



# İKVM MONTHLY

ISSUE: 32 SEPTEMBER 2017

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## SEVENTH REPORT ON THE TURKEY-EU STATEMENT NOTES STEADY PROGRESS

On 6 September, the European Commission published Seventh Report on the Progress made in the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement. According to the Report there is steady progress.



**T**urkey-EU Statement was first introduced on 18 March 2016 to address the migration crisis in the Eastern Mediterranean region in coordination and cooperation between Turkey and EU. The Statement's relocation and migration management mechanisms has been delivering results and these results has been evaluated regularly by the Commission through the progress reports.

According to the Seventh Report, the number of irregular crossings through the Eastern Mediterranean migration route remained low. Since the Sixth Report, the total number of arrivals from Turkey to the Greek islands was 7,807 which is an average daily arrival of 93 persons. The daily arrival rate is lower in comparison to months before the Report was published as emphasised by the Commission.

In regard to fatalities and missing persons during the reporting period,

113 persons died or were reported missing while attempting to irregularly cross the Eastern Mediterranean region since the activation of the Statement. This number was 1,115 during the year preceding the Statement. The Commission underlined and praised the efforts of all stakeholders relatedly. Since the previous Report, the Commission has been supporting the Greek authorities in coordinating and managing safety as well as security in the Greek Islands. Later, the Commission called upon all Member States to faster and more efficiently provide personnel to the European Asylum Support Office and the European Border and Coast Guard. These additional expert personnel would be deployed at the hotspot islands. The Commission identified shortcomings in this area. The current shortfall in the European Asylum Support Office which deploys experts to the Greek Islands is of 54 experts.

The European Border and Coast Guard's shortcoming is 11 experts for September and 13 experts for October. The Seventh Report also assessed all relevant stakeholders' cooperation with NATO. The cooperation is a critical dimension of the management of the migration crisis in the Eastern Mediterranean region; active patrolling and prevention of departures from Turkey continued.

The return of the irregular migrants from Greece to Turkey is the primary foundation of the Statement. The total number of migrants returned to Turkey since the date of the Turkey-EU Statement is 1,896. Since the previous Report until 4 September 2017, 97 persons who came to Greece from Turkey have been returned under the Turkey-EU Statement. Moreover, as underlined by the Commission, "one for one" resettlement mechanism works

in a steady pace. According to the Seventh Report, the total number of Syrians resettled from Turkey to the EU under the 1:1 framework was 8,834. In the reporting period, 2,580 Syrians have been resettled to 15 Member States (Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, and the Netherlands). Yet, 13 Member States haven't fulfilled any resettlement procedure.

For a long time, the humanitarian and non-humanitarian assistance and its funding provided by the EU was the most attractive dimension of the Statement. Therefore, the Seventh Report shares the most updated status concerning the EU Facility for Refugees. For 2016-2017, already 48 projects for a total amount of 1.664 billion euros have been signed and disbursements have reached 838 million euros. Also some

flagship projects are ongoing such as the Emergency Social Safety Net. The number of vulnerable refugees supported by the Emergency Social Safety Net has rapidly increased to 860,000 persons and the two sides working together to identify solutions for registration related issues. The Commission expressed that the implementation phase of the projects should be in line with the principles of sound financial management.

Lastly, the Report includes some assessments concerning the key issues in Turkey-EU relations. In this context, the modernisation of the Customs Union was highlighted as a primary item on the agenda. The Visa Liberalization Dialogue and the remaining 7 criteria also is another issue that is elaborated. At the end, the Commission calls for continuous efforts and political determination from all sides.



**"WE EXPECT A NORMALISATION IN TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH GERMANY IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE ELECTIONS"**

IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu evaluated the federal elections in Germany held on 24 September. IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu indicated that leader of Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and incumbent Chancellor Angela Merkel who has been elected for the fourth time has achieved a significant success in terms of the history of the German Federal Republic. Moreover, Zeytinoğlu underscored that the results of the German federal elections bear significant importance for Turkey as well.

IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu emphasised the need for the newly formed government in Germany to adopt a more calm and constructive approach towards Turkey and further indicated that the rise of an anti-immigrant party such as the Alternative for Germany (AfD) party is a worrying trend. He highlighted the need of overcoming problems in Turkey-Germany relations and pursuing mutual cooperation with respect to immigration policy along with the launch of negotiations on the modernisation of the Customs Union. He further noted that it would be the perfect time to organise a summit which would bring leaders of both Turkey and Germany together with the aim of further normalisation bilateral relations. He further indicated that the new government in Germany is of critical importance for the future scenarios with respect to a post-Brexit EU. Moreover, he underlined that the consolidation of a strong French-German axis with President Macron will be of critical importance for the future of the EU and that Turkey may be a balancing factor with respect to the future of the EU.

