SUV model, was founded in 2018 by TOBB, the Anadolu Group, BMC, Kök Group, Turkcell and Zorlu Holding.

(February 2022 – Issue 81)

TÜRKİYE WINS PRAISE FOR ITS KEY ROLE IN THE EXTENSION OF THE GRAIN CORRIDOR DEAL

The landmark grain corridor deal unblocking the export of grain, foodstuffs and fertilizers from Ukrainian Black Sea ports has been extended for another four months days before its scheduled expiration thanks to Türkiye's diplomatic efforts. Brokered by Türkiye and the UN and signed between Russia, Ukraine, Türkiye and the UN in İstanbul on 22 July 2022, the grain corridor deal, officially known as the "Black Sea Grain Initiative" has been crucial for preventing a global food crisis and helping stabilise food prices by resuming the export of grain through the Black Sea which had been halted due to Russia's blockade of Ukrainian ports. At the end of October, citing allegations of a Ukrainian drone attack on its Black Sea fleet, Moscow had announced that it would pull out of the grain corridor deal indefinitely. Diplomatic efforts by Türkiye including at the highest level proved decisive in Moscow's reviewing its decision and returning to the deal.



On 17 November 2022, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan confirmed that the parties agreed to renew the Black Sea Grain Initiative for a period of 120 days starting 19 November as a result of the quadrilateral talks hosted by Türkiye.

Türkiye's role in brokering and ensuring the continuation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative has received praise from the leaders of many prominent countries, leading international organisations and the EU. UN Secretary-General António Guterres praised Türkiye's role in reaching the deal in a social media post on 17 November and stated that the deal would never have been possible without Ankara's commitment and generosity. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen congratulated President Erdoğan

and UN Secretary-General Guterres for the agreement on the renewal of the deal and indicated that together with EU Solidarity Lanes, the deal proved effective in preventing global food shortages and bringing down food prices.

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell issued a statement welcoming the extension of the deal which is vital for ensuring food security and driving global food prices down and highlighted the efforts of Türkiye and the UN to guarantee its continuation. Moreover, in his address to the 68th Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg commended the role that Türkiye and President Erdoğan assumed in facilitating and renewing the deal which he stressed had proven extremely important for food prices. Stoltenberg also hailed Ankara's role in facilitating the prisoner exchange between Russia and Ukraine and indicated that this was also welcomed by the Allies.

(December 2022 – Issue 91)

WORLD BANK SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED FIRST EU-FUNDED ENERGY PROJECT IN TURKEY



The closing meeting of the EU-funded first energy project on "Enhancement of Turkish Energy Sector in Line with the EU Energy Priorities and Strategies" was held at the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources on 20 September. The main objectives of the project is to provide legislative alignment with EU in terms of electricity, natural gas, energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors as well as support to the relevant authorities, and

the renewable energy sector. Moreover, the project aims at enhancing the liberalisation of the natural gas market along with improving the natural gas natural gas trade infrastructure and scale up energy efficiency investments through increasing access to energy efficiency financing.

Several renewable energy and energy efficiency investments were supported through feasibility studies and bankability

reports, which have already been effectively utilised by several SMEs in the market. The 11.8 million euros EU funded project is expected to have a significant impact not only in the full integration of the Turkish gas system but also on sustainable energy investments in Turkey along with enhancing and further developing Turkey-EU energy cooperation.

(September 2017 – Issue 32)

NEW CULTURAL SITES FROM TURKEY ADDED TO UNESCO'S TENTATIVE LIST

Five new cultural assets from Turkey were added to the UNESCO's World Heritage Tentative List on 14 April 2020. The Turkish Culture and Tourism Ministry announced that the new sites added



archaeological site in Turkey's southern Osmaniye province, the Koramaz Valley in Kayseri province in central Turkey and the Historic Town of Beypazarı in Ankara. Inclusion into the tentative list is a first step in becoming a

World Heritage Site. With the latest addition, the total number of Turkey's cultural sites on the UNESCO Tentative List has reached 83. (April 2020 – Issue 60)

to the tentative list were Zerzevan Castle and Mithraeum located in Turkey's south-eastern Diyarbakır province, the Historic Port Town of İzmir province, the Karatepe-Arsiltaş

EU APPROVED TÜRKİYE'S TURKAEGEAN TOURISM TRADEMARK



Türkiye's application to register the country's new tourism campaign trademark "TurkAegean" was approved by the EU. Having been granted the trademark in December 2021, Türkiye will have the right to its exclusive use for a wide variety of services until July 2031.

