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TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER FİDAN'S PARTICIPATION TO THE INFORMAL MEETING OF EU FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS

After five years, Minister Fidan participated in the Informal Meeting of EU Foreign Affairs Ministers held on 29 August in Brussels and exchanged views on the progress of Türkiye-EU relations.

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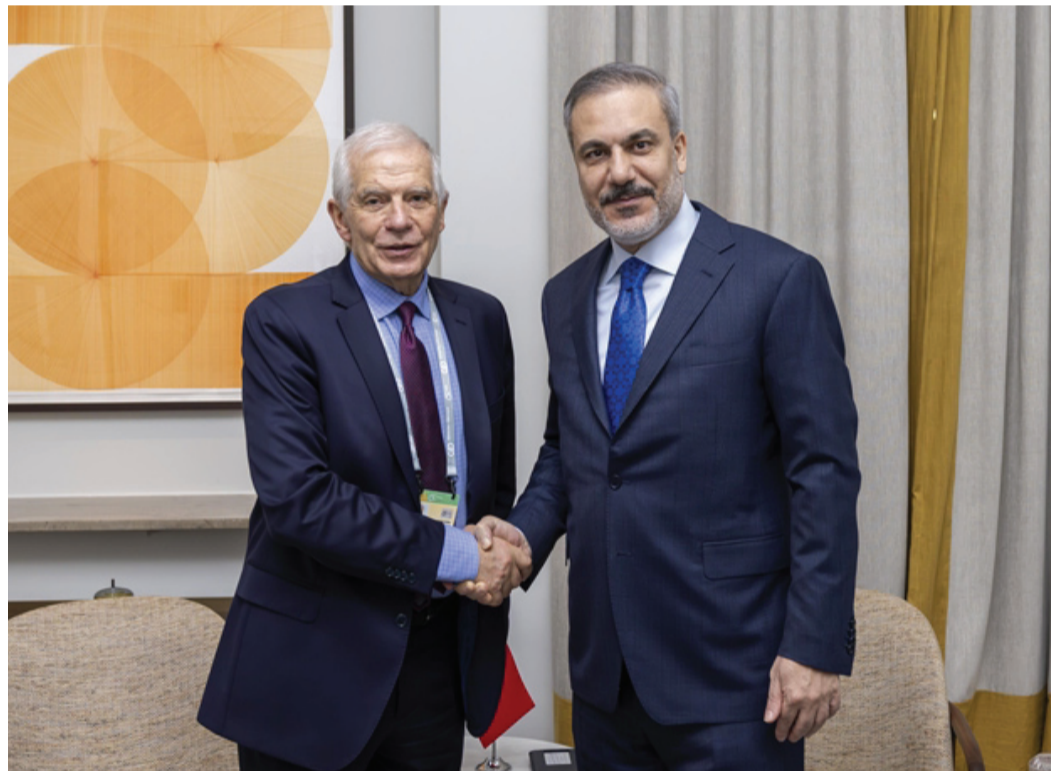
On 29 August, Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan participated in the Informal Meeting of the EU Foreign Affairs Ministers held in Brussels. The first session of the meeting, which also included Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmitro Kuleba, addressed Russia's intervention in Ukraine, while the second session discussed ongoing negotiations for a ceasefire in Gaza. The meeting, which spanned approximately two hours, included bilateral talks between Minister Fidan and his counterparts.

What Was on the Türkiye-EU Agenda?

First of all, the invitation of Türkiye to the EU Informal Foreign Ministers Meeting for the first time in five years is seen as an important development in relations between the parties. The last meeting Türkiye attended in the same format was in 2019. In his speech following the meeting, Minister Fidan stated that two main issues were discussed in Türkiye-EU relations. The first of these was how Türkiye-EU relations could be institutionally advanced, while the second was how cooperation between the parties could be ensured on both global and regional issues.

Priorities of Türkiye

Foreign Minister Fidan underlined that one of the important issues for Türkiye was visa liberalisation. He emphasised that Türkiye had completed 66 criteria for visa liberalisation and that work was being carried out in consultation with the relevant institutions to complete the remaining six criteria. Minister Fidan's statements indicate



that contacts with EU institutions and Member States will continue, especially for the expansion of multiple-entry and long-term visas.

Minister Fidan also emphasised that Türkiye views the EU accession process as a strategic aim. On the other hand, Minister Fidan also expressed that the Cyprus issue should be kept separate from Türkiye-EU relations. In addition, he addressed that EU membership is a strategic aim for Türkiye and that it would be right for the parties to proceed on a positive agenda. Emphasising that in the future, especially on technical issues, it is necessary to gain momentum, Minister Fidan mentioned that as a first step, the established dialogue mechanisms that were suspended in 2019 should be reactivated and Türkiye's expectations regarding modernisation of the Customs Union should be met.

"Türkiye Is a Candidate Country and Will Continue To Be"

The EU also emphasised the importance of mutual consultation in the face of Türkiye's demands. The EU expressed that constructive and sustainable cooperation should continue in all areas, especially foreign policy, security and defence issues in Türkiye-EU relations. In addition, and perhaps the most important emphasis of the EU at the meeting, was that the parties should act together due to Türkiye's significant role in the recent international crises. The EU underlined the need for Türkiye and the EU to hold closer and deeper consultations and develop common policies in these crises. In a nutshell, the EU stated that it wants to see a Türkiye that views foreign policy from the same perspective, moves forward with joint decisions and supports it. EU High Representative

for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell touched on the importance of participating in this informal meeting in terms of discussing difficult issues between the parties for Türkiye, a candidate country. Borrell stated that the geopolitical situation in the nearby region and beyond was discussed in detail with Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan at the meeting, and shared information about the Cyprus issue and the Middle East, which put Türkiye in a difficult position in its relations with the EU. Borrell also expressed his hope that this meeting would be a step towards resolving the issues, especially regarding Cyprus. Borrell stated that no timetable was discussed regarding Türkiye's accession process in response to a question asked at the meeting, and said, "Türkiye is a candidate country and will continue to be so."

