



İKVM NİTİMLİ

ISSUE: 101 OCTOBER 2023

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S 2022 REPORT ON TÜRKİYE HAS BEEN ADOPTED

The 2022 EP Report on Türkiye shows the stance and viewpoint of the EP concerning the Türkiye-EU relations and its future.

European Parliament (EP) has adopted the 2022 Report on Türkiye on 13 September 2023. The report, which was penned by EP Türkiye Rapporteur Nacho Sánchez Amor, is an advisory one rather than a binding document. Nonetheless, the report is of vital importance due to its high potential to show the stance and viewpoint of the EP concerning the Türkiye-EU relations and its future. It also needs attention to see the general perspective towards Türkiye within the EU institutions as more high-level reports such as the 2023 EU Enlargement Strategy and the special report on EU-Türkiye relations, which is being prepared by the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell, are on the way.

The report starts with giving references to European Council conclusions, decisions, statements, and reports which were benefitted in preparation phase of the report. This is followed by important events shaping current Turkish politics and the Türkiye-EU relations like 2023 Presidential Elections held in Türkiye and decreasing but not ending tension in Eastern Mediterranean are provided. Next are the two main body sections constituting the report, which are titled "General Assessment and Latest Developments" and "The Way Forward for Türkiye-EU Relations."

General Assessment and Latest Developments

This section mainly deals with significant events in relation to Türkiye-EU relations. Turkish Presidential Elections are evaluated as an indicator of continuation of the current political situation in Türkiye. While the report appreciates the high voter turn-out, it claims lack of fair competition ground before the elections exemplified with problems on media coverage, harsh and polarising discourse and so on. The report presents EU support provided just after the twin earthquakes which



hit Southern Türkiye on 6 February as a vivid example of European solidarity with Turkish people.

When it comes to foreign policy, normalisation processes with Armenia, Egypt, Israel, and Gulf states are welcomed in the document. However, existence of various points of dispute is also noted as Türkiye and the EU follow different policy paths as in the cases of Libya and Syria. Since the underlying issues remain unsolved, the report approaches the current stability in the Eastern Mediterranean cautiously. As for the Cyprus issue, the report reiterates the support for bi-zonal and bi-communal solution. With respect to the developments on Ukraine, the report highlights that Türkiye is looking to maintain its relations with both the West and Russia while stressing the utmost importance Türkiye gives to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. The report also appreciates Turkish efforts for mediation and the Black Sea Grain Corridor; however, Turkish alignment level of EU Common Security and Foreign Policy, which is predicted to be at 7%, and the Turkish position vis-à-vis the EU sanctions on Russia are criticised. It is also mentioned that the Swedish accession process to NATO cannot be

linked to Türkiye's accession to the EU.

In the report, Türkiye is criticised on the topics linked with human rights, gender equality and minorities. The report claims that the gap between Türkiye and the EU is widening as Türkiye does not show any interest neither to fulfill the Copenhagen Criteria nor to bridge this gap and reverse the current trend.

On climate and environmental policies, Türkiye's ratification of the Paris Climate Agreement and its 2053 carbon-neutral target are appreciated. Türkiye is invited to be a party to the UN Economic Commission for Europe, Espoo (The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context) and Aarhus Conventions (Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters) and the report makes a call for Türkiye to reevaluate/stop construction of Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant.

The Way Forward for Türkiye-EU Relations

Türkiye's strategic importance for the EU in terms of political, economic, energy and foreign policy areas is emphasised. However, "in the absence of a drastic change of course by the

Turkish Government", the report says that the accession process cannot be resumed. Thus, the report stresses the need of "a realistic framework for Türkiye-EU relations."

It is highlighted that upgrading of the Customs Union should take digitalisation and Green Deal into consideration; and any progress on the subject is conditional upon human rights, fundamental freedoms, respect for international law and good neighbourly relations. On visa liberalisation process, the report suggests that steps will be taken as soon as remaining six benchmarks are fulfilled by the Turkish authorities.

What to Expect from the Upcoming Special Report?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs published a statement after the adoption of the EP 2022 Türkiye Report. The statement takes attention on the current situation in Europe where a war continues and stability and security in the region are at stake; and says that in such a context, seeking alternative ways for Türkiye-EU relations other than accession negotiations, which constitute the base for the relations, is defined as "irrational". The statement indicates that the report is fed with

anti-Türkiye disinformation and populism. The EP Report's approach towards the issues in the Aegean, Eastern Mediterranean and Cyprus are seen as "unilateral views of certain circles and detached from historical and legal facts". The Customs Union and visa liberalisation processes are defined as the key cooperation fields between Türkiye and the EU; and it is noted that a visionary perspective would acknowledge the importance of Türkiye for the EU to become a global power and cope with uncertainties and challenges.

European Council held on 29-30 June 2023 invited the High Representative and the European Commission to submit a report on the "state of play of Türkiye-EU relations". The report which will be presented by the High Representative Josep Borrell is expected to be ready in October alongside the 2023 Communication on EU Enlargement Strategy. The content of the report and what it proposes for the future of the relations might not be a passionate one under the current circumstances. The special report may not point at any specific mechanism; nonetheless, calling for parties to negotiate alternative association or partnership styles - other than full accession of Türkiye to the EU - to restructure the relations and shape the very nature of the future of the relations might be an option there. Accelerating and completing the upgrading of Customs Union and visa liberalisation processes, as the new setting will be negotiated, might probably be a part of the upcoming report. Nevertheless, whether and to what extent it is reasonable for both parties to end the accession process and seek cooperation at lower levels while full accession offers the possibility of cooperating at the highest level is an open-ended question and necessitates an answer prioritising strategic and long-term benefits rather than focusing on daily polemics between Türkiye and the EU.