The application has been made by the Turkish Tourism Promotion and Development Agency to the European Union Intellectual Property Office as part of its "TurkAegean Coast of Happiness" campaign. The motivation behind the campaign is stated to come from

an assessment of the statistics of destinations of foreign tourists in Türkiye in 2019 by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Turkish Tourism Promotion and Development Agency. It turned out that 10% of Türkiye's visitors had their destination as Türkiye's Aegean coast, which is "one of the most exquisite regions Türkiye has to offer," as stated by the Minister of Culture and Tourism Mehmet Nuri Ersoy.

The tourism campaign launched by Türkiye focuses on promoting the 2,800 km long coastline of Türkiye on the Aegean Sea, the region famous for its beaches as well as historical and cultural sites such as Efes and the ancient city of Truva. Go Türkiye website describes the Aegean Region of Türkiye as offering "beautiful landscapes, dazzling coastlines, immaculate beaches, pine woods and olive groves, perfect for nature lovers, photographers, history buffs and adrenaline junkies. Many popular holiday villages and fishing harbours are scattered up and down the coast." (August 2022 – Issue 87)

YEREBATAN CISTERN REOPENED AFTER RESTORATION



The Yerebatan (Basilica) Cistern Museum, one of the most famous historical buildings in İstanbul that is also placed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, was reopened to visitors after the completion of the restoration period started in 2017. The renovation was launched because the Yerebatan Cistern has been damaged by earthquakes several times in the past.

Following the renovation, the ferro-concrete walkway was replaced with a new modular walking platform due to the excess load on the building. The Million Stone, which dates back to the 4th century, and the 500-year-old water gauge next to it were amongst the places that have been restored. The cistern, which is 140 metres long and 70 metres wide,

was descended by a 52-step stone staircase, and there are 336 columns, each nine metres high, most of which seem to have been collected from older buildings. It also covers an area of 9,800 square metres and a water storage capacity of 100,000 tons.

The cistern, built in the 6th century by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I, supplied the city's water need for centuries by distributing the water obtained from waterways and rain to the Great Palace where the emperors resided, and to the surrounding buildings. The first restoration of the Cistern, which was rediscovered by the topographer Petrus Gyllius after the Ottoman conquest of İstanbul, was made by the architect Sedefkar Mehmet Ağa during the reign of Ahmet III.

Two Medusa heads, the most famous symbol of the building, were discovered in the restoration carried out between 1985 and 1987. The Yerebatan Cistern, which was opened as a museum by the İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality in 1987, continues to offer visitors to witness the magic of history along with İstanbul's other attractions, such as the Hagia Sophia and Grand Mosque.

(August 2022 – Issue 87)

TURKISH FILM 'POTA' WINS AN INTERNATIONAL AWARD

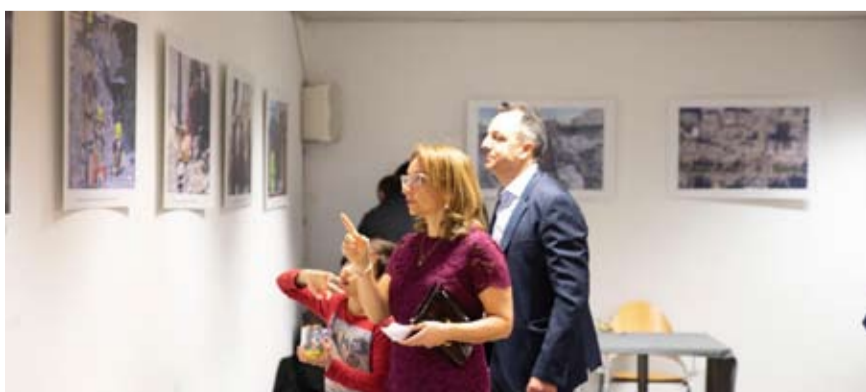
The TRT co-produced film, titled "Pota," has been bestowed with an accolade at the esteemed "Crystal Seal" International Film Festival held in Ulan Ude, the capital of the Republic of Buryatia, an autonomous region of Russia. This cinematic endeavour, which was conceived and directed by Ahmet Toklu with substantial backing from the Moscow Yunus Emre Institute, was prominently featured among the diverse assortment of children-oriented films showcased at the festival.