Following the statements, IKV Chairman provided information about IKV's future plans in improving Turkey-Germany relations:

"We know that the image of Turkey is very problematic in German public opinion. In such an environment, it is also difficult for the German government to take positive steps towards Turkey. Therefore Non-governmental organizations have an important task to improve relations between the two sides. As IKV, we plan to carry out some activities in improving the image of Turkey and to make Turkey better understood by the German media and the public. At first we will be organizing round table meetings with civil society and think tanks."

## TRNC PRESIDENT AKINCI ADDRESSED THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AT THE IKV-TOBB JOINT CONFERENCE

A conference titled "The Future of Cyprus Talks and Implications for Turkey In Light of Recent Developments" co-organised by IKV and TOBB was held on 14 September.



The opening speeches of the conference were delivered by TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu, IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu and Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce (KTTO) President Fikri Toros. IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu began his opening speech by stating that the Cyprus question has been among the priority topics among the foundation's research areas and that the IKV under his chairmanship has been consistently raising the issue with their European interlocutors. IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu underscored that the non-resolution of the Cyprus question has been used against Turkey's EU membership bid. Zeytinoğlu stated that the EU's move to admit a divided island with the Greek Cypriot Administration as its sole representative was a huge strategic mistake which not only perpetuated the division of the island, but also inevitably made the EU party to the problem. IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu highlighted that it was crucial for the TRNC to develop sound economic and

trade relations with the rest of the world and that the Turkish business community holds significant responsibility in increasing investments in the TRNC. Finally, IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu called on the international community to take concrete steps to put an end to the unlawful and unacceptable isolation to which the Turkish Cypriots are being subjected.

In his opening speech, KTTO President Fikri Toros spoke about the Conference on Cyprus which took place between 28 June and 7 July and the current state of the Turkish Cypriot economy. Toros underscored that a political settlement to the Cyprus question was urgently needed not only for ensuring the security, stability and prosperity of the two communities on the island but also for overcoming regional problems. TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu started his speech by noting that the TRNC represents an important partner for Turkey in terms of trade, tourism, education and investments and referred to the strong historical, cultural and economic bonds between Turkey

and the TRNC. TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu expressed his belief that the potential to make the bilateral economic bonds was present.

Following the opening speeches, TRNC President Mustafa Akinci addressed the audience. President Akinci began his keynote speech by referring to the turning points and the missed opportunities in the history of the 50 year-long Cyprus talks. President Akinci stated that recently an important opportunity had been missed in Crans-Montana. Elaborating on the last two years of the Cyprus talks in which he represented the Turkish Cypriot community in the talks, President Akinci stated since September 2016 that they were confronted with a Greek Cypriot leadership which was unwilling to compromise and far away from a realistic and credible position.

President Akinci continued his remarks by referring to the benefits that a mutually acceptable solution to the Cyprus question could have brought. Akinci stated that undoubtedly a prospective

settlement would have reflected positively on the relations between Turkey and Greece as well as on Turkey and the EU; however a solution was rendered impossible due to the unwillingness of the Greek Cypriot leadership and the fact that the Greek Cypriot community was not prepared for a settlement based on power-sharing.

Furthermore, TRNC President Akinci emphasized the importance they attribute to the continuation of Turkey's EU membership objective and stated that the EU should adopt a more constructive stance *vis-à-vis* Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots. Akinci underlined the need for both sides to make further efforts to try to reach these objectives and set the conditions needed for it. At this point, TRNC President Akinci underscored that it was of utmost importance for the TRNC to complete much-needed reforms in a variety of areas, further develop its external relations, take steps for the removal of the unfair embargoes it was subjected to and improve its investment climate.

# IKV ORGANISED A PANEL ON REFUGEE COOPERATION

IKV's publication titled "A New Topic in Turkey-EU Relations: Refugee Issue and Turkey-EU Cooperation" was presented in a panel at TOBB Plaza on 14 September.



The opening remarks of the panel were realised by IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas and editor of the publication and Prof. Yaprak Gülcan from Dokuz Eylül University. Later, those who contributed to the publication revealed information about their activities in two different sessions. Finally, Hacettepe University's Director of Migration and Political Research Centre Assoc. Prof. M. Murat Erdoğan made the closing presentation.

In her opening speech, IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Nas reminded that Turkey-EU refugee cooperation continues despite various difficulties, emphasising IKV's recent works in that respect and noting that IKV has further focused on refugee cooperation lately. Following Assoc. Prof. Nas, Prof. Gülcan shared current data on the refugee issue with the participants. She highlighted the ultimate need for Turkey and the EU of forging a common policy in this area.

Following the opening remarks, the refugee issue was addressed through European values and the chair of the session was Prof.

Sedef Akgüngör from Dokuz Eylül University. In the first session, Assoc. Prof. Beken Saatçioğlu from MEF University discussed the EU's concerns over the values-interests dilemma. Assoc. Prof. Saatçioğlu suggested that the refugee crisis was addressed by the EU in a result-oriented and interest-based manner; she argued that this leads to backsliding in the areas of rights and the value of solidarity. Following Assoc. Prof. Saatçioğlu's intervention, Assoc. Prof. Selcen Öner from Bahçeşehir University presented her views with respect to the relation of the rise of far-right political tendencies in the EU to the refugee issue.