Bilateral Meetings

Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan met with Greek Foreign Minister Giorgos Gerapetritis before the meeting. Minister Fidan also met with Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares, Luxembourg Foreign Minister Xavier Bettel and Belgian Foreign Minister Hadja Lahbib.

Conclusion

Informal Meeting of EU Foreign Affairs Ministers, which Türkiye attended after a five-year hiatus, was seen by Türkiye as a search for dialogue by the EU. Türkiye's demand was to create a basis for opening a dialogue channel between the parties, specifically regarding the issues discussed at the meeting. On the other hand, the issues Türkiye emphasised at the meeting were modernisation of the Customs Union, which will increase the development of both parties in terms of trade, and also visa liberalisation, while the EU emphasised the importance of dealing with international crises together. The development that draws a positive framework for Türkiye's EU accession process was included in Borrell's statements.

Although it is important for Türkiye to attend the meeting after five years, whether the parties can make progress in the short term on the issues of modernising the Customs Union and visa liberalisation that Minister Fidan brought up is still a big question mark. On the other hand, it is important that Türkiye expresses the bottlenecks it has experienced in the EU accession process and that it will make progress easier as a result of resolving these bottlenecks. When looking at the EU side, it is seen that the EU desires to be in a position to act together with Türkiye, especially in the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine conflicts.



IKV CHAIRPERSON ZEYTİNOĞLU: “THE EU AI ACT HAS ENTERED INTO FORCE”

IKV Chairperson Ayhan Zeytinoğlu made a statement regarding the entry into force of the EU's Artificial Intelligence regulation. Chairperson Zeytinoğlu said the following: “The EU Artificial Intelligence regulation came into force on 1 August 2024. The most important aspect is that the EU is the first actor in the world to establish binding rules related to artificial intelligence. The EU's AI regulation analyses the risks and opportunities associated with using AI. It introduces measures specifically concerning individual rights as well as health and safety of the users. Accordingly, the use of artificial intelligence in the EU is examined under different categories depending on its risk. Some applications, such as social scoring AI, systems that manipulate human behaviour, emotion recognition systems, and remote biometric identification for predictive policing are banned due to violations of fundamental



rights. Strict rules are also applied to specific systems used in health, recruitment, and credit application assessments. In such high-risk applications, requirements such as risk prevention systems, high quality data sets, user information,

human control, and rules on cyber security are introduced. For AI applications like chatbots used in online shopping, users must be warned that they are interacting with a machine. When video, photo or voice is manipulated with

“deep fake” technology, it must be reported, and users must be informed when biometric data-based classification or emotion recognition and detection systems are used. Applications like spam filters or video games are considered low-risk and do not have specific conditions.

The AI Act also establishes rules for general-purpose AI models. Member States are responsible for implementing AI rules and will appoint national authorities to enforce market surveillance mechanisms by 2 August 2025. The European Commission's AI Office will be responsible at the EU level. The European AI Board will ensure the uniform application of the AI Act across all Member States. Violations of rules for high-risk AI applications can result in fines of up to 7% of global annual turnover. Provisions for AI with unacceptable risk will be enforced within six months, rules for general-purpose

AI models will apply within 12 months, and all other provisions will be in force by 2 August 2026. The European Commission has begun work to establish implementation guidelines for general-purpose AI model providers, with a consultation process involving all NGOs, companies, and experts. The guidelines are expected to be finalised by April 2025. Recently, President Erdoğan introduced the HIT-30 High Technology Investment Program, aiming to make Türkiye a hub for high-tech investments. This program aims to increase high-tech investments and the proportion of high-tech products in our exports. Promoting these goals is very important. At the same time, Türkiye's relationship with the EU process should not be forgotten. Becoming a centre for high-tech investments requires compliance with the most current norms and standards, including digitalisation and artificial intelligence.”

IKV CHAIRPERSON ZEYTİNOĞLU: “WE ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO OUR FOREIGN MINISTER’S PARTICIPATION IN THE INFORMAL MEETING OF EU FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS AND LOOK FORWARD TO NEW STEPS”



IKV Chairperson Ayhan Zeytinoğlu made a statement on the participation of Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan in the Informal Meeting of EU Foreign Affairs Ministers held on 29 August 2024. Chairperson Zeytinoğlu emphasised the importance of Minister Fidan's participation in the Informal Meeting of Foreign Ministers after a 5 year hiatus for the functioning of the consultation mechanisms between Türkiye and the EU on security and regional issues. Chairperson Zeytinoğlu said the following:

“We would like to emphasise that we attach importance to the participation of our Foreign Minister in the Informal Meeting of EU Foreign Affairs Ministers for the first time in five years

and we expect new steps to be taken. It is crucial that Türkiye and the EU exchange views on issues of regional relevance and directly affecting the European security. The report by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission, published in 2023, also recommended the participation of the Foreign Minister in the Informal Meeting of EU Foreign Affairs Ministers. In the agenda of the Hungarian Presidency, unlike the previous presidencies, a special section was devoted to relations with Türkiye. The emphasis was on developing strategic cooperation with Türkiye and enhancing political dialogue, taking into account Türkiye's status as a candidate country. Overcoming the objections of the GCASC and taking a step towards this is a positive development. The High-Level Trade Dialogue, which was also among the recommendations of the report, was launched in July. The steps to be taken in this way have started a momentum towards the revival of Türkiye-EU relations. However, there is still no progress on important issues. For instance, the process of updating and modernising the Customs Union has not been launched since 2016. It is stuck on political obstacles and the Cyprus issue. Solutions are also needed in areas such as Schengen visa issues, the visa liberalisation process, migration and refugee issues. We expect these issues to be addressed at the Informal Meeting of Foreign Ministers. At a time of heightened geopolitical tensions and widespread conflicts, mutual exchange of information and views, cooperation and coordination on security and regional issues will create a confidence-building environment between Türkiye and the EU, which will also benefit the development of relations.”