TOBB PRESIDENT HİSARCIKLIOĞLU ATTENDED THE EUROCHAMBRES PRESIDENCY MEETING



President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB) M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu attended the Presidency meeting of the European Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Eurochambres), of which he is Vice President. The meeting which

took place in Madrid was hosted by José Luis Bonet, President of the Spanish Union of Chambers. Xiana Mendez Bertolo, Minister of State for Trade of Spain, which holds the EU Presidency, attended the meeting and gave information about the policy priorities of the Spanish EU

Presidency.

Reducing bureaucracy, completion of the Free Trade Agreements under negotiation including the modernisation of the customs union, the problem of qualified labour force and the EU enlargement process were discussed at the meeting.

IKV ORGANISED 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANKARA AGREEMENT MEETING SERIES WITH TEPAV



IKV, in cooperation with TEPAV, organised meetings titled "Ankara Agreement on its 60th Anniversary: The Roadmap of Türkiye-EU Relations" on 21 September 2023 and "Türkiye-EU Relations on the 60th Anniversary of the Ankara Agreement and Prospects for the Future of the Partnership" on 26 September 2023. In the first of the meeting series held for the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Ankara Agreement, which was signed on 12 September 1963 and forms the legal basis of the relations between Türkiye and the EU, the opening speeches were made by TEPAV Founding

Director Assoc. Prof. Güven Sak, IKV Chairperson Ayhan Zeytinoğlu and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs Ambassador Mehmet Kemal Bozay. TEPAV EU Studies Center Director Nilgün Arısan Eralp, IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas, TOBB ETÜ Faculty Member Prof. Dr. Sanem Baykal and retired Ambassador Oğuz Demiralp shared their views as speakers in the panel moderated by Yusuf Işık from TEPAV.

In the second meeting of the series organised for the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Ankara Agreement, which was signed on

12 September 1963 and which constituted the legal basis of the relations between Türkiye and the EU, opening speeches were made by Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of IKV Prof. Dr. Halük Kabaalioğlu and Director General for EU Relations at the Directorate for EU Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Elif Kurşunlu, while the meeting was moderated by IKV Deputy Secretary General M. Gökhan Kilit.

TOBB University of Economics and Technology Faculty Member Prof. Dr. Sanem Baykal, Maltepe University Faculty Member Assoc. Prof. Yıldırım Sak, TEPAV EU Studies Center Director Nilgün Arısan Eralp, MEF University Jean Monnet Head Prof. Beken Saatçioğlu, Turkish-German University Faculty Member Elif Turan, Marmara University Head of Department of EU Politics and International Relations Prof. Yonca Özer, IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas took part in the panel moderated by IKV Deputy Secretary General M. Gökhan Kilit.

EU COMMISSIONER VÁRHELYI VISITED TOBB



TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, IKV Chairperson Ayhan Zeytinoğlu and IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas came together with European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement

Olivér Várhegyi at TOBB on 6 September 2023.

During the meeting, views were exchanged on Türkiye-EU relations, including the update of the Customs Union and visa and transport quota issues.

IKV ORGANISED A SEMINAR TITLED "THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE TÜRKİYE-EU ACCESSION PROCESS"



IKV organised a seminar titled "The European Green Deal and its Implications for the Türkiye-EU Accession Process", hosted by Van Chamber of Commerce and Industry in cooperation with FNF on 28 September 2023. The seminar was moderated by Van Chamber of Commerce and Industry Secretary

General Cengiz Aras, and the opening speech was delivered by Vice President of Van Chamber of Commerce and Industry Fevzi Çelikaş.

IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas made a presentation titled "European Green Deal and Türkiye". The second speaker of the seminar, IKV Deputy Secretary General M. Gökhan Kilit discussed in depth the effects of the European Green Deal on the Customs Union update process. The meeting was concluded with a question-answer session after the presentation of IKV Research Manager Çisel İleri on "EU Programmes and Funds in which Türkiye participates".

IKV RELEASED TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS

IKV released two new publications about corporate sustainability duty of care and Customs Union. First publication titled "Environmentally and Socially Responsible Businesses and Corporate Sustainability Duty of Care" written by Bahar Güçlü, Deputy Director General for International Agreements and EU Affairs at the Ministry of Trade and Gökhan Güçlü, Chief Labor Inspector at the Ministry of Labor and Social Security. The second publication "Updating the Customs



Union within the Scope of Twin Transformation and Türkiye" was written by IKV Junior Researcher Nagehan Nur Uysal and IKV Junior Researcher Ahmet Emre Usta.