Having previously debuted at the distinguished 51st Giffoni Film Festival, "Pota" has since amassed numerous accolades across both national and international film festivals. The narrative of this cinematic creation revolves around the arduous journey undertaken by socioeconomically disadvantaged children who, driven by their indomitable spirit, erect a basketball hoop within their local community, confronting a multitude of challenges along the way.



Mehmet Ülker, the Coordinator of the Moscow Yunus Emre Institute, underlined the profound significance associated with acquainting cinephiles with Turkish films through internationally renowned events like the aforementioned festival. Furthermore, he unveiled ambitious plans to screen a curated collection of 100 Turkish films across diverse cities and cinema venues throughout Russia, serving as a notable component of the grandiose commemorative festivities scheduled to honour the centenary milestone of Türkiye. (June 2023 – Issue 97)

PHOTO EXHIBITION FEATURING TÜRKİYE'S EARTHQUAKE-HIT AREAS OPENED IN BRUSSELS



20 photos from the 6 February earthquakes in Türkiye were put on display at the photographic exhibition "The Disaster of the Century: Photos from the Fault Line" at the Brussels Press Club on 20 February. The photographs documented the aftermath

of two deadly earthquakes that struck Türkiye's southeast, causing widespread devastation and a death toll of nearly 50,000. The exhibition was curated by İpek Tekdemir, a communications and policy adviser at the European Parliament,

and aims to honour the victims, survivors, and over 10,000 first responders. The exhibition was attended by EU officials, diplomats, and representatives of various nongovernmental organisations. (March 2023 – Issue 94)

FUNDAMENTAL DOCUMENT OF TÜRKİYE-EU RELATIONS: 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANKARA AGREEMENT

60 years of the Ankara Agreement: A lasting partnership, shared values, and a hopeful future for Türkiye-EU relations.

Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas
IKV Secretary General

The Ankara Agreement establishing an association between Türkiye and the European Economic Community (EEC) completed its 60 years on 12 September 2023. The Ankara Agreement aims to gradually establish the four fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Treaty of Rome among the six founding members between Türkiye and the EEC. The Ankara Agreement, which outlines a comprehensive association including the free movement of goods, labour, capital and services, formed the basis of the Customs Union that is in force today. With the formation of the Customs Union, integration into the Common Market will be taken to the furthest point because the Customs Union includes the abolition of all customs duties, quantitative restrictions and all other measures having equivalent effect between the parties, as well as Türkiye's harmonisation with the Community's Common Commercial Policy and the implementation of the Common Customs Tariff. Prospect of Türkiye's membership is elaborated in Article 28 of the Agreement. The statement follows as, "As soon as the operation of this Agreement has advanced far enough to justify envisaging full acceptance by Türkiye of the obligations arising out of the Treaty establishing the Community, the Contracting Parties shall examine the possibility of the accession of Türkiye to the Community." As can be seen from this article, the main purpose of the Association Agreement is to prepare Türkiye, which lags behind the Community in terms of development standards, for a future membership. Judging by the speeches made at the signing ceremony of the Ankara Agreement, it is possible to see that the partnership with Türkiye was received extremely positively by the young organization of that period, the EEC.