IKV SECRETARY GENERAL NAS VISITED TÜĞİAD



IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas paid an auspicious welcome visit to Secretary General of the Young Business People Association of Türkiye (TÜĞİAD) Lemana Ateşok Günay on 6 August 2024. During the meeting, steps to improve relations between the both organisations and cooperation opportunities were discussed.

CULTURE AND ART AGENDA

TÜRKİYE RETURNED WITH EIGHT MEDALS FROM THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPICS



Türkiye participated with 101 athletes in 18 different branches in the Paris 2024 Olympics, where 10.500 athletes from many countries around the world for 32 different sports branches. At the end of the competitions, Türkiye won a total of eight medals, three silver and five bronze. 2024 Olympics has been the first time Türkiye did not win any gold medal since 1984 Los Angeles Games, where Türkiye only won three bronze medals. As the expected success did not come in Paris 2024, and Türkiye closed the medal rankings in 64th place. Although the success fell short of expectations, many promising athletes also stood out. 16-year-old Kuzey Tunçelli became the first Turkish athlete in the history of the Olympic Games to make it to the finals in the swimming branch and achieved the best result of his career.

Nisanur Erbil, the first Turkish to compete in the Olympics in women's swords in fencing, Elif Berra Gökkr, who reached the individual quarter-finals in archery, and Muhammed Furkan Özbek, who came fourth in weightlifting, were evaluated as promising athletes of the future.

Another striking detail was that 54 of the 101 athletes who participated to represent Türkiye were women. While gender equality in sports has improved worldwide in recent years, Türkiye's record number of female athletes also drew considerable attention. Female athletes also came forward with the medals they won. Buse Naz Çakıroğlu, Hatice Akbaş, Buse Tosun Çavuşoğlu, Esra Yıldız Kahraman and Nafia Kuş Aydın won individual medals, while Şevval İlayda Tarhan and Yusuf Dikeç won mixed team

medals. Taha Akgül won an individual medal in the men's category, while the archery team consisting of Mete Gazoz, Muhammed Abdullah Yıldırım and Ulaş Berkim Tümer won a bronze medal.

Yusuf Dikeç undoubtedly was the star of Paris 2024. Dikeç, who won the silver medal with his partner Şevval İlayda Tarhan in the mixed 10-meter air pistol team competition, made headlines worldwide with his shot without equipment. 51-year-old Turkish pistol shooter Yusuf Dikeç has been given nicknames such as "The Real John Wick" and "Turkish Terminator" due to his calm and cool shooting with one hand in his pocket, wearing a simple T-shirt and everyday optical glasses. His one of a kind shooting pose went viral as many renowned athletes adopted the pose and practiced it as a way of celebrating their victory.

CAPPADOCIA SHINES WITH HOT AIR BALLOON DISPLAY AT NEVŞEHİR FESTIVAL

On 8 August 2024, Ürgüp in central Türkiye hosted a dazzling hot air balloon display as part of the "Nevşehir Cultural Route Festival," featuring balloons from 17 countries, including Türkiye. The festival, which has been celebrated across 16 cities since 3 August, saw these balloons ascending into the sky and floating over the town for about an hour, drawing significant public interest. Balloonists from various nations expressed their joy at flying over the scenic Cappadocia region. The unique figure-shaped balloons continued to showcase their flights over Göreme's striking landscapes throughout the weekend. Since the early 1990s, hot air ballooning has become a major tourist attraction in Cappadocia, offering spectacular aerial views of its valleys and rock formations.



TIMELINE AUGUST 2024

	1	
National Defence Minister Yaşar Güler came together with Ukrainian counterpart Rustem Umerov.	2	İKVM Chairperson Ayhan Zeytinoğlu made a statement about EU Artificial Intelligence regulation.
	3	
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	6	İKVM Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas came together with TÜGİAD Secretary General Leman Ateşok Günay.
President Erdoğan had a phone call with his Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama.	7	
	8	
President Erdoğan and Foreign Minister Fidan came together with Montenegrin Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ervin Ibrahimović.	9	
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Trade Minister Ömer Bolat had an online meeting with his British counterpart Jonathan Reynolds.	14	
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Deputy Minister and Director for EU Affairs Ambassador Mehmet Kemal Bozay came together with German Ambassador Sibylle Katharina Sorg.	26	
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Foreign Minister Fidan attended the Informal Meeting of EU Foreign Affairs Ministers.	28	İKVM Chairperson Ayhan Zeytinoğlu made a statement about Hakan Fidan's participation to Informal Meeting of EU Foreign Affairs Ministers.
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Foreign Minister Fidan came together with his Slovenian counterpart Tanja Feyon.	30	
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WORLD MOTOCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP TO BE HELD IN TÜRKİYE



Afyonkarahisar is gearing up to host the prestigious World Motocross Championship (MXGP) on 7-8 September 2024, further establishing Türkiye as a key destination in global motorsports. This event, which attracts top riders and teams from around the world, is set to showcase the city's state-of-the-art motocross track and its capacity to host international sporting events.

The MXGP Türkiye, part of the FIM Motocross World Championship, is broadcast live in 186 countries and reaches an audience of 1.8 billion through social media

interactions. Since 2018, the goal has been elevating Türkiye and Afyonkarahisar on the world stage. This year's event is expected to welcome 500,000 visitors, a significant increase from the 5,000 attendees in 2019, demonstrating the championship's rapid growth and its substantial benefits to the regional economy. Now in its sixth year, MXGP Türkiye contributes over 145.25 million dollars to Türkiye's economy during the event week, with the global exposure from MXGP Türkiye and Türkiye MotoFest adding 327.85 million dollars to Türkiye's promotional efforts.