İKv AGENDA

İKv CHAIRPERSON ZEYTİNOĞLU COMMENTED ABOUT EP DRAFT REPORT



İKv Chairperson Ayhan Zeytinoğlu made a statement on the Türkiye Report adopted by the General Assembly of the European Parliament on Wednesday, 13 September 2023. Zeytinoğlu stated that the report does not meet the aim of contributing to Türkiye's EU process and that it is a document that is generous in criticism but weak in terms of giving positive direction to the relations. President Zeytinoğlu continued his remarks as follows:

"In the report prepared by EP Rapporteur Nacho Sanchez Amor, it is emphasised that the accession

process with Türkiye can not continue, despite being a candidate country and an important partner for the EU, and that a "parallel and realistic" new framework should be found instead. In fact, the proposed new model of relations is similar to the proposals for a privileged partnership or strategic partnership that have been put forward for a long time by circles opposed to Türkiye's EU membership. The privileged partnership, which was first put on the agenda in 2004 in a report prepared by the Christian democrats in Germany, is a model that has not been filled in since then and cannot

be an alternative to full membership. Bringing these suggestions to us again does not benefit the relations. The only model that will move Türkiye-EU relations forward from their current state is the membership process. In order to revitalise this, both sides have a job to do. Revitalising EU reforms is the most important condition for Türkiye. However, unless the EU side demonstrates its will in this direction, it seems difficult to restart a credible process. The EP could have taken a more proactive role in this direction and revitalise the relations. Instead, however, it chose to put the refugee issue at the centre of relations, praising Türkiye's role in this regard while highlighting the incompatibility of its foreign policy. It is a contradiction to expect a country whose EU membership process has been undermined in different ways to adapt to the EU foreign policy. Real co-operation and integration between the EU and Türkiye require a holistic approach. This can only be achieved through an accession process in line with the goal of membership."

İKv SECRETARY GENERAL NAS TALKED ABOUT TÜRKİYE-EU RELATIONS AT THE FOREIGN POLICY INSTITUTE

İKv Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas gave a webinar on Türkiye-EU relations, within the scope of the training program called "Diplomat School" organised by the Foreign Policy Institute on 9 September 2023. Touching on the problems that Türkiye-EU relations have encountered recently, Assoc. Prof. Nas stated that the accession process is practically suspended. Assoc. Prof. Nas emphasised that countries such as Ukraine



and Moldova, which were given candidate status within the scope of the expansion strategy, are

among the priorities of the EU and that the approach towards Türkiye has developed in the direction of partnership rather than membership. Discussing the steps to be taken to revitalise Türkiye's EU membership process, Assoc. Prof. Nas emphasised the importance of reforms in the field of democracy, human rights and law. The presentation made by Assoc. Prof. Nas continued with the question and answer section.

İKv İSTANBUL EUIC ORGANISED EUROPEAN SPORTS WEEK EVENT



İKv İstanbul EU Information Centre organised a rowing race in Golden Horn on 30 September 2023 as part of the European Week of Sport.

Opening the event, IKV Deputy Secretary General M. Gökhan Kilit referred to the activities of IKV and EUIC. In his speech, IKV Deputy

Secretary General Kilit drew attention to the awareness created by the Information Centres during important periods such as the sports week.

The event was attended by company representatives, university students and people living in the region. Participants learnt about the EU while rowing during the European Week of Sport. In this competition consisting of six different teams, the participants rowed with the unique view of the Golden Horn. At the end of the event, prizes were awarded to the winners and certificates were presented to all participants.

TIMELINE SEPTEMBER 2023

Foreign Minister Fidan came together with Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu.	1	
	2	
President Erdoğan came together with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Sochi.	3	
	4	
Foreign Minister Fidan came together with his Greek counterpart Giorgos Gerapetritis.	5	
	6	Member of the EU Commission Oliver Várhelyi visited TOBB.
Foreign Minister Fidan came together with EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Olivér Várhelyi.	7	
	8	
President Erdoğan attended to G20 in New Delhi, India.	9	İKv Secretary General Nas talked about Türkiye-EU relations at the Foreign Policy Institute.
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	11	
	12	İKv Secretary General Nas spoke at the 4 th Process Safety Symposium and Exhibition.
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President Erdoğan attended 78 th UN General Assembly in New York.	17	
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President Erdoğan came together with his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni.	19	
	20	
President Erdoğan came together with his Greek counterpart Kyriakos Mitsotakis.	21	İKv organised "Ankara Agreement on its 60 th Anniversary: The Roadmap of Türkiye-EU Relations" meeting in cooperation with TEPAV.
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	23	
	24	İKv organised "Türkiye-EU Relations on the 60 th Anniversary of the Ankara Agreement and Prospects for the Future of the Partnership" meeting in cooperation with TEPAV.
	25	
Deputy Foreign Minister and Director for EU Affairs Ambassador Bozay came together with Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of Lithuanian Parliament Žygmantas Pavilionis.	26	
	27	
	28	İKv organised a seminar titled "The European Green Deal and its Implications for the Türkiye-EU Accession Process".
	29	
	30	İKv İstanbul EUIC organised European Sports Week event.
	31	

TURKISH AND RUSSIAN PRESIDENTS MET IN SOCHI FOR TALKS



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Russian President Vladimir Putin met in Russia's southern coastal city of Sochi as part of efforts to get Moscow back to the critical Black Sea grain deal which was cancelled by Putin in July.

President Erdoğan paid a one-day working visit to Sochi to discuss current regional and global issues, as well as bilateral relations with President Putin. The revival of last year's historic Black Sea grain

agreement, which helped alleviate the global food crisis, was also on the agenda of the meeting.