The last speaker of the first session was Assist. Prof. Aslı Şirin Öner from Marmara University who gave information regarding EU-based temporary protection rules. In the second session of the panel, another editor of the publication, Prof. Yeşim Kuştepeli from Dokuz Eylül University, discussed refugee cooperation in the context of Turkey's EU accession process. The first speaker of the second session was Marmara University Lecturer

Assoc. Prof. Yonca Özer who assessed the EU's conditionality policies on Turkey from the perspective of the refugee issue, with a comprehensive analysis of all aspects of Turkey-EU relations.

Assist. Prof. Burçak Müge Vural from Dokuz Eylül University revealed information regarding a study on the effects of Syrian asylum seekers on the Turkish economy. She underlined that the policies applied to the economic impact of migration should be regional and /or sectoral. The last speaker of the second session IKV Researcher Ahmet Ceran referred to the current international law and governance mechanisms, indicating that they are insufficient to solve the mass migration phenomenon that reaches unique levels.

Following the panel sessions, Assoc. Prof. Erdoğan made a comprehensive presentation on how the refugee crisis was handled in Turkey and the EU. He underlined that Turkey-EU refugee cooperation should not be damaged by approaches that would lead to a pragmatic correction and harm Turkey's earned Europeaness.

## TIMELINE SEPTEMBER 2017

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3	DPRK conducted hydrogen bomb test
4	European Commission published Seventh Report on the Progress made in the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement
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6	European Court of Justice (ECJ) rejected complaints from Slovakia and Hungary about EU migration policy
7	IKV Brief entitled "Effects of Euroscepticism and Populism on European Integration in Light of the Globalisation Debates" (in Turkish) published
8	Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik participated in the Gymnich meeting in Tallinn.
9	
10	
11	Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik paid a visit to UK
12	European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker delivered State of the Union Address
13	EU-Turkey co-funded Twinning Action on "Improvement of Nuclear Safety Regulatory Infrastructure of Turkey" was held at TAİK
14	IKV hosted TRNC President Mustafa Akıncı in a Cyprus conference
15	IKV organised a panel on refugee cooperation
16	British Home Secretary Amber Rudd paid a visit to Turkey
17	President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attended 72 <sup>nd</sup> Session of UN General Assembly in New York
18	French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian's visit to Turkey
19	
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22	Estonian Ambassador Marin Mottus Visited IKV
23	General elections held in Germany. CDU leader Chancellor Angela Merkel, is elected again for the fourth time
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25	Fourth round of Brexit Talks started in Brussels
26	
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28	IKV organized a seminar on the customs union in Izmir with the cooperation of Aegean Exporters' Association
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31	

## ESTONIAN AMBASSADOR MARIN MOTTUS VISITED IKV

IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu received Estonian Ambassador Marin Mottus on 22 September. Ambassador Mottus and Chairman Zeytinoğlu exchanged views on Turkey-EU relations and evaluated possible cooperation opportunities during Estonian Presidency of the EU. During the meeting, IKV Chairman provided information about IKV's main activities and publications related to various fields of research in Turkey-EU relations.



# EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT JUNCKER SET OUT HIS EU VISION IN STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker set out his vision for the EU in his annual State of the Union address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 13 September.

**D**elivering his third annual State of the Union address to the MEPs, European Commission (EC) President Juncker called for a more integrated EU and laid out ambitious proposals for reform. Building on his address last year, Juncker focused on the need to build a more united, stronger and more democratic Europe for 2025.

## Trade, Migration, EMU top Juncker's Speech

Trade policy was at the top of Juncker's agenda. Underlining that countries across the globe were lining up to conclude free trade agreements with the EU, Juncker announced the Commission's intention to start trade negotiations with New Zealand and Australia with the aim to be concluded by the end of his mandate.

On the industrial policy front, EC President Juncker announced a new Industrial Policy Strategy to help European industries to become world leader in innovation, digitisation and decarbonisation. Concerning the digital single market, Juncker outlined that the EC would introduce new tools to defend the EU against cyber-attacks, which he regarded as "more dangerous than tanks and guns", and proposed the establishment of a new Cyber Security Strategy.

As to migration, Juncker evaluated the EU's balance sheet in handling irregular migration and praised the progress achieved in preventing the loss of life on the Eastern Mediterranean route thanks to the agreement with Turkey. Despite solidarity not being shared evenly among all Member States, Juncker stressed that over 720

thousand refugees were granted asylum or resettled which was three times as much as the US, Canada and Australia combined. Juncker indicated that the Commission was working on new proposals with a focus on returns, solidarity with Africa and opening legal pathways. Referring to regular migration, Juncker regarded legal migration as "a necessity for Europe as an aging continent" and went on to say that the Commission proposed to grant access to the European Blue Card for legal migrants.