ÇANAKKALE'S UNDERWATER PARK IS SET TO BOOST DIVING TOURISM WITH HISTORIC WAR WRECKS

An underwater park in northwestern Türkiye's Çanakkale province, featuring over 100-year-old war wrecks such as naval vessels and equipment, is poised to elevate the region's diving tourism. These wrecks, dating back to World War I, were identified in areas where ships and military equipment sank during the Gallipoli campaign. Documented for diving purposes, the sites were opened to tourism in 2020 with approval from the Ministry.

While global tourism grows by 4%-7% annually, adventure tourism, including underwater activities, has surged by 20%-30%. The Gallipoli Historic Site's Directorate President İsmail Kaşdemir highlighted the site's unique appeal, where divers can explore history underwater. He added that the season now extends from March to December, with 22 diving spots spread across a 150 square-kilometre area. By the end of 2024, they aim to attract 4.5 million tourists.

What sets this site apart is the authenticity of the wrecks, providing a historical and cultural dive experience. In



Türkiye, diving tourism is more commonly associated with the southern regions of Antalya and Muğla, where even modern vehicles have been submerged for attraction. However, the Çanakkale site distinguishes itself with real wartime wrecks. Additionally, the project offers 3D maps and applications to illustrate the battleships' positions on the seabed, further enhancing the experience for divers. While Türkiye welcomed 56.7 million visitors last year, it is looking to expand its tourism portfolio, with underwater tourism emerging as a significant area for growth alongside health tourism.

ANTALYA WELCOMES OVER 9 MILLION TOURISTS IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 2024

Antalya, a major Mediterranean holiday destination, welcomed over 9 million tourists in the first seven months of 2024. This reflects a 10% increase from the same period last year, underscoring the city's growing appeal to international travellers. Anadolu Agency reported that Russians led tourist numbers from 1 January to 31 July with over 2 million visitors, followed by 1.77 million from Germany and 875 thousand from the UK. In July alone, Antalya attracted nearly 600 thousand tourists from Russia, making it the top source of visitors for the month. Germany followed with around 441 thousand arrivals and Poland contributed nearly 224 thousand visitors.

Culture and Tourism Minister Mehmet Nuri Ersoy highlighted the city's success, noting a new record in daily international arrivals. "We broke the daily international passenger record



of all time, with the number of tourists arriving in Antalya, the perfect meeting point of history, nature, and culture, exceeding 104 thousand yesterday," Minister Ersoy said. As the peak tourist season continues, Antalya is expected to surpass previous records, significantly boosting Türkiye's tourism revenue and enhancing its status as a leading global tourist destination.

ANCIENT ROMAN BATHHOUSE REOPENS

Located in Sarıkaya district of Yozgat and included in the UNESCO World Heritage Temporary List in 2018, the Roman Bath has been opened to visitors after landscaping works. An important cultural texture of the city, the Roman Bath is also known as the "Princess of the King". The bath is known for its architecture that is over 2000 years old and its 50 degrees thermal water. In addition to landscaping works, a new lighting system and night lighting were created in the historical bath, which was restored under the control of Yozgat Museum Directorate. Therefore, visitors will be able to see this historical texture in different ways both during the day and at night. In addition, a centre where local products can be sold, a cafeteria, walking and photo shooting areas were built during the restoration works.

A large part of this historical Roman Bath has been demolished over time, and only the western facade wall that provides access to the vaulted rear area has survived. A 10-bay



and two-story marble and arched wall is seen in this section. Behind the west facade, a three-eyed, single-storey arch and the lower part stones of the inner arch rows that continue along the front facade arches to the north of this can be seen. Among the parts of the bath that have survived to the present day is a circular pool at the north and south ends of the approximately 30-meter-long wall. While the area where the bath is located was a swamp when it was built, today it has become a historical place that people visit with the hope of healing.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNEARTH ANCIENT BUST IN DÜZCE

In the ongoing excavations in the Prusias Ad Hypium Ancient City in the Konuralp region of Düzce, archaeologists discovered a portrait bust. The bust is believed to depict M. Iulius Proclo, who was known to have commissioned the ancient theatre's stage building. M. Iulius Proclo served as an imperial priest for Emperor Hadrian.

Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye Mehmet Nuri Ersoy posted on social media that the bust is a unique discovery and thanked the archaeologists and the excavation team for their rigorous work that brought such a precious artefact to Türkiye's cultural heritage. The excavations are run by Ministry of Culture and Tourism with the support of the Municipality of Düzce. According to a statement by the Municipality of Düzce, archaeological work has been continuing since



2019 in the region, whose history dates back to 3rd century BC.

The portrait bust, thought to be approximately 1800 years old, is reported to be in very well-preserved condition and is the fifth most important ancient artefact unearthed in the Konuralp region, in addition to the Medusa relief, Alexander the Great portrait head, Apollo statue and the Lion Mosaic.

HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES

PRESIDENT ERDOĞAN AND PRIME MINISTER OF ALBANIA CONFERRED ON CRITICAL ISSUES



President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan had a telephone conversation with Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama addressing a set of issues on 8 August 2024. The two leaders met several times in 2024, marking the continuous development of Türkiye-Albania relations. Prime Minister Rama formerly visited Türkiye in February 2024 and drew attention to the importance of Türkiye-Albania relations in various fields, especially regionally. The two leaders last met at the NATO Leaders Summit in Washington in July 2024.

During the telephone dialogue, President Erdoğan and Prime Minister Rama discussed bilateral relations between Türkiye and Albania as well as current regional and global issues. President Erdoğan emphasised that the relations between the two countries are at an advanced level and that the cooperation in

trade, economy, military contacts and defence industry will be further strengthened with the steps to be taken. Likewise, Prime Minister Rama expressed his satisfaction with the current state of cooperation and relations between Türkiye and Albania and stated that they were ready for the steps to be taken to deepen their cooperation.