Referring to bilateral trade in his statement, President Erdoğan said that the trade volume between Türkiye and Russia is 62 billion dollars and the goal is to reach 100 billion dollars.

Moscow's proposal to supply Türkiye with one million tonnes of Russian grain which would be distributed, with financial support from Qatar to the countries that need

it most and the supply of natural gas from Russia to Türkiye was also expected to be part of the talks.

At the joint press conference after several hours of talks, President Erdoğan said that a solution that meets expectations is within reach. Russian President Putin said his country would be ready to revive the grain agreement "as soon as all agreements on the removal of restrictions on exports of Russian agricultural products are fully implemented."

FOREIGN MINISTER FIDAN HELD HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS



Minister of Foreign Affairs Hakan Fidan held diplomatic meetings with Russian Defence Minister Shoigu and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg to address regional issues. On the final day of his working visit to Russia, Foreign Minister Fidan continued talks in Moscow. Minister Fidan held a closed-door meeting with Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu and also met with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov to discuss bilateral relations and regional issues, particularly the Black Sea grain deal. "With the intense efforts and contributions of our country, the UN has prepared a new proposal package. We think that this will be a suitable base for the revival of the initiative," Foreign Minister Fidan said at a news conference with Russian Foreign

Minister Lavrov, confirming the importance of fulfilling Russia's demands for the export of its own grain and fertilizer.

Foreign Minister Fidan and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg discussed over the phone revival of the Black Sea grain deal, Turkish diplomatic sources said. Minister Fidan and Secretary General Stoltenberg also exchanged views on the latest developments in Ukraine, and Sweden's NATO bid. The development came a day after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan met his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in the coastal city of Sochi. Restoring the 2022 agreement that helped ease global food crisis was top on the agenda.

EU ENLARGEMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMISSIONER VISITS TÜRKİYE TO DISCUSS RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

EU Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Olivér Várhelyi came to Türkiye on 5 September 2023 for a two-day visit, the first official visit from the EU since the elections in May. Türkiye's Vice President Cevdet Yılmaz, Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Hakan Fidan, Turkish Trade Minister Ömer Bolat and Turkish Minister of Industry and Technology Mehmet Fatih Kacır were among the senior government officials EU Commissioner Várhelyi met to discuss different dimensions of Türkiye-EU relations as well as possible areas of cooperation. Referring to "the stability, prosperity and security of our regions" as the common priority of Türkiye and the EU, EU Commissioner Várhelyi said he came to Türkiye "to listen and intensify our efforts to move our common agenda forward with Türkiye, a key partner and candidate country." Minister of Foreign Affairs Hakan Fidan said Türkiye's EU membership perspective remains strong and that relations between



Türkiye and the EU should not be "held hostage to the interests of some countries." He stressed that the EU cannot be "a global actor" without Türkiye.

EU Commissioner Várhelyi also met with Turkish Minister of Trade Ömer Bolat and discussed

updating the Customs Union, Türkiye's joint projects with the EU, particularly in green transformation, and cooperation with the EU on financing. Minister of Trade Ömer Bolat said commitment to "the strong continuation of the positive agenda between Türkiye and the

EU" was made by both parties and emphasised that the EU's program regarding the facilitation of visa processes for Turkish business people was especially pleasing. Minister of Trade Bolat announced that technical-level work on ties will commence during Trade Working

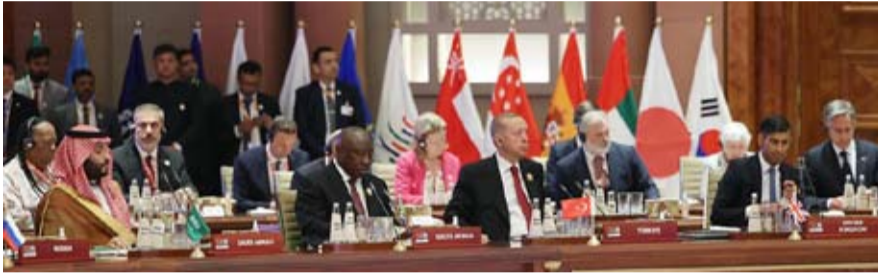
Group meetings in October to improve the trade and economic cooperation between Türkiye and the EU as Türkiye's largest trading partner.

The EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Olivér Várhelyi met with the Minister of Industry and Technology Mehmet Fatih Kacır during his visit. After the meeting, Kacır and Várhelyi held a press conference regarding the Digital Europe Program Participation Agreement signed between Türkiye and the EU recently. The Digital Europe Program worth 7.5 billion euros will help establish the European digital innovation centre that will support the digital transformation of Turkish industry, SMEs and public institutions in Türkiye.

The EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Olivér Várhelyi also met with Turkish businessmen and discussed opportunities for cooperation on clean energy transformation and development of renewable energy with respect to energy security.

HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES

PRESIDENT ERDOĞAN HAD HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS DURING THE G20 SUMMIT



On 9-10 September 2023, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attended the 18th G20 Summit, which took place in New Delhi, India. After attending the Summit sessions, President Erdoğan held bilateral meetings with the leaders of the member countries of G20. At the Summit, whose main theme was "One Earth, One Family, One Future", President Erdoğan and G20 leaders exchanged views in three sessions.