Concerning the Schengen zone, Juncker stressed that Bulgaria and Romania should be granted immediate access and Croatia should be allowed to join the visa-free travel zone once it met all the criteria.

As to the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), Juncker expressed his objective of making the EMU stronger. Confirming that the Eurozone has become more resilient, he called for gradually transforming the European Stabilisation Mechanism into a European Monetary Fund and argued for appointing a European Economy and Finance Minister who should also preside over the Eurogroup. However Juncker dismissed the idea of creating a separate parliament for the Euro zone – an idea favoured by French President Emmanuel Macron – and underscored that the parliament of the Euro zone was the EP.

Emphasizing that the Euro should be the single currency of the EU as a whole, Juncker reminded all EU Member States except for those with opt outs of their obligation to join the single currency zone once they fulfilled the necessary conditions and proposed a Euro-accession



Instrument which would offer technical and financial assistance for joining the Euro zone.

## Juncker's Scenario 6 and the Way Forward

Touching upon the reflection process, which had kicked off in the aftermath of the UK's historic decision to leave the EU and continued with the White Paper presented in March 2017, EC President Juncker stressed that it was time to move from reflection to action. Building on the White Paper process, Juncker presented his sixth scenario on the future of Europe: 'a more united, stronger and more democratic Union'. Juncker highlighted that three principles namely; freedom, equality and the rule of law were the foundations upon which 'a more united, stronger and more democratic Union' would be built. In this context, he criticized the

disparities between eastern European and western European Member States and underscored that there can be no second class workers or consumers in a 'Union of equals'.

In his address, Juncker placed particular emphasis on the rule of law and stressed that rule of law was a must in the EU. With Hungary and Poland -which have come under fire for undermining the rule of law- in mind, Juncker highlighted the importance of respecting the judgements of the European Court of Justice.

Concerning enlargement, while emphasizing that the EU should maintain a credible enlargement perspective for the Western Balkans, Juncker reiterated his view that no enlargement was to take place during the mandate of the current Commission as none of the candidates were ready for accession. The EC President was critical in his

remarks on Turkey and added that under the current circumstances Turkey's EU membership perspective remained a distant possibility.

On the fight against terrorism, Juncker called on the establishment of a European intelligence unit to ensure automatic data sharing concerning terrorists and foreign fighters. Moreover, Juncker asked the Member States to look at which foreign policy decisions could be moved from unanimity to qualified majority voting. In order to ensure that the EU acted where its actions were creating added value, Juncker announced the establishment of the Subsidiarity and Proportionality Task Force to be led by EC First Vice-President in charge of better regulation, Frans Timmermans.

In his speech, Juncker proposed merging the presidencies of the Commission and the European Council and argued that such a move would make EU's leadership clearer. Juncker also argued that the democratic progress achieved with the introduction of the so-called 'Spitzenkandidaten'- lead candidates-process could not be reversed.

On Brexit, while admitting that 29 March 2019, the date on which the UK was set to leave the EU would mark a tragic moment for the EU, Juncker underscored that the EU should prepare for the way ahead and proposed that Romania which will then hold the EU's rotating presidency should convene a Special Summit to take the necessary decisions for a more united, stronger and democratic Europe before Europeans go to the polls to elect a new European Parliament in May 2019.

## RED ALERT ON EU FOOD SECURITY: EGG CRISIS

**A**ll started in July when Belgian authorities alerted their EU counterparts about the presence of an insecticide in Belgian eggs. The insecticide called Fipronil is banned for use on food-producing animals as it can be harmful to human health. Investigations have shown that contamination have been caused because of a cleaning product with Fipronil of a Belgian company Ravel, is used in poultry farms in Belgium and the Netherlands. Based on this, the Netherlands shut 180 businesses and, after carrying out tests declared that 138 of those would

remain closed. Afterwards, the European Commission announced that a total of 15 EU Member States, plus Switzerland and Hong Kong, are now known to have received egg products contaminated by the insecticide.

The EU has a system in place called RASFF (The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed) to provide food and feed control authorities to exchange information about serious risks. Despite the obligation of the Member States to inform about dangerous substances detected, Belgium waited about a month

before notifying the Commission. However the egg crisis made clear that national authorities lack the resources to check if food producers comply with EU standards. It also revealed the lack of communication between the Member States and the need for regulators to talk to each other, share information, and alert their counterparts if they found a risky product.

Since late July, millions of eggs have been pulled from the shelves of supermarkets across Europe. The World Health Organisation (WHO) clarified that the levels

of Fipronil in contaminated eggs are not a serious health hazard. While the risk to human health is low, the consequences of this criminal activity have greatly impacted European consumer confidence. Therefore, the European Commission stepped forward to strengthen the food security policies and the communication between the Member States. European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis invited the agriculture ministers to a high-level ministerial meeting in Brussels on 26 September stressing that he "will remain extremely

vigilant and will not tolerate anyone's criminal actions putting into question the integrity of our entire food chain- one of the economic pillars of the Union, and our good reputation".