One of the main topics of the meeting was the further development of cooperation between Türkiye and Albania in the fight against terrorism. President Erdoğan especially discussed the threat of Fetullah Terrorist Organisation (FETO) in Albania. President Erdoğan stated that it is extremely important to frustrate FETO's efforts to gain space in Albania and that he believes that efforts will continue to end the organisation's structure in education, health and religious institutions in Albania.

TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER FİDAN CAME TOGETHER WITH HIS MONTENEGRIN COUNTERPART

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and Montenegro's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ervin Ibrahimovic gave a talk at a joint news conference in İstanbul. Both Ministers highlighted the significance of international pressure on Israel to let humanitarian aid into Gaza and prevent Palestinians' further suffering. Furthermore, Minister Fidan once again renewed his sayings on Türkiye's support and involvement in the legal proceedings of the genocide case inaugurated by South Africa. Additionally, he repeated the fact that Türkiye is committed on peace and stability in the region by underlining the necessity to curb Israel's aggressive policies for eliminating further collusion.

On the other hand, the meeting at the Presidential Office at the Dolmabahçe Palace in İstanbul, was the first foreign visit of Ibrahimovic's as a foreign minister. Once again, the cruciality of regional stability and bilateral cooperation were indicated by Minister Fidan. Thanking Ibrahimovic for his decision to come to Türkiye, Minister Fidan emphasised Türkiye's dedication



to promoting security, prosperity, and peace in the Balkans. Also, Minister Fidan stated that involvement of a Bosniak party in Montenegro's new government was embraced as a commitment to multicultural governance. Minister Fidan highlighted the growing interest of Turkish businesses in Montenegro, where Türkiye ranks third in direct foreign investment for both this year and 2023 and underscored that education and cultural cooperation are key priorities in their bilateral relations.

Finally, Minister Fidan addressed the tensions between Somalia and Ethiopia, highlighting

their importance as allies in the Horn of Africa and stressing that such disputes are detrimental to all involved. He outlined Ankara's diplomatic efforts to mediate between the two nations, including consultations with regional partners. During his visit to Ethiopia, Minister Fidan discussed a framework with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed aimed at resolving the conflict, which includes ensuring Ethiopia's access to the sea through Somalia while upholding Somalia's territorial integrity. He also noted that a second round of talks is scheduled to continue addressing the issues.

TÜRKİYE AND UK AGREE TO LAUNCH FTA UPGRADE TALKS IN ANKARA



Trade Minister Ömer Bolat held a video conference meeting with United Kingdom Business and Trade Minister and President of the Board of Trade Jonathan Reynolds on 14 August 2024. Following the meeting, it was announced that negotiations would start in Ankara to update the Free Trade Agreement between Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

The existing trade agreement between Türkiye and the United Kingdom, signed in December 2020, primarily covers industrial products and was designed to safeguard trade flows and supply chains following the United Kingdom's departure from the EU. The review clause embedded within the current agreement prompted both the United Kingdom and Türkiye to reassess their trade relations. As a result of this

reassessment, the parties issued a Joint Statement on 18 July 2023, expressing their mutual intention to initiate negotiations to update the Free Trade Agreement.

Minister Bolat, in his statements on his social media account regarding the meeting, emphasised that expanding the scope of the existing Free Trade Agreement between Türkiye and the United Kingdom to include services and investments would be a significant step towards further deepening trade relations between the two countries and achieving the target trade volume of 30 billion dollars. Additionally, Minister Bolat highlighted that the importance of financing cooperation between the two countries, particularly in renewable energy and transport projects, was a key topic of discussion during the meeting.

TURKSTAT PUBLISHED INTERNAL MIGRATION STATISTICS 2023 REPORT

As internal movements have peaked, İstanbul stands as the centre of mobility with the highest number of arrivals and departures.

Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) published the 2023 data showing interprovincial migration in Türkiye. The data gives valuable information regarding the internal mobility in the country while 3.450.953 individuals changed their residence from one province to another, which is the highest rate calculated up until now. The data reveals the fact that 3.18% migration rate for the period 2007-2008 rose to 4.04%, so the internal mobility have increased in a considerable manner in 15 years. When the numbers of individuals which moved are taken into account, it is observable that İstanbul is the center of mobility in Türkiye as 412.707 individuals moved to the city and 581.330 "İstanbulites" left the city in 2023. Ankara with 232.700 new arrivals and İzmir with 147.765 new arrivals followed İstanbul for becoming the top destination of internal movements whereas Ardahan,



Bayburt, Tunceli and Kilis saw the least number of moving individuals.

Internal migration can also be examined in terms of age groups and reasons for movement. The 20-24 age group witnessed the highest mobility with 647,191 individuals moving in 2023. The primary reason for movement was education among the group with 231.447 individuals changed cities to get education. Better housing and living conditions and

seeking new job opportunities also constituted other prominent reasons for internal mobility among the age group. As a metropolis, İstanbul continues to become a destination for many who are in seek of better job and education opportunities. At the same time, more than half a million people have moved away from the city while economic conditions have been making the city more and more difficult to live.

TÜRKİYE ATTRACTS 4.7 BILLION IN FDI IN FIRST HALF OF 2024

Following the publication of official balance of payments statistics, the YASED published foreign direct investment (FDI) in Figures Bulletin on 13 August, announcing that investments worth 4.692 billion dollars came to Türkiye in the first six months. In the same period, Türkiye also recorded 2.846 billion dollars in FDI inflow via equity capital flow. As 135 million dollars of this figure was realised through real estate sales to foreign nationals, 754 million dollars was recorded through debt instruments. While a 5% decrease was observed in FDI compared to the same period of 2023, FDI earnings in the first half of 2024 corresponded to 28% of current account deficit during the same period. The total value of FDI inflows to Türkiye since 2002 has exceeded 268 billion dollars.