During his meeting with President of the European Council Charles Michel, President Erdoğan discussed Türkiye-EU relations, the steps to be taken for Türkiye's full membership in the EU, and regional-global issues.

President Erdoğan also met with Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman. In this meeting, Türkiye-Saudi Arabia relations were evaluated. President Erdoğan met face to face for the second time with Egyptian President Sisi at the G20 Summit. The first one was at the World Cup Opening Ceremony in Qatar. During the meeting between President Erdoğan and President Sisi at the G20, bilateral relations were discussed, while increasing mutual trade volume and new cooperation in the field of energy were suggested. President Erdoğan underlined that

in relations with Egypt, importance is given to revitalising cooperation in the fields of LNG, nuclear energy, culture and education.

President Erdoğan also had a bilateral meeting with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. One of the main topics in this meeting was Türkiye's EU membership process. Issues such as the re-operation of the Türkiye-EU dialogue mechanism and the Russia-Ukraine war were mainly discussed.

As part of the Summit, President Erdoğan met with United Arab Emirates President Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Brazilian President Lula da Silva and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol.

President Erdoğan visited Mahatma Gandhi's mausoleum with other leaders on the second day of the G20 Summit held in New Delhi. At the entrance of the monument, President Erdoğan was welcomed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

India handed over the term presidency of the G20 Summit to Brazil. The issues that Brazil will prioritise will be poverty, sustainable development, and reforms of global organisations such as the IMF and the UNSC.

PRESIDENT ERDOĞAN ADDRESSED THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE 13TH TIME



In his address to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on 19 September 2023, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan reiterated his call for a reformed global governance system. He argued that the current system, with its focus on the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (P5), is no longer representative of the world's population and does not reflect the realities of the 21st century.

President Erdoğan's speech came at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions, with the ongoing war in Ukraine and the rise of China

challenging the existing international order. In his remarks, President Erdoğan emphasised the need for a more inclusive and equitable global governance system that gives all countries a voice.

President Erdoğan also used his speech to highlight Türkiye's foreign policy priorities, including the ongoing conflict in Syria, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and the fight against terrorism. He also spoke about the importance of dialogue and cooperation between Türkiye and the European Union.

TÜRKİYE AND THE UK TO BROADEN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Minister of Foreign Affairs Hakan Fidan hosted Foreign Secretary of the UK James Cleverly in Ankara on 13 September 2023. Bilateral relations in the areas of economy, trade, tourism, defence industry and combating terrorism and irregular migration as well as the expansion of the Free Trade Agreement were high on the agenda together with a number of regional and international issues including the Ukraine war, restoration of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and the Syria conflict.

Speaking at the joint press conference with Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan after the meeting, the UK Foreign Secretary Cleverly referred to Türkiye as an "indispensable partner" to the UK and crucial for "our collective security and well-being." He emphasised that UK-Türkiye relations have importance for Europe, the region, and are extremely important for the world. Praising Türkiye for its commitments to NATO and its role in collective efforts to revive the Black Sea grain deal and the Turkish diaspora in the UK for their contribution to UK's prosperity and vitality, Foreign Secretary Cleverly said the ties between the two countries are "stronger than ever".



Pointing out to the steadily growing trade between the countries, Foreign Minister Fidan said that the goal is to diversify the bilateral trade volume which reached 20 billion dollars in 2022. During the joint conference, an announcement was made regarding the intention to begin negotiations on a new enhanced free trade agreement covering areas such as digital trade and trade in services. Foreign Minister Fidan said that preparations are about to be finalised.

FOREIGN MINISTER HAKAN FİDAN HAD HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS DURING 78TH UNGA

Türkiye's Minister of Foreign Affairs Hakan Fidan went to New York to attend the 78th UNGA between 17-23 September 2023. Within the scope of his visit, Minister Fidan held bilateral and multilateral meetings. He came together with the Foreign Ministers of Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Latvia, Belarus, Bahrain, Panama, Spain, Nicaragua, Slovakia, Cuba, Bulgaria, Chile, Georgia, Hungary, Belgium, Israel, Saudi Arabia, North Macedonia, Indonesia and Australia. During these meetings, bilateral relations, regional issues and international cooperation were discussed.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Fidan also had meetings with the UN General Secretary António Guterres, and the EU Internal Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson. In the meeting with the EU High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell, the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh as well as the future of EU-Türkiye relations were discussed ahead of the report to be presented to the European Council. Foreign Minister Fidan also met with the US President's Special Coordinator for Global Infrastructure and Energy Security Amos J. Hochstein and the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. During the meeting



with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, bilateral relations, the Black Sea Grain Initiative, Sweden's membership in NATO and developments in Karabakh were discussed.

The multilateral meetings attended by Minister Fidan include the 14th Ministerial Meeting of the UN Group of Friends of Mediation, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Annual Ministerial Coordination Meeting, the Preparatory Ministerial Meeting for the Summit of the Future, the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations, Informal Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the the Organisation of Turkic States (TDT) and Foreign Ministerial Meeting of the Astana Platform. Global and regional issues were discussed in these meetings.

“SULTANS OF THE NET” BECAME EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC



Türkiye Women's Volleyball Team became the European champion by beating Serbia in the final.

