



IKV MONTHLY

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EU-TURKEY JOINT MIGRATION ACTION PLAN IS ON THE AGENDA

The EU leaders came together in Brussels on 15 October 2015 and agreed on an EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan regarding the migration crisis.

According to the latest data published by FRONTEX, border management agency of the EU, 710,000 migrants have crossed EU borders in 2015. A considerable number of the migrants have used the Eastern Mediterranean route located between Turkey and Greece. EU leaders came together in Brussels on 15 October and agreed on an EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan regarding the migration crisis that has also been handed over to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

The Joint Action Plan includes a series of collaborative actions to increase cooperation to support refugees and to manage the migration flows which is the result of the situation in Syria and Iraq. As indicated in the Joint Action Plan, current migration crisis would be addressed by tackling the root causes by supporting Syrian refugees under temporary protection and their host communities in Turkey as well as strengthening cooperation to prevent irregular migration flows to the EU in a spirit of burden sharing.

The plan focuses on some operational measures including



enhancing cooperation to strengthen the capacity to combat migrant smuggling, deploying a liaison officer in Turkey for FRONTEX to exchange information on smuggling networks, organizing joint return operations between Turkey and EU countries towards countries of origins for the migrants that are not eligible for asylum. As indicated in the plan, Turkey

is expected to register the migrants properly and to implement policies aiming at the integration of migrants to Turkish society. In addition, the establishment of six new refugee reception centres that would be co-funded by Turkey and the EU is also foreseen. The EU authorities expressed that the implication of the plan would contribute to Turkey's

efforts in fulfilling the benchmarks of the Visa Liberalisation Roadmap.

The outcomes of the EU leaders' meeting in Brussels have been subject to discussion both in Turkey and in the EU. The mostly debated topic was the possible financial assistance amounting 3 billion euros that would be used to enhance Turkey's capacity regarding

the refugee crisis. As for the financial assistance, both Turkey and the EU hold sceptical positions regarding the funding and distribution aspects. The EU's offer containing prospect of visa facilitation towards Turkish citizens and "re-energizing" accession talks have also been widely discussed among the counterparts in Turkey and the EU.



IKV BOARD OF DIRECTORS VISITS IN ANKARA

IKV Board of Directors visited TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu in Ankara. The visit which took place on 27 October proved to be a good occasion to discuss mutual areas of interest and concrete projects for cooperation between the two organizations. TOBB is IKV's leading trustee organization. The IKV Board also visited Undersecretary of the Ministry for EU Affairs, Ambassador R. Engin Soysal who briefed the Board members on Turkey-

EU relations and the recent cooperation with the EU on the refugee crisis.

IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu, Vice-Chairman Halük Kabaaloğlu and Secretary-General Çiğdem Nas visited Ambassador Hansjörg Haber, the newly appointed Head of the EU Delegation in Ankara. In the meeting, current issues in EU-Turkey relations such as the visa liberalisation process, accession negotiations and customs union revision process were discussed.



TERRORIST ATTACK IN ANKARA: A BLOW TO PEACE

All Turkish citizens were shocked upon hearing of the vicious terrorist attack in Ankara on 10 October 2015 perpetrated by two suicide bombers who blew themselves up in a peace rally organized by civil society organizations. The death toll increased to 102, making this atrocity one of the worst terror attacks in the history of the Turkish Republic. Police and intelligence services were accused of not preventing the attack and acting slowly in its aftermath. It was found out that the suicide bombers were Turkish citizens associated with the ISIS terrorist organization.

European Council President Donald Tusk, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, and Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn expressed their condolences following the attack. While Tusk stressed that *"the EU stands side by side with Turkey, its people and authorities in its efforts against terrorism and for reconciliation"*, Mogherini noted that *"Turkish people and all political forces must stand united against terrorists and against all those who try to destabilise a country that is facing many threats"*.

The Ambassadors and diplomatic representatives of the EU and its Member States in Turkey gathered in a symbolic gesture of solidarity with the Turkish people on 12 October. They met at the site of the bombing in front of the Ankara train station and placed red carnations in memory of those who lost their lives there.

TURKEY SUBMITTED ITS GHG EMISSIONS TARGET TO THE UN

Turkey submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions to the UN on 30 September 2015 with a target of up to 21% GHG emissions cut foreseen by 2030 according to the "Business-As-Usual" scenario. Turkey aims to use carbon market mechanisms to meet its 2030 mitigation targets. The GHG inventory shows that total emissions between 1990-2011 increased in Turkey by 422.4 million tons of CO₂ equivalent. The energy sector has the largest share of the total emissions with 71%, followed by the industrial sector with 13% and waste with 9%. Turkey's GHG emissions per capita also increased by 124% during the same period.