In the first half of 2024, wholesale and retail trade has a share of 23% of total investment capital with an investment inflow of 664 million dollars. In the same period, financial



activities accounted for 12% of total investment capital inflows. The sector with the third highest proportion is the transportation and storage sector with a share of 11%. These were followed by the manufacture of computers, electronic-electrical and optical equipment sector with 11% and mining and quarrying with 6% share, respectively.

The EU countries, which historically held a 59% share of total investments between 2002-2023,

had a share of 51% in the first six months of 2024. After all, the European countries which are not part of the EU, the second-largest investors during the 2002-2023 period with a 10% share, accounted for 21% of total investments. According to FDI equity capital inflow data, the Netherlands had the largest share with 20%. The Netherlands is followed by the USA with 13%, Germany with 10%, Ireland with 9%, Norway and the United Kingdom with 8%.

TOGG BEGINS TESTING FOR NEW SEDAN



Türkiye's electric car producer TOGG has started engineering tests on its fully electric fastback sedan, the T10F, at accredited centres domestically and internationally. CEO Mehmet Gürcan Karakaş announced that the company is focused on preparing the T10F, which was previewed in December 2022, for its market launch in the first quarter of 2025, with pre-orders set to begin at that time. The car will be available to Turkish consumers starting in April 2025.

Following the introduction of Türkiye's first electric SUV, the T10X, in 2019, the T10F represents TOGG's next major step. Designed to reflect modern sedan aesthetics, the T10F is a fastback model and will be available in three versions: Standard Range RWD, Long Range RWD, and Long-Range AWD. The AWD version will offer 700 Nm of torque and a range of up to 530 kilometres.

The standard version will have a 52.4 kWh battery, while the long-range model will feature an 88.5 kWh battery.

Karakaş highlighted TOGG's success with the T10X, which saw 19.583 units delivered across Türkiye in 2023. The T10F, like the T10X, will feature constant internet connectivity and smart solutions, with updates delivered remotely. TOGG is also preparing to enter the European market, starting with Germany, while continuing to expand its network through digital platform Trumore, clean energy solutions from Trugo and partnerships with companies like Siro and Trutek. The company aims to produce five different models and one million vehicles by 2032. The T10F will share the same platform as the T10X and will carry forward TOGG's distinctive design, combining sportiness and modernity.

TÜRKİYE'S APPEAL TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT IS RISING

Minister of Treasury and Finance Mehmet Şimşek announced that Türkiye's share of global direct investments has grown significantly, particularly in sectors like electric vehicles, batteries, and logistics. From 2003 to 2023, Türkiye's share rose from 0.2% to 0.9%, driven by strategic economic policies. The country now attracts an average of 13.3 billion dollars in foreign direct investment (FDI) annually, with key sectors like energy, technology, manufacturing, and automotive seeing major benefits.

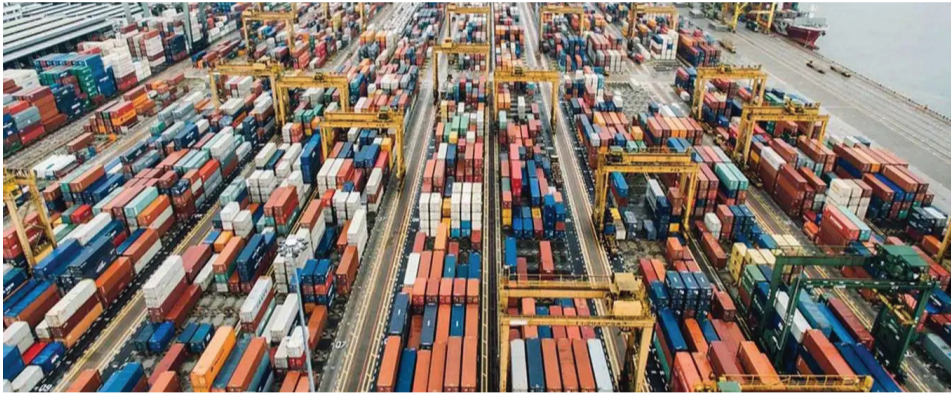
Türkiye's strategic location between the Europe and Asia, combined with its robust infrastructure, skilled labour force, and investment incentives, has drawn attention from investors in Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Significant investments, such as one billion dollars of EV plant by BYD in Manisa and a 500 million dollar battery project by Ganfeng Lithium and Yiğit Akü, are transforming Türkiye into a global hub for technology and R&D. These projects are expected to generate thousands of direct and indirect jobs.



The government's economic reforms, increased transparency, and reduced barriers have further boosted investor confidence. Additionally, Türkiye's focus on expanding its renewable energy sector and EV infrastructure, with 20.900 charging points, supports its appeal to green investors.

As global FDI flows recover, Türkiye's growth surpasses the global average but challenges like geopolitical tensions and economic fluctuations remain. Looking forward, Türkiye plans to diversify into biotechnology, digital innovation, and advanced manufacturing to ensure continued FDI growth. The International Direct Investment Strategy aims to increase its global FDI share to 1.5% by 2028.

TURKISH EXPORTERS REACHED ALL-TIME HIGHEST JULY EXPORT VALUE



Trade Minister Ömer Bolat announced that the country's July 2024 exports increased by 13.8% compared to the same month last year, reaching 22.51 billion dollars. "We proudly announce that we have broken the highest July export record in history with a monthly increase of 13.8% compared to last July, when it was 19.8 billion. This resulted in a 2.7 billion dollars increase in a month," said Minister Bolat.