After becoming a champion in FIVB Women's Nations League, Türkiye Women's Volleyball Team now became the European champion. In the semi-final match of the Women's European Volleyball Championship held in Ankara, Türkiye beat Poland and Serbia beat Italy and made it to the final. Serbia defeated Türkiye 3-2 in the Women's European Volleyball Championship final held in 2019. On 3 September 2023, the Turkish women's volleyball team played the final match with Serbia and defeated Serbia in an epic five-set match.

In the final set, where there was a fierce competition, the national team became the European champion with a score of 15-13. After the match, team captain Eda Erdem DüNDAR stated that she is proud of her team as they became European champions in the 100th anniversary of our Republic. Melissa Teresa Vargas, who was chosen as the MVP (Most Valuable Player) of the competition, scored 41 points in the final. President Erdoğan congratulated “the sultans of the net” who make us all proud.

TEKNOFEST GATHERS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN ANKARA

TEKNOFEST is a festival bringing a lot of professionals and people who are interested in aerospace and technology together. Technology competitions, air shows, concerts, interviews and events are organised in TEKNOFEST with the aim of increasing interest in technology among society. The festivals are organised jointly by Turkish Industry and Technology Ministry and the T3 (Turkish Technology Team) Foundation. The first festival was in 2018 at Istanbul Airport. This year being the centennial of the Republic of Türkiye, three TEKNOFEST festivals are organised in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir. planned

The first TEKNOFEST was held in Istanbul earlier this year in April and hosted 2.5 million visitors. The second one which was in Ankara started on August 30 and continued until 3 September 2023. A number of exhibitions, workshops, airshows, competitions and seminars were arranged in Ankara as part of TEKNOFEST. President Erdoğan also made a speech at the event. He said that the Turkish youth has a passion for science, technology, research and development; and the state is supporting this inclination by investing



resources in its development.

The event hosted a number of university students attending the festival with their own projects. One of these projects was the hydrogen-powered car which attracted the highest attention among others. Because hydrogen-powered engines do not emit greenhouse gases, it is considered as the fuel of the future as net-zero targets are discussed and indicated in these days.

EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY TO CONTINUE IN TÜRKİYE

On 1 September 2023, a deal was signed between Türkiye and the World Bank for the financing of the Türkiye Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction Project with a package of one billion dollars. On 6 February 2023, Southern Türkiye was hit by a devastating earthquake which affected 11 provinces and caused the death of more than 50,000 people. After the earthquake, recovery efforts started to repair and construct infrastructure and public facilities that are essential for proper functioning of the cities and the people live there. The Türkiye Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction Project had been initiated to facilitate rebuilding and restoring efforts aiming to make operational healthcare services and municipal infrastructure. In addition, the project intends to repair and/or construct rural houses.

On 27 June 2023, World Bank announced its approval. According to the deal reached by



the parties, 296.5 million dollars of the loan will be allocated to the projects of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change; 252.2 million dollars of the package will be used by the Ministry of Health and the rest of the loan, which is 388.3 million dollars, will be in use of İller Bank (İLBANK) projects.

Minister of Treasury and Finance Mehmet ŞİMŞEK, stated that they will maintain working for the region to return to its good old days with the help and opportunities provided by both domestic and international parties.

TÜRKİYE'S THIRD ARCTIC OCEAN EXPEDITION BECOMES A HUB FOR INTERNATIONAL SCIENTISTS



The 3rd National Arctic Scientific Research Expedition, held under the sponsorship of the Turkish Presidency and the coordination of the Marmara Research Center (MAM) Polar Research Institute, which is a part of the Ankara-based Scientific and Technological Research Institution of Türkiye (TUBITAK), accepted foreign scientists for the first time this year.

Scientists from Brasil, the Czech Republic and Norway conducted research to understand the impact of climate change on the ecosystem, fish, and phytoplankton of the Arctic region while the expedition focused on investigating the emerging trade routes

in the Arctic region due to melting sea ice. The Turkish team did research at 28 different locations for a full month in the Barents Sea of the Arctic Ocean with the Norwegian-flagged Polar Xplorer, a 62-meter (203-foot) research vessel.

The coordinator of the scientific expedition Burcu ÖZSOY mentioned the immense value of including foreign scientists in their expedition and the importance of international cooperation in the area of science, saying that “Collaboration between foreign scientists and their Turkish counterparts, resulting in joint studies, enhances our nation's influence in the field of science diplomacy.”

MİLAS OLIVE GETS EU RECOGNITION

Turkish application to register Milas olive (Milas Yağlı Zeytini) for official recognition in the EU finalised on 8 September 2023. Olives have been among the most basic sources of income in Milas, one of the important production centres of Türkiye and the Aegean Region, from ancient times to the present. Milas oil olive, a table olive, is obtained from the Memecik variety of olives, which are widely grown within the borders of the district and is prepared by covering it with olive oil with a free acidity of maximum 1 percent. The olive became Türkiye's 14th product that



received EU recognition after Edremit's olive oil.

TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkıoğlu extended his congratulations to the President of Milas Chamber of Commerce and Industry Reşit ÖZER, as well as to the Board and Council Members of

Milas Chamber of Commerce and Industry and everyone involved in the significant achievement. Furthermore, work for recognition on 44 geographical indications and five traditional product names continues.