HIGH LEVEL VISITS TO TURKEY FOR THE MIGRATION ACTION PLAN

With the rising concern of the refugee crisis, the EU wants to reinforce its cooperation with Turkey through a joint action plan regarding migration. In this respect, Turkey hosted high representatives from the EU.

High Level Visit by Commissioners

First Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans, the Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitri Avramopoulos and the Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn paid a visit to Turkey on 14 October 2015 with the aim of negotiating the Action Plan proposed by the President of the Commission Jean-Claude Juncker to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. During their visit, the Commissioners discussed with Turkish authorities the technical aspects related to the Draft Action Plan which identifies a series of actions to be implemented urgently by the EU and Turkey. The aim of this plan is to help Turkey in handling the refugee crisis and to prevent illegal migration from

Turkey to the EU. First Vice-President Timmermans called upon all EU Member States to take their responsibilities as well in this crisis by implementing the necessary measures.

Chancellor Merkel's visit

German Chancellor Angela Merkel paid an official visit to Turkey on 18 October 2015. During her six hours long visit, Chancellor Merkel came together with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Prime Minister Prof. Ahmet Davutoğlu to discuss recent developments regarding the refugee crisis, terrorism and Syria. The most important item on Chancellor Merkel's agenda was to convince Turkey to back the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan which was approved in the European Council on 15-16 October 2015. With this plan, the EU aims at encouraging Turkey to cooperate on tighter border



controls in order to prevent a massive flow of refugees and migrants to Europe.

Providing Turkey with more financial aid to tackle migration crises, speeding up the process of visa-free travel for Turkish citizens

to the EU and accelerating Turkey's accession process by opening up new chapters were on Turkey's agenda. Following these high level meetings, Chancellor Merkel announced her support in these matters.

PRESIDENT ERDOĞAN'S VISIT TO BELGIUM

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan visited Belgium on 4-6 October 2015 upon the invitation of King Philippe of Belgium. Turkey's EU accession negotiations, the visa liberalisation dialogue, the fight against terrorism and the latest developments as regards to Syria and the ongoing refugee crisis were the main topics discussed during the visits held with the Belgian and EU representatives.

During his visit to Brussels, President Erdoğan met with President of the European Council Donald Tusk. At a joint press conference, President Erdoğan highlighted the importance of further

strengthening dialogue with the EU regarding the visa liberalisation process but also in other areas such as energy and economy. While emphasizing that Turkey has been taking over the past few years the responsibility alone on behalf of the international community to help Syrian refugees, President Erdoğan expressed Turkey's willingness to engage in all forms of cooperation with the EU in terms of determining a common approach. In this respect, President Tusk expressed their wish to reinforce their cooperation with Turkey through financial support, border control and enhanced effort to fight against human trafficking. The possibility of creating a buffer zone in Syria has also been discussed by



the two leaders. President Erdoğan also met afterwards with President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker and President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz. At the occasion of a meeting, President Juncker

presented a draft action plan to President Erdoğan regarding the migration crisis with the aim of further supporting the refugees and establishing a better migration management framework.

IKV CHAIRMAN ZEYTİNOĞLU: "ACCESSION NEGOTIATION AND REFUGEE CRISIS SHOULD NOT BE TACKLED UNDER THE SAME UMBRELLA"

"Acceleration of Turkey's accession process to the EU and the possibility of visa-free travel that Turkish citizens are waiting for many years will be ensured with Turkey playing a more active role in the refugee crisis.

It is important not to tackle the accession negotiation and the refugee crisis under the same umbrella. If the negotiation process is conducted correctly and fairly, these chapters would have been opened in every circumstance and our citizens would have been able to

travel to EU Member States visa-free. Undoubtedly, these developments have the potential to renew the dynamism which lacked for a long period of time in Turkey's EU accession negotiations. This dynamism should be developed within the negotiations

process because of both parties' mutual need and not because of the emergence of crises. The refugee crisis is a concrete example showing that the solution to the challenges faced by the EU cannot be overcome without Turkey."

IKV ORGANIZED A SEMINAR ON CONSUMER PROTECTION IN TURKEY

IKV, in cooperation with the Protection of Consumers and Competition Association (TÜRDER) organized a seminar entitled "New Consumer Protection Law of Turkey in the EU Integration Process" on 6 October 2015 in Istanbul.

In his opening speech, IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoglu drew attention to the fact that in the upcoming period, consumer policies will be at the very centre of long-term EU strategies for consumers. It is becoming essential for consumers to better access to digital products, to be informed about their rights in e-trade and to take active part in the decision making process.