Minister Bolat reported that the 12-month cumulative export total reached 261.5 billion dollars, surpassing the previous record of 255.4 billion set in December. Despite a slight dip in June due to holiday and calendar effects, July's figures compensated with a 3.4% increase over the past year. He emphasised that the country is on track to meet the Medium-Term Program (MTP) target of 267 billion dollars in goods exports and 110 billion in services exports by year-end, provided no major global disruptions occur. The Ministry aims to add 750 million to 1 billion dollars monthly to achieve

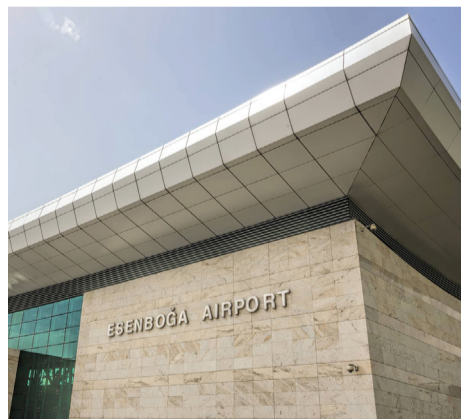
this goal. Additionally, Bolat noted that 1.6 points of Türkiye's 5.7% economic growth in the first quarter came from foreign trade and exports. He also highlighted the ongoing decline in imports, with July imports decreasing by 8% to 29.7 billion dollars, saving 2.6 billion. As a result, the foreign trade deficit fell by 42% from 12.5 billion dollars in July last year to 7.2 billion, while foreign exchange reserves grew by 5.3 billion dollars.

Minister Bolat highlighted Türkiye's significant growth since 2003, noting an average annual growth rate of 5.4%. He stated that in 2022, the country achieved 4.5% growth, ranking first in the EU and second among G20 countries. The national income exceeded 1 trillion dollars, reaching 1.118 trillion, with a per capita income of 13.110 dollars. He expressed confidence that reaching 14.000-15.000 dollars per capita income is attainable within a few years. Türkiye remains focused on reducing the foreign trade deficit while continuing to increase exports in the coming months.

TÜRKİYE LED AN EXTENSIVE PRISONER SWAP OPERATION BETWEEN VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND RUSSIA

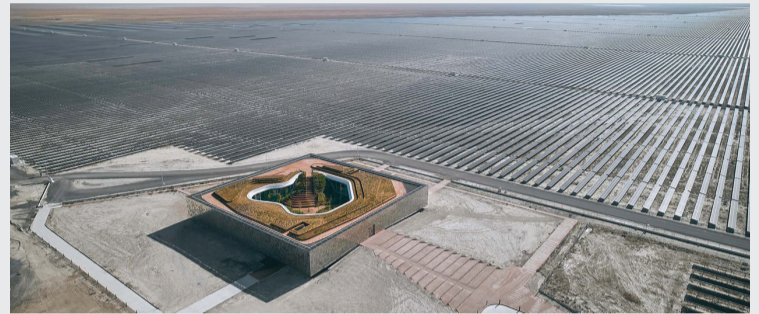
Türkiye led the most extensive swap operation of recent times, involving the exchange of twenty-six prisoners from the US, Russia, Norway, Germany, Slovenia, Poland, and Belarus on 1 August 2024. Reportedly, authorities from the relevant countries met in İstanbul and Ankara to discuss the details of the then-upcoming prisoner swap, which was requested by the USA and Russia to take place in Türkiye. The MiT (Turkish National Intelligence Organisation) Director İbrahim Kalın and the US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan conducted a phone call 15 days prior to the swap operation. In this phone call, Sullivan conveyed the request of US President Joe Biden to follow the operation live. Consequently, Biden went to Esenboğa International Airport to follow the operation, which was carried out by the MiT. The MiT assured that no statement would be made until the parties decided to make statements regarding the operation and acted accordingly.

The operation involved seven airplanes from each of the participating countries, and these airplanes carried the prisoners to Ankara so that



they could be transported back to their home countries. Three of the prisoners were transported to the USA, ten to Russia, and thirteen to Germany. All the prisoners were escorted from the planes to safety by MiT personnel, who were also responsible for logistical planning and the rest of the operation. The operation was noted as the largest swap operation since World War II.

TÜRKİYE'S SOLAR ENERGY CAPACITY EXCEEDS 16,000 MW AS OF AUGUST



Türkiye reaches a new milestone in its energy capacity, marking significant progress. According to the data shared by the Turkish Electricity Transmission Corporation (TEİAŞ), the total installed electric capacity reached 111.463 megawatts, of which 16.004 megawatts is from solar capacity. At the start of August, Türkiye's solar capacity rose, making up 14% of the nation's total installed power capacity. Türkiye accelerated its transformation to renewable energy in the recent years and it is planned to reach the total

capacity of 60 thousand megawatts by 2035.

Cem Özkök, head of the Energy Investors Association (GÜYAD), stated that thanks to its skilled workforce and strategic geographical position, Türkiye is gaining prominence as a centre of renewable energy, mainly solar power. Additionally, Özkök implied that investments in the solar energy sector not only contribute to Türkiye's overall economy but also to technological developments, thus enhancing its appeal to international investors.

TÜRKİYE CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN ITS AIR DEFENCE



Türkiye announced plans to strengthen its air defence systems, providing greater security to the country on 6 August 2024. The project, named Steel Dome, aims to combine multiple domestic air defence systems, sensors and weapons. The defence system will use a network-based approach with AI support. ASELSAN is leading the development of the Steel Dome project, which also includes contributions from ROKETSAN, TÜBİTAK Defence Industries Research and Development Institute and Machine and Chemical Industry.

The project is valuable in terms of demonstrating how Türkiye plans to shift from heavy reliance on imported equipment to instead focus on the continuation of its homegrown systems for its defence industry. Over the last 20 years, Türkiye has undergone a breakthrough in developing its domestic defence capacities, thus reducing dependence on Western arms. The drive to reduce such dependencies has successfully resulted

in development of domestic air, land and marine platforms. This has helped Türkiye reduce its dependency on foreign defence sources from 80% in the early 2000s to 20% as of today. Türkiye's defence platforms are also subject to high demand, with defence exports reaching more than 5.5 billion dollars in 2023.