TURKISH ARTIST REFİK ANADOL'S ART SHOWCASING ON WORLD'S LARGEST LED SCREEN

Renowned Turkish media artist Refik Anadol has achieved a groundbreaking milestone by becoming the first artist to display his digital artwork on the Sphere, the world's largest LED screen located in the United States. Anadol's artwork, titled "Machine Hallucinations: Sphere", was recently featured on the sphere-shaped massive LED screen in Las Vegas.

Anadol's unique approach combines media arts with architectural elements, resulting in dynamic architectural creations that continually interact with their environment. Speaking about this achievement, Anadol expressed his excitement stating, "I am thrilled to announce that I am the inaugural artist for The Sphere media architecture project, which boasts the most advanced technological infrastructure worldwide." Anadol's artwork will grace The Sphere for a duration of four months.



This monumental structure, constructed with a staggering \$2.3 billion investment, can accommodate up to 18,600 people. Standing at an impressive height of 111 metres and a width of 157 metres, The Sphere mesmerises viewers with animations displayed

on its colossal 580,000-square-foot fully programmable LED screen, adorned with a remarkable 1.2 million LED lights. This monumental LED screen, referred to as the "Exosphere," sets a remarkable record in the realm of technological achievements.

ANCIENT PHRYGIAN CAPITAL GORDION JOINS UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST



Located in the heart of Türkiye, the ancient city of Gordion has achieved a remarkable milestone by being added to the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage list. This historic decision was announced by the Turkish Minister of Culture and Tourism following the 45th UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Gordion's inclusion in this esteemed list is a testament to its profound cultural and historical significance.

Gordion is situated approximately 90 kilometres southwest of Ankara. Nestled in the Anatolian region, this ancient city occupies a strategic location at the crossroads of great empires that shaped the history of the ancient Near East. Its location

has made it a meeting point for diverse cultures and civilisations over millennia, including the Assyrians, Babylonians, Hittites, Greeks, and Romans.

Gordion holds a unique place in history as it served as the capital of the Phrygian civilisation, one of the most significant and enigmatic civilisations of antiquity. The Phrygians are renowned for their distinctive culture, art, and mythology, with the legendary King Midas being one of their most famous figures. The city's historical importance is underlined by its role as a bridge between eastern and western empires. It stood as a hub for trade, diplomacy, and cultural exchange between the great powers of the ancient world. Perhaps the

most iconic feature of Gordion is the King Midas Tumulus, also known as the "Midas Mound." This impressive burial mound is believed to be the final resting place of King Midas and has captured the imagination of people for centuries. Excavations at this site have uncovered treasures and artifacts shedding light on the Phrygian civilisation.

Gordion is a treasure trove of archaeological wonders, encompassing royal palaces, fortifications, and a wealth of artifacts. These excavations have provided valuable insights into the daily life, customs, and innovations of the Phrygians. Gordion's addition to the UNESCO World Heritage list underscores its importance in preserving humanity's cultural heritage. This recognition ensures the city's protection and promotes its historical significance on a global scale.

Turkish Culture and Tourism Minister Nuri Ersoy has proudly announced that with the recent development of the Ancient City of Gordion earning its place as a "World Heritage", Türkiye has now registered its 20th asset on the UNESCO World Heritage List and is waiting for more positive news from UNESCO.

FIRST LADY EMİNE ERDOĞAN INTRODUCED ANATOLIAN TEXTILES IN NEW YORK



Türkiye's First Lady Emine Erdoğan, accompanying President Erdoğan for the UNGA in New York, introduced centuries-old Anatolian textiles at the "Fabrics Atlas of Türkiye" exhibition at the Turkish House in New York. In her introductory speech, First Lady Erdoğan talked about the importance of introducing this unique culture of Anatolia to humanity, the durability of the products and the history of weaving.

First Lady Erdoğan said that oldest samples of weaving dated back to 9000 years ago and was

found in the archaeological site of Çatalhöyük and noted that samples of "kemha weaving", also called brocade, began to be woven much earlier in the regions of Bursa and Amasra. While promoting the products, First Lady Erdoğan also mentioned that the textiles made from quality yarns are coloured with natural dyes and they are durable.

Impressed by the woven products exhibited, the visitors praised the Turkish textile industry and thanked First Lady Erdoğan for her contributions.

TUNCELİ MUSEUM WAS CHOSEN AS THE 2ND BEST MUSEUM IN EUROPE



Located in the province of Tunceli in the east of Türkiye, the Tunceli Museum, showcasing Alevi beliefs and history, has been honoured as the "second best museum in Europe" out of 48 countries which took part in competition at the European Museum Academy Luigi Micheletti Awards. This award is presented to innovative museums in contemporary history, industry, and science.

The museum, spanning 5,805 square metres, features sections on Alevism, archaeology, and ethnography, along with a library, offering a glimpse into history. Housed in a historic building dating back to 1935, it was transformed into a museum in 2020 after restoration efforts.

Tunceli Museum consists of six halls, displaying humanity's journey from prehistoric times to the present through informative texts, visuals, dioramas, and animations.

The collection includes around 2,000 historical artifacts, ranging from the Paleolithic era to the Republican era.

One remarkable artifact is a 5,000 year old sacred hearth from Pular Mound, symbolising Alevi culture in Anatolia. The museum also stands out for its sections showcasing Alevism rituals, including genealogies of Alevi tribes, ram-headed tombs, and the whirling, a significant Alevi ritual.