The Head of Unit of Consumer Protection and Market Surveillance at the Ministry of Customs and Trade Fatma Çağlar stressed that with the entry into force of relevant legislation, consumer protection has been harmonized with the EU acquis at the level of 99%.

TURKEY'S POSITION ON CHAPTER 28

"Consumer and Health Protection" Chapter was opened to negotiations on 19 December 2007 under the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU. In the field of tobacco control,

Turkey fulfils the requirements of the acquis. EU Directives covering consumer protection area has been transferred into the Turkish legislation by the Law No. 6502. The current situation on Chapter 28 is

generally aligned with the EU acquis, although there is still a need to reinforce the active participation of consumer protection organizations in the decision making and implementations processes.

Furthermore, she pointed out that some measures are stricter than those applied in the EU, especially in areas related to consumer credits, customer sales contracts and credit card offers. President of TÜRDER and Head of the International Relations Department at Arel University Assoc.

Prof. Uğur Özgöker stated that the Law on Consumer Protection is one of the biggest gains of the EU integration process.

During the seminar, representatives of the Turkish Competition Authority and consumer protection organizations

such as TÖF, TÜBİDER AND TÜKODER underlined the improvement of the legislation on consumer protection compared to the previous law while highlighting that there are still more than five million complaints that have not been yet solved.

LEADERS IN CYPRUS AGREE ON AN EU PREPARATIONS COMMITTEE



President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) Mustafa Akıncı and the leader of the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades met on 12 October 2015 within the framework of the UN-led reunification talks. According to the UN Secretary General's Special Adviser on Cyprus Espen Barth Eide, the leaders deliberated on the outstanding issues in the negotiation process and welcomed the initiation of the bi-communal ad hoc technical committee aimed at assisting the TRNC for the implementation of the EU acquis upon the entry into force of the prospective settlement agreement.

In an interview, President Akıncı confirmed that technical preparations were underway for transition from the Turkish Lira to the Euro following a prospective settlement to the Cyprus issue. He stated that the TRNC would be ready to adopt the Euro in a year's time following the entry into force of the prospective settlement agreement and that the technical details regarding the future transition to the Euro will also be deliberated with Turkey. According to President Akıncı, the transition to the Euro and the customs union constitute the first stage.

On 17 October 2015, the Northern Cyprus Water Supply Project, also dubbed as the "Project of the Century" was inaugurated by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and TRNC President Akıncı. The project designed to meet the fresh water need of the TRNC for the next 50 years, was initiated in 2011 and is estimated to have cost 1.6 billion Turkish Liras. The 80 m pipeline, which runs 250 m below sea level, is expected to transfer 75 million m³ of fresh water in total per year from the Alaköprü Dam in Mersin's Anamur district to the Geçitköy Dam near the shores of Girne in the TRNC. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, President Erdoğan announced that upon a request from the Greek side, Turkey would consider providing water to the south under the name of "Peace Water".

The Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled on 15 October 2015 that Switzerland had violated Turkish politician Doğu Perinçek's right to freedom of speech (Article 10 of the ECHR). In 2005, during the celebration of 82nd Anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne in Switzerland, Doğu Perinçek as Chairman of the Turkish Labour Party had stated that the actions which took place within the borders of the Ottoman Empire between 1915-1918 did not constitute a genocide. Perinçek was afterwards found guilty of racial discrimination for his statements by a Swiss district

THE ECHR CONFIRMED PERİNÇEK'S RIGHT TO "FREEDOM OF SPEECH"

court in 2007 and the ruling was also confirmed by the Swiss Federal Court.

In the Case of Perinçek v. Switzerland (Application No. 27510/08) Judgement which was taken with a majority of 10 to 7, the ECHR concluded that it has not been necessary to subject Perinçek to penalty to protect the Armenian community's rights. As the Grand Chamber of the ECHR emphasized, Perinçek's statement did not equal to a call for hatred or intolerance towards the victims of the 1915 events. Through a press release, Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed the Judgement



as it constitutes a significant legal gain in the perspective of democracy, freedom of speech,

human rights and would establish a precedent for similar cases in the future.

FIRST YEAR OF IKV MONTHLY

Since November 2014, IKV Monthly has been published with the aim of informing foreign readers on the current developments in Turkey-EU relations, especially in regards to Turkey's EU accession process. With this monthly review, IKV aims to shed light on major developments in Turkey's EU accession process by providing information not only on the economic, political and diplomatic

relations between Turkey and the EU but also on important reforms undertaken by Turkey to align its legislation with the EU acquis.

As we leave behind Turkey's 10 years of EU accession negotiations, we hope that in the very near future, we would be handling news about Turkey not as a candidate country undergoing accession negotiation but as one of the EU Member States.

We are celebrating one year of publication of IKV Monthly!