Türkiye has already developed many systems to strengthen its air defence, one of the most important being HİSAR-O. According to a statement made by the Defence Industry Agency of Türkiye, Türkiye's first domestic and national distributed architecture air defence system, HİSAR-O, successfully completed its first long-range launch test on the 14th of August. The President of the Defence Industry Agency of Türkiye Haluk Görgün pointed to the success of the launch test and congratulated ASELSAN and ROKETSAN engineers. Görgün also stressed that the power of national engineering is strengthening defence in Türkiye's airspace.

TÜRKİYE'S RENEWED COMMITMENT TO THE EU CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM: STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Türkiye's integration into the EU Civil Protection Mechanism in 2016 marked a significant step in Türkiye-EU cooperation, strengthening disaster response and preparedness through joint efforts, capacity-building, and shared expertise, ultimately enhancing collective resilience in the face of crises.

Laura BATALLA ADAM
Analyst

Türkiye's integration into the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM) in 2016 was a milestone in its relationship with the European Union, establishing a structured framework for disaster response and preparedness. This partnership has evolved significantly over the years, with Türkiye becoming an increasingly active and valuable participant. The recent signing of an updated agreement marks a new chapter in this collaboration, aiming to bolster ongoing cooperation, enhance Türkiye's disaster management capabilities, and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise with the EU and other participating countries.

Early Engagement and Initial Contributions

Türkiye's commitment to the EUCPM has been evident since its early engagement. In the aftermath of a severe earthquake in Albania in 2019, Türkiye demonstrated its readiness and capacity for rapid response by deploying search and rescue teams through the EUCPM. This intervention not only provided critical aid but also highlighted Türkiye's ability to act swiftly and effectively in international disaster relief efforts.

Major Exercises and Strengthening Capacities

One of the pivotal moments in Türkiye's EUCPM involvement came in November 2022 when it hosted the largest EUCPM field exercise, MODEX, in Tekirdağ. The exercise, focusing on earthquake preparedness, brought together over 1.700 participants from various EU countries. MODEX Türkiye was a significant demonstration of Türkiye's disaster readiness and its capability to collaborate with the



EU Member States. This exercise underscored the importance of joint efforts in enhancing collective crisis response and preparedness.

Support During Major Crises

Türkiye's role within the EUCPM has been reciprocal, with the mechanism providing crucial support during Türkiye's own crises. After the Izmir earthquake in October 2020, which caused extensive damage and loss of life, Türkiye activated the EUCPM for assistance. The mechanism facilitated a rapid response, deploying search and rescue teams from Greece and Romania and sending medical supplies from other EU countries. This prompt support was essential in the initial phases of disaster management and highlighted the effectiveness of the EUCPM's coordination.

The February 2023 earthquakes in southern Türkiye were among the most catastrophic in the country's history, registering a magnitude of 7.8.

The EUCPM played a central role in the international response, with over 20 EU Member States contributing to search and rescue operations, medical aid, and shelter provisions. The activation of the rescEU reserve highlighted the mechanism's capacity to deliver comprehensive aid during times of extreme need. This display of solidarity, especially from countries with whom Türkiye has had complex political relations, such as Greece, exemplifies how international cooperation can transcend political differences and effectively address shared challenges. In a recent demonstration of reciprocal support, Türkiye contributed to EUCPM efforts this summer by promptly offering aid to help control the wildfires that ravaged Greece.

The aftermath of the 2023 earthquakes, with ongoing recovery challenges, underscores the critical need for sustained support. The EUCPM has played a vital role in both immediate disaster response and long

term recovery efforts. In February 2024, the EU demonstrated its commitment by allocating 26 million euros in humanitarian aid to Türkiye. This substantial financial assistance supports refugees and those affected by the earthquakes, funding emergency shelter, medical assistance, and essential supplies. Given Türkiye's role as a host to a large refugee population, the complexities of its recovery efforts are significant. Continued provision of financial and logistical support is essential for addressing these challenges and strengthening Türkiye's disaster preparedness infrastructure.

Opportunities for Enhanced Cooperation

The updated agreement between Türkiye and the EUCPM represents a significant advancement in their partnership. This new agreement aims to further strengthen cooperation, enhance Türkiye's disaster prevention, preparedness, and response

capabilities, and facilitate the exchange and development of Türkiye's civil protection expertise.

One area for growth is Türkiye's integration into the EUCPM's strategic planning processes. Aligning Türkiye more closely with the mechanism's strategic objectives could improve overall coordination and effectiveness. Joint training exercises, capacity-building initiatives, and the sharing of advanced disaster response technologies are crucial for enhancing Türkiye's role within the EUCPM. These efforts will not only improve Türkiye's disaster response capabilities but also contribute to the overall resilience of the EUCPM.

A Model for Cooperation in an Unpredictable World

Türkiye's active participation in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM) highlights the broader implications for its relationship with the EU. Effective collaboration in disaster response and preparedness not only strengthens Türkiye's disaster management capabilities but also sets a precedent for cooperation in other areas such as trade, security, and migration. The renewed agreement between Türkiye and the EUCPM is poised to pave the way for deeper political and economic ties, fostering greater trust and enabling more ambitious joint initiatives.

This partnership exemplifies how addressing shared challenges through collaborative efforts can bridge divides and enhance mutual relations. As Europe faces an increasing frequency of natural disasters, the role of the EUCPM becomes more critical. By strengthening this partnership and addressing existing challenges, Türkiye and the EU can improve their ability to protect citizens and respond effectively to future crises. The EUCPM stands as a vital tool for collective resilience, and deepening this collaboration will ensure a safer and more resilient Europe for all.