In the competition, the 10 person jury praised Tunceli Museum for its thoughtfully structured exhibitions, unique storytelling, and its role in preserving Alevi belief culture. They described it as an exemplary museum with a stimulating contribution to society.

Tunceli Museum's achievement in winning the Luigi Micheletti Award highlights its dedication to preserving and promoting Alevi heritage and culture, setting a high standard for museums worldwide.

WORLD LEADERS RECOGNISE THE PROBLEMS BUT LACK THE WILL TO SOLVE THEM

Global leaders at the UN General Assembly and the G20 Summit readily acknowledged the world's problems but lacked the political will to find solutions based on consensus.

Sema Nur Yeniöldiz
IKV Junior Researcher

September 2023 was a month of intense global diplomatic activity, with two major summits taking place: the eighteenth meeting of the Group of Twenty (G20) in New Delhi, India, on 9-10 September and the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York City, United States, on 18-26 September.

G20: Is it really "One World, One Family, One Future"?

The Group of Twenty (G20) is an intergovernmental forum of the world's twenty largest economies by nominal GDP. It represents 85% of the global economy, 75% of international trade, and two-thirds of the world's population. The G20 was established in 1999 in response to the Asian financial crisis of 1997-1998. It meets annually to discuss global economic and financial issues, as well as other pressing global challenges.

The G20 has a significant role to play in addressing climate change, as its members are responsible for around 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions. However, the G20 has struggled to reach consensus on climate change policies. At the 2023 summit, the G20 reiterated its commitment to the Paris Agreement, but did not agree on any specific new measures to reduce emissions.

The Russia-Ukraine war was a major topic of discussion at the 2023 G20 summit. The G20 leaders condemned the war and called for an immediate end to the conflict. However, they were unable to agree on any specific measures to pressure Russia to withdraw its forces from Ukraine.

An important development at the 2023 G20 summit was the admission of the African Union as a permanent member of the G20. This will give the African Union a greater voice in global economic and financial decision-making.

The 2023 G20 Summit was a mixed bag. The G20 leaders made



some progress on important issues such as climate change and the Russia-Ukraine war, but they were unable to reach consensus on other key issues. G20 remains a valuable forum for global economic and financial cooperation; however, it needs to be more effective in addressing the world's most pressing challenges.

Picture at the 78th UN General Assembly: Reform or Break

Following the BRICS enlargement in August, the UN General Assembly was expected to be a resounding success, but the absence of the leaders of the other four permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, Russia, the United Kingdom and France) led to comments that the world problems discussed during the event were not taken seriously by the permanent members.

Taking place at a time of catastrophic events such as the ongoing war in Ukraine, political crises in the West African sub-region, the earthquake in Morocco, floods in Libya and fires around the world,

the theme of this year's General Assembly, was "Rebuilding trust and revitalising global solidarity: Accelerating action towards the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability for all".

This year, 88 heads of state, 42 heads of government, 13,000 representatives and diplomats attended the general debate session, the highest-level session of the 193-member UN General Assembly, which was held with such a high level of participation for the first time since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The world leaders discussed a wide range of issues, including international development, the fight against climate change and the war in Ukraine. While how to achieve the "Sustainable Development Goals" was the most discussed topic, action proposals were also discussed within the framework of goals such as ending hunger and poverty in the world, improving incomes and education worldwide,

increasing access to clean water and sanitation. Like last year, many leaders condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine and called for an immediate end to the war. Leaders also expressed concern about the impact of the war on global food and energy supplies, as well as its impact on the global order.

Speaking on the first day of the Assembly, UN Secretary-General António Guterres stressed that in a world with many power centres and small groups of nations, challenges that affect all countries cannot be solved. This is why strong institutions like the UN are needed more than ever, Guterres said, and he called even more loudly for reforming the UN and the way countries cooperate to respond to our times. He also said that reform is a matter of power, that there are many conflicting interests and agendas and that for the UN, the alternative to reform is further fragmentation.

Not only Guterres, same as last year, called leaders -more explicitly and forcefully- for a range of reforms, such as expanding the UN

Security Council to better represent the current geopolitical landscape of the world, reforming the veto power of permanent members of the Security Council, and making the UN more effective in addressing global challenges such as climate change and sustainable development. While each leader had his or her own argument for why the UN needs to be reformed, they all agreed that the UN is "not keeping pace with the pace of change in the world" and needs to be "modernised and reformed" to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The UN has been at the centre of global governance and multilateralism for more than 75 years. In recent years, calls for reforming the organisation from a wide range of parties (member states, civil society organisations) have been steadily expanding and renewed. Beyond criticisms that the five veto-wielding members of the UN Security Council, which is known to be responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, are not democratic and representative, there are growing voices - particularly from African countries, which are most affected by these challenges - that the world is failing to respond to a range of new challenges such as climate change, terrorism and pandemics. If the UN continues to ignore these voices, alternatives are likely to emerge. In the face of China's growing influence in global politics, it can be said that Chinese led organisations such as ASEAN and BRICS will increase their influence and impact not only at the regional level but also at the global level. Likewise, China, with its economic and military power, is currently determining strategies and making moves for its own power. In doing so, it aims to deprive the US and its alliances of their power and prestige, the Chinese President's absence from the summits of multilateral organisations such as the UN and the G20 is an example of this.