## THE EU-TURKEY CO-FUNDED "GATE FOR WOMEN" PROJECT

"Garment Training and Entrepreneurship Initiative for Women" project which supported more than 430 women to take entrepreneurship trainings and 80 women to benefit from business coaching and mentoring services has been completed. The objective of the project funded by the EU and Turkey has been that women in Ordu and Giresun are better able to participate in the labour force in urban areas through the development of their

professional training and skills. The project was implemented between January 2016 and September 2017 by the Black Sea Development Agency. During the project, 300 women have successfully completed ready-made garment training to be employed by companies in the region.

The closing ceremony took place in Ordu on 13 September with the participation of Head of the EU Delegation to Turkey Ambassador Christian Berger and the Governor

of Ordu Seddar Yavuz. "We hope that all women benefiting from the project will be employed or will establish their own economically viable businesses", said Ambassador Berger during his opening speech. The GATE project which is worth 2.5 million euros helped women to adapt to the business life for increasing women's participation to the production chain and enhancing human capital in the ready-made garment sector.



## IKV SECRETARY GENERAL ASSESSED THE RESULTS OF GERMAN FEDERAL ELECTIONS IN A PANEL



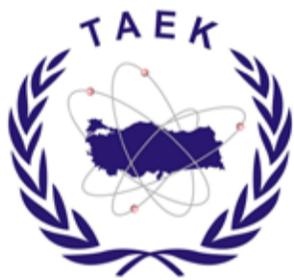
IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas, as a speaker, participated in a panel discussion titled "The German Elections and their Implications for Europe and Turkey's Relations with the EU" held by the Kadir Has University's Center for International and European Studies (CIES). The aim of

the panel was to assess the results of the German Federal elections of 24 September and discuss what they would mean for the international arena and Turkey in particular. The event took place on Wednesday, 27 September at Kadir Has University's Galata Auditorium. Apart from Assoc. Prof. Nas other panellists included was

Ahmet Evin a Senior Scholar in Istanbul Policy Center and Professor at Sabancı University, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Ahu Özyurt, a journalist from CNN TÜRK. The panel was moderated by Prof. Serhat Güvenç Head of the Department of International Relations at Kadir Has University.

## NEW EU TWINNING PROJECT TO IMPROVE NUCLEAR SAFETY REGULATORY INFRASTRUCTURE OF TURKEY

The meeting for the launch of the new project to improve nuclear safety in Turkey was held at the Turkish Atomic Energy Authority (TAEK) on 14 September. Head of Nuclear Safety Department of TAEK Dr. Fatih Alim, Head of Business Area Energy and Systems of TÜV SÜD Industrie Service GmbH Stefan Kirchner, Sector Manager for Energy at the EU Delegation to Turkey Hasan Özkoç, Resident Twinning Advisor Yalçın Ölmez and Deputy Head of the German Embassy's



Economic and Commercial Section Peter Bohlen were present at the meeting.

The main objective of this new

twinning project is to harmonise the nuclear safety legislation of TAEK with the EU nuclear energy acquis, as well as gaining EU experience in regulatory functions. The EU-funded twinning will be implemented by Germany. TAEK as project beneficiary will benefit from Germany's experience through regulatory activities such as legislative frameworks, monitoring and evaluation, supervision and enforcement in the areas of nuclear safety.

This EU-Turkey co-funded

project with a 1.5 million euros budget is expected to establish an efficient regulatory and supervisory framework for nuclear safety fully in line with the relevant EU Directives, legal acts and best practices, while strengthening TAEK's supervision and human resource management capacities.

Within the framework of the project, it is planned in the next 2 years, to transpose the EU nuclear safety acquis by undertaking a review of existing Turkish legislation, analysing existing gaps and

elaborating an action plan to eliminate the gaps in nuclear safety regulation. Further development and implementation of review and assessment procedures for licensing and permission activities and improvement of TAEK's regulatory inspection capabilities is envisaged. TAEK's human resources management capacity is also planned to be improved by preparing of a human resource management system manual and by showcasing EU Member State regulatory work.

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

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

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

Several renewable energy and energy efficiency investments were supported

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



## HOME SECRETARY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, AMBER RUDD'S VISIT TO TURKEY

Home Secretary of the United Kingdom, Amber Rudd visited Turkey on September 14. During her visit the Home Secretary had separate meetings with Minister of Interior Süleyman Soylu and Minister of Family and Social Policy Fatma Betül Savaş. Home Secretary Amber Rudd was also received by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım. Yıldırım and Rudd discussed economic ties between Turkey and the U.K, counterterrorism, security, and the defense industry. The two also agreed to boost relations on bilateral and regional issues.