PRESIDENT NIINISTÖ'S VISIT TO TURKEY

President of Finland Sauli Niinistö visited Turkey on 12-15 October 2015. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his Finnish counterpart Niinistö visited the site of the Ankara bombings on 14 October to commemorate the victims of the terrorist attack. On behalf of Finland, President Niinistö condemned these acts of terrorism.

During his official visit to Turkey, President Niinistö met with his Turkish counterpart Erdoğan, Prime Minister Prof. Ahmet Davutoğlu and other key representatives of the Turkish government and business community. Bilateral relations, Turkey's EU accession process, Syrian crisis and the refugee issue were the main topics discussed at these meetings. Expressing his concerns on the escalating tensions in the region, President Niinistö emphasized the important role that Turkey has to play in resolving the Syrian crisis. He also stressed the need to further reinforce the cooperation between Turkey and the EU to overcome the refugee crisis. Regarding Turkey-EU relations, President Niinistö expressed Finland's support to Turkey's EU membership but he urged Turkey to pursue its reforms especially in the areas of freedom of expression and rule of law. Lastly, at the occasion of this visit, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the aim of strengthening cooperation between the nuclear safety authorities of both countries.

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SPANISH AMBASSADOR VISITED IKV

Ambassador of Spain to Turkey his Excellency Rafael Mendivil Peydro visited IKV on 16 October 2015. In a meeting held with IKV Board Members, bilateral and Turkey-EU relations were discussed and Spain's support to Turkey's membership process was highlighted.

In his opening speech, IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu assessed the current state of Turkey-Spain relations. Referring to the Alliance of Civilizations initiative in 2005 which was launched within the framework of the United Nations by the then Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the then Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero,

IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu stated that bilateral relations gained a new dimension with the Turkey-Spain Intergovernmental Summit Conferences, the first of which were organised in 2009 in Istanbul. While stating the major contribution of EU membership towards Spain's democratisation process, IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu also indicated that Spain's membership process can

be taken as an example for Turkey.

In his speech, Spanish Ambassador His Excellency Rafael Mendivil Peydro stated there are currently numerous issues on the agenda of the EU, among which the crisis regarding the Eurozone and the Schengen area. He further indicated that measures that have been taken by some of the EU Members States with regard to the

refugee crisis are in conflict with the Schengen spirit. Ambassador Peydro also touched upon economic relations between Turkey and Spain and underlined that Turkey is a major trade partner for Spain following the EU, the US and Morocco. Moreover, Peydro pointed out that Spain will continue to remain a significant supporter of Turkey in its process towards EU accession.



TOBB BECAME THE PERMANENT VICE-PRESIDENT OF EUROCHAMBRES

EUROCHAMBRES, the largest business community organization of Europe, representing 44 countries with 1700 local and regional chambers, has unanimously elected TOBB as the Permanent Vice-President. TOBB will be

taking over the Vice-Presidency as of 2016. This post which was previously held by Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Poland will be assumed for the first time by a non-EU member.

Emphasizing the historical importance of this election and the nomination of a non-EU member

for this position, TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkıoğlu expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Turkish private sector. He explained that this historic development is an important indication of Turkey's successful integration to the European economy.

W20 SUMMIT WAS HELD IN ISTANBUL

The W20 (Women 20) Summit was held on 16-17 October 2015 in Istanbul with the participation of representatives coming from different countries and international organisations. Following the welcome messages of W20 Chairwoman Dr. Gülden Türktan and Turkey's G20 Sherpa Ambassador Ayşe Sinirlioğlu, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and UN Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri delivered their keynote messages. Stressing that increasing women's participation in the workforce bears significant importance for further economic growth, the need to meet the target of bringing

100 million more women to the workforce within the 10 next years at the global level was highlighted. Puri noted that the creation of W20 in 2015 upon the initiative of Turkey constitutes a turning point in gender equality. President Erdoğan added that one of the key priorities of Turkey's G20 Presidency is to strengthen the capacity of women-owned SMEs in terms of stimulating employment.

The main recommendations adopted at the W20 Summit are the following:

- Address women's economic empowerment through strengthening linkages between education,

employment and entrepreneurship;

- Support work and life balance by developing and/or improving infrastructural mechanisms for social care;
- Increase the number of women both in public and private sector leadership positions;
- Ensure women's access to financial assets and to markets;
- Eliminate workplace discrimination, enforce legal rights and promote equal opportunities;
- Strengthen women's economic, social and political networks;



- Support women-owned enterprises and innovation;
- Promote women's leadership in creating sustainable consumption patterns and green growth;
- Deliver adequate social protection and improve working conditions for women;
- Propose G20 to develop a scorecard using indicators regarding gender equality.