The Continuing Importance of Opinions from 60 Years Ago

During the signing ceremony of



the Ankara Agreement, then Prime Minister İsmet İnönü said in his speech: "With this agreement, we have taken an important step towards the realization of our two-hundred-year-old dream of Westernisation, not for economic goals." For Türkiye, it will not only be an agreement with an economic dimension but will also bring Türkiye closer to Europe and the West and will mean the realisation of Atatürk's maxim of "reaching the level of contemporary civilisation" in terms of development and living standards. In the speech of Walter Hallstein, then President of the EEC Commission, it is possible to feel that the partnership with Türkiye was welcomed with enthusiasm. In his speech, Hallstein stated that the signing of the Ankara Agreement was an event of great political significance. The following statements in the speech are noteworthy:

"Türkiye is part of Europe. That is really the ultimate meaning of what we are doing today. It confirms in incomparably topical form a truth which is more than the summary expression of a geographical concept or of a historical fact that holds good for several centuries. Türkiye is part of Europe: and here we think first and foremost of the stupendous personality of Atatürk, whose work meets us at every turn in this country, and of the radical way in which he recast every aspect of life in Türkiye on European lines. It is an event without parallel in the history of the influence exerted by

European culture and politics. I would even say that we sense in it a certain kinship with the most modern of European developments: the unification of Europe. Do we not feel the workings of a kindred spirit when we meet this enlightened, rational and sternly realistic attitude; the methodical application of modern knowledge; the importance attached to teaching and education; the progressive and forceful dynamism which we witness everywhere; and the bold pragmatism in the choice of means. What then could be more natural than that Europe - that part of Europe which represents the free expression of its own character - and Türkiye should show themselves to be as one in their actions and reactions - in the military, the political and the economic spheres? Türkiye is part of Europe, today this means that Türkiye is establishing a constitutional relationship with the European Community. Like the Community itself, that relationship is imbued with the concept of evolution."

These words of Hallstein reveal how much the republic and revolutions founded by Atatürk were valued by the European Community at that time. So much so that the great change that Atatürk made by establishing the Republic of Türkiye as a modern nation state is compared to the process of change that started in Western Europe with the establishment of the European Communities. Türkiye is considered European in its orientation, system and goals, and it is natural for it to

be part of the European integration process. The Association Agreement forms the basis of a constitutional relationship and is associated with the concept of evolution, which forms the basis of the European integration process by establishing a partnership relationship that will be realized step by step. Hallstein included the following opinions at the end of his speech:

"We are, then, at the outset of an era of close co-operation between Türkiye and the Community. The two sides will meet in the Council of Association where, as equal partners, they will discuss their problems and will endeavour in this new spirit to settle any difficulties that may arise. Inspired by the same ideas, they will consider together how these can be translated into reality in the framework of association. And one day the final step is to be taken: Türkiye is to be a full member of the Community. This wish, and the fact that it is shared by us and our Turkish friends alike, is the strongest expression of our community of interest."

Foundations of the Association

The welcoming and encompassing attitude portrayed by Hallstein reflects the enthusiasm to include Türkiye as part of the EC. The association whose natural outcome is full membership is not solely based on trade but also on continued commitment to a common vision, a common stance and common values. These as well as

both parties working harmoniously are the conditions for a well-functioning Türkiye-EU relationship. Taking into consideration the geopolitical milieu at the time, the Cold War and the fact that Türkiye is part of the same block as Western Europe constituted the fundamental parameters of this harmonious relationship.

Türkiye's relations with the EU went through different stages over time progressing from association towards candidacy. The last stage of the association was the establishment of the Customs Union which entered into force by the end of 1995. Even today Customs Union still remains to be a very important connection between the parties and represents the role Turkish industry plays in the European supply chains. When Türkiye was announced as a candidate country at the Helsinki Summit and the accession process started, Türkiye became a negotiating country. This triggered Türkiye's membership journey as envisaged in Article 28 of the Association Agreement. However, negotiations for membership have come to a halt. Under the circumstances, despite the fact that Türkiye continues to be candidate country, it doesn't seem possible for the accession negotiations to resume and Türkiye to become a member in the near future. Having said that, it doesn't mean that aiming for membership should be shelved. If the conditions are right and Türkiye decides to resume the political and economic reforms, work towards fulfilling the criteria of democratisation, judicial independence, rule of law and fundamental rights and freedoms which are the requirements of EU membership as well as continue the process of alignment to the EU acquis, important positive changes may take place with respect to the relations with the EU. At a time when relations with the EU is at a standstill and updating and upgrading is not an option, making the most of the possibilities provided by the relationship based on association might prevent the relations from regressing even more and instead provide the basis for a closer relationship in the future.