Prior to her visit British Home Secretary Amber

Rudd gave an interview to a Turkish media outlet. In her interview, Rudd highlighted the significance of bilateral ties between the U.K. and Turkey, saying that strong relations help both countries to be safer and more prosperous. Rudd also underscored that both countries' cooperation in security goes beyond counterterrorism, as they also partner against organized crime and illegal migration. Commenting on the 15 July coup attempt by the Fethullah Terrorist Organisation (FETÖ), she added that any attempts to take over the government through non-democratic means is not acceptable for the U.K.



## FOREIGN MINISTER MEVLÜT ÇAVUŞOĞLU ATTENDED BLED STRATEGIC FORUM

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu paid a visit to Slovenia on 4-5 September where he attended the Bled Strategic Forum and the Informal Meeting of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEEC) Foreign Ministers. He was greeted by Slovenian President Borut Pahor and his Slovenian counterpart, Minister of Foreign Affairs Karl Erjavec at the occasion of the opening ceremony of the Bled Strategic Forum.

During the panel entitled "A new vision for a new reality" of the Bled Strategic Forum, Minister Çavuşoğlu highlighted the critical importance of upholding a humanitarian approach with respect to humanitarian issues and further indicated that the rise of populism in Europe is of concern and called upon the adoption of a new and prudent vision as such.

At the occasion of the forum, he also gathered a chance in holding several bilateral meetings with

Albanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ditmir Bushati, Slovenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Karl Erjavec and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini.

Furthermore, Minister Çavuşoğlu also attended the Informal Meeting of the SEEC Foreign Ministers where regional cooperation along with other issues was discussed.

## MIGRANT HEALTH CENTER FOR REFUGEES WAS INAUGURATED IN ANKARA

The largest EU-funded health Project in Turkey, SIHHAT, which means health, was launched on 16 August in Ankara with the participation of the President of Public Health Institution of Turkey, Prof. İrfan Şencan, and the Head of EU Delegation to Turkey and Ambassador, Christian Berger. The project consists of enhancing primary and secondary health care services to Syrian refugees in terms of building, furnishing and meeting operating costs of 178 migrant health centres and 10 community mental health centres. It is also aimed that 1500 health personnel, including Syrian doctors and nurses, will be employed at these centres. Moreover, the project will provide more than 6 million vaccines to prevent contagious disease and 270 thousands food supplement for children and pregnant women.

SIHHAT is the largest grant in



Turkish health sector with 300 million euros and an initiative under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRIT) that has come into force in January 2016. The project is financed by the EU Delegation to Turkey and the Turkish Ministry of Health. The migrant health centres have begun to be opened under the SIHHAT project. For instance, the center in Altındağ, that is one of the districts of Ankara with the highest refugee density, was inaugurated on 20 September. During the opening

remarks, the Head of EU Delegation to Turkey and Ambassador Christian Berger indicated the SIHHAT project as the most significant initiative of the FRIT. He also emphasised the EU's willingness to work with its partners to provide the Syrian refugees the necessary health care and ensure their well-being. At the end of his speech, he thanked the Ministry of Health of Turkey for their remarkable implementation capacity and keen partnership.

## ECJ RULES OUT AGAINST HUNGARY AND SLOVAKIA ON REFUGEE ISSUE

The EU's top judicial body, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) rejected complaints emanating from Slovakia and Hungary about the EU migration policy on 6 September. Therefore, the Court supported the Commission's view that Member States have obligations in terms of accepting asylum seekers. In an official communique, it said the following: "The court dismisses the actions brought by Slovakia and Hungary against the provisional mechanism for the mandatory relocation of asylum seekers". The programme proposed by the Commission and approved at the Council provided for the relocation of up to 120,000 people, but only some 25,000 have so far been moved. A further programme for resettling people directly from outside the EU has also struggled to hit targets for

taking in asylum-seekers. The EU has already taken above 1.7 million people originating from Middle Eastern and African countries since 2014. However, thanks to an agreement on the issue between Turkey and the EU in late 2015, figures have drastically decreased and the EU has also supported other important players such as Libya in order to successfully curb arrivals.



## MINISTER FOR EUROPE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FRANCE JEAN-YVES LE DRIAN'S VISIT TO TURKEY

Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France Jean-Yves Le Drian paid an official visit to Turkey on 14-15 September. During his visit, Le Drian met with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım as well as with his counterpart Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu. Le Drian met also with the representatives of civil society institutions and leader of the main opposition party Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu. In his meetings with the Turkish authorities, French Minister Le Drian exchanged views on various aspects of the bilateral relations as well as on current regional and international issues in particular the Syrian conflict following the decline of ISIS along with the cooperation on

the fight against terrorism, relations between the EU and Turkey and bilateral relations.

Following the meeting between Çavuşoğlu and Le Drian, a joint press conference was held. At the press conference, Le Drian indicated that it is his fourth visit to Ankara within the context of his actual and preceding functions. He pointed out to the importance of maintaining a fruitful dialogue with Turkey in many aspects and underlined the value of the cooperation between Turkey and France. He declared that they are under way for the second framework of cooperation for the period 2017-2020 between the two countries and that this cooperation is planned to be established by the

end of the year. He also highlighted some economic issues, mainly cooperation in the energy sector and he underscored that these issues would be reinforced by the upcoming new cooperation strategy.

Regarding Turkey-EU relations, Le Drian said that the actual situation and that the position of France is clear in this respect and emphasised that they do not want a break in the relations. Nonetheless, he explained that they are preoccupied by certain developments in Turkey, announcing that they hope Turkey takes initiative to respect European values and the Copenhagen criteria.



## MINISTER FOR EU AFFAIRS ÇELİK ATTENDED GYMNICH MEETING

Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik participated in the Gymnich meeting which is the informal meeting of EU ministers of foreign affairs on 7-8 September in Tallinn. The meeting was hosted by Estonian Minister for Foreign Affairs Sven Mikser and chaired by High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini. While the Member States' foreign affair ministers discussed the North Korean issue, the working methods of the Foreign Affairs Council and the Middle East

peace process, the foreign affairs ministers of the EU candidate countries got involved in the session on the fight against radicalisation and violent extremism.

After having attended the dinner for the Member States and candidate countries on 7 September, Minister Çelik gave a speech at the session entitled "preventing and countering radicalisation and violent extremism" on the following day. Moreover, he had the chance to exchange views on Turkey-EU relations with his counterparts at the margins of

the meeting. Çelik underlined his discomfort with the statements on suspension of Turkey's EU accession negotiations and described Turkey as a European state and without being an EU member yet. In addition to reiterating Turkey's ongoing strategic objective of the EU membership, Minister Çelik indicated that the EU also needs Turkey for its fight against radicalisation. Moreover, he emphasised the need to concentrate on a common future by means of closer bilateral relations between Turkey and the EU.

## MINISTER FOR EU AFFAIRS AND CHIEF NEGOTIATOR ÖMER ÇELİK PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO LONDON

Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik paid a visit to London, UK on 12-14 September for official meetings with UK counterparts. During his visit, Çelik had separate meetings with British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Minister of State for Europe and the Americas, Alan Duncan. Recent developments in Turkey-EU relations, Turkey-UK relations, Brexit, fight against terrorism and bilateral cooperation opportunities were on the agenda of Minister Çelik's meetings in London.

In London, Minister Çelik met with prominent people working on islamophobia at a working luncheon. Delivering

a speech, the EU minister asserted that Islamophobia and xenophobia is actually damaging European values such as democracy, human rights, equality, freedom and pluralism. Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik said Europe should display a common will and attitude to tackle xenophobia and Islamophobia in the continent and must develop a will to work with Turkey on tackling the threat.

Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik also delivered a speech on the future of Europe at the Royal Institute of International Affairs. In his speech Minister Çelik said that the U.K. and Turkey will be the two pillars of the European architecture in the future, just like they are today and the

U.K.'s exit from the EU would not change the fact that the country is one of the greatest powers of Europe. "The U.K., Europe's gateway to the Atlantic, and Turkey, Europe's gate to Asia, will continue to shape Europe's politics," the EU minister said. Furthermore Çelik underscored that, even if it is not an EU member, Turkey has been a European power and it continues its journey as a European democracy for a hundred years. The power of democracy in Turkey was seen "in the struggle people showed to protect it during the Fethullah Terrorist Organisation's (FETÖ) coup attempt on 15 July," he added. Çelik also said Turkey's contribution to Europe's security was clear both in the management of the migrant crisis and in the fight



against Daesh. Çelik concluded his speech with remarks on Turkey-EU relations, saying, "It is clear that recent statements to exclude Turkey and cut Turkey-EU negotiations will not serve the great good for future Europe." Çelik said that Turkey, as a sovereign

country, is providing security to Europe while it is protecting its own borders from Daesh and the PKK terror threats. "The protection of Ankara's security means the protection of security in Berlin, London, Rome and Paris," he added.

# TURKEY-EU RELATIONS IN LIGHT OF THE GERMAN FEDERAL ELECTIONS

Turkey-Germany relations is experiencing one of the tensest periods in its history. How will the results of recent elections in Germany impact the future of both Turkey EU and Turkey-Germany relations?



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As it can be remembered, while the German federal election was approaching, the tension between Turkey and Germany has toughened, and it was seen that this tension not only affected the bilateral relations of both countries but also Turkey-EU relations. In a televised debate on 3 September, between Christian Democratic Union (CDU) leader Angela Merkel, who rallied for the fourth time as prime minister and the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) leader Martin Schulz, both candidates called to end the accession negotiations with Turkey if they were elected.

As a matter of fact, except for the strong historical ties and over 3 million Turks who reside in Germany, the two countries are also strong partners economically speaking. According to the latest statistics released by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK), Germany was the highest ranking country in Turkey's exports in July. Despite the political tension, imports to Germany reached 1 billion 215 million dollars. In the first seven months of 2017, Germany was the leading trade partner with a total export of 8 billion

442 million dollars and second most important trading partner considering Turkey's imports. On the other hand, according to the Statistical Office of Germany (*Statistisches Bundesamt*), Turkey ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the list of the countries with the highest exports and 16<sup>th</sup> in the list of the countries with the highest imports. Looking at foreign direct investments (FDI) in Turkey in the first six months of 2017, Germany is the second with an investment of 170 million dollars in the EU Member States. When we look at the number of international companies operating in Turkey since 1954; with 6,998 companies, Germany ranks first. Simply put, one out of every 8 international companies operating in Turkey is a German company.

The tensions in Turkey-Germany relations can be said to have started in June of last year when the 1915 events were recognised as genocide in the German *Bundestag*. Speaking about the issue at the time, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan indicated that the decision taken by the German would seriously affect Turkey-Germany relations.

Another issue that created tension in bilateral relations was related to the Incirlik Air Base. A delegation of German MPs wanted to visit German troops serving in the international

coalition against Daesh/ISIL in Incirlik. However, Turkey vetoed some of the MPs in the delegation because of their alleged support to PKK. As a matter of fact, Turkey expressed its discomfort of allowing PKK supporters to organise protests in Germany for a long time. Following the decision not to allow the German parliamentary delegation, the *Bundestag* decided on 21 June 21 that the German soldiers serving at Incirlik Air Base would be transferred to the Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan. With this decision, for the first time German troops have moved from a NATO country to a non-NATO country. A similar crisis occurred with respect to German troops stationed at the NATO air base near the Turkish town of Konya. However, the issue was resolved through the mediation of NATO and the expected visit was paid on 8 September.

The third issue that has caused tension in Turkey-Germany relations was related to the asylum seekers in Germany after the 15 July coup attempt. Turkey, which is extremely sensitive to the struggle with Fethullah Terrorist Organisation (FETÖ), is demanding the repatriation of these people. Moreover, the arrest of German citizen Peter Steudtner during a meeting in Büyükdada was another

factor negatively effecting the bilateral relations. With this incident the number of German citizens detained in Turkey increased up to 9.

## What Will Happen to Turkey-EU Relations?

Following these events German Chancellor Merkel and Foreign Minister Gabriel stated that Germany will change its policy towards Turkey and adopt a new approach that includes the termination of negotiations for the modernisation of Customs Union and the suspension of accession negotiations with Turkey. It was clear that there were tensions in the bilateral relations. The question in mind however is whether this tension will have lasting effects in terms of Turkey-Germany and Turkey-EU relations after the elections.

First of all, it is necessary to take a look at the results of elections in Germany briefly. CDU leader and Chancellor Angela Merkel, is elected again for the fourth time. Merkel, who has been criticized because of her open-door policy towards migrants until a year ago, received 33.7 percent of the votes, whereas SPD, which became the second party in elections got 20.7 percent of the votes. However, this was SPD's worst performance in the post-war era.

On the other hand, the Alternative for Germany Party (AfD) got 12.9 percent of votes, marking the first time in almost six decades that an openly nationalist party will enter the *Bundestag*.

Merkel will face tough negotiations in the upcoming weeks as she attempts to engineer a new governing coalition which can withstand pressure from the far right, which has swept into the *Bundestag*. Since SPD declared that they will remain as the main opposition party, it was expected that a so-called Jamaica coalition will be formed with CDU, Free Democratic Party (FDP) and Greens.

In any case, Merkel declared that they will open the Turkey file at the first EU Leaders Summit to be held in October following the elections. Since the idea to suspend accession negotiations with Turkey was not supported by many of the Member States during latest EU Foreign Ministers meeting, a dramatic decision to change the status quo in Turkey-EU relations is not expected to be taken by EU leaders. However, considering the recent developments, it is unrealistic to expect negotiations for modernisation of Customs Union to start.

It was June 2016, when a new chapter was opened to negotiations in Turkey's accession process and from that onward there is stagnation in the negotiation process. Therefore, the modernisation of the Customs Union is important not only because of economic and commercial benefits, but also because it is the only area where progress can be achieved in Turkey-EU relations. In the impact analysis prepared by the Ministry of Economy, it is estimated that the modernisation of the Customs Union will lead to an increase of 1.5-1.9 percent in Turkey's GDP and 25 percent in exports to the EU as of 2030. According to the analysis prepared by the European Commission, an increase of 1.44 percent (12.5 billion euros) is foreseen in terms of GDP growth in the EU.

It seems that both sides should move more cautiously and work on overcoming problems in Turkey-Germany relations after the election.