



# IKVM MONTHLY

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## THE FIRST TURKEY-EU HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL DIALOGUE AFTER 15 JULY

Turkey-EU High Level Political Dialogue Meeting took place in Ankara on 9 September 2016 and was particularly important as it was the first high level political dialogue to convene after the coup attempt of 15 July in Turkey.

The Turkish side was represented by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik while the EU was represented by High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn. According to Turkey's Permanent Representation to the EU, the meeting was initially foreseen to take place in Brussels, however after the coup attempt, the EU side proposed to visit Ankara to demonstrate the EU's solidarity with the Turkish Government.

During the meeting, the Turkish side informed their European counterparts on the 15 July coup attempt and its aftermath. The parties had a constructive discussion on Turkey's accession talks and Turkey-EU cooperation in a wide range of areas including the migration crisis, counter-terrorism, the visa liberalisation dialogue and upgrading the Turkey-EU Customs Union as well as on regional issues.

Speaking at the joint press conference following the meeting, Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu expressed his concerns about the delivery of the 3+3 billion euro aid for Syrian refugees in Turkey and stated that the delivery of the promised aid should be accelerated. Regarding the visa issue, Çavuşoğlu underscored



the need to agree on a solid roadmap and stressed that the Turkey-EU Readmission Agreement, the 18 March refugee deal and the visa liberalisation process are interlinked.

Concerning the fight against terrorism, indicating that Turkey is currently fighting against multiple terrorist organisations such as PKK, FETÖ and ISIL, Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu urged the EU to prevent PKK's propaganda within the EU member states.

In his statement following the meeting, EU Affairs Minister Çelik, underscored that Turkey has a first-class democracy and reassured that despite the State of Emergency in place, Turkey has not compromised

on values such as democracy, rule of law and human rights. Indicating that accession negotiations are at the heart of Turkey-EU relations, Çelik called for the opening of Chapters 23 and 24 on judiciary and fundamental rights and justice, freedom and security as well as Chapter 15 on energy. Commenting on the meeting, Çelik stated that this meeting provided an opportunity for renewing the dialogue between the parties. Çelik expressed his hope that relations between Turkey and the EU would continue with a new momentum and stronger ties.

In the joint press conference, High Representative Mogherini, stated that the meeting was an

important occasion to reiterate the EU's unequivocal condemnation of the attempted coup and to stress the EU's solidarity with Turkey. According to Mogherini, the main outcome of the meeting was a strong commitment to dialogue and working together. "We need to talk more with each other, a bit less about each other", Mogherini stated.

Commissioner for Enlargement Negotiations Hahn, in his statement, expressed his solidarity with the Turkish people. Concerning the rule of law, Hahn stated that they have been reassured about Turkey's commitment to respect and follow higher standards with respect to the rule of law. Regarding Turkey-EU cooperation on a

wide range of areas, Hahn stated that the high-level dialogues on energy and economy are set to continue and that the discussions on upgrading the Customs Union are on track. Hahn confirmed that Turkey and the EU have achieved a lot with the 18 March refugee deal. Concerning visa liberalisation, Hahn stated that finding a solution should be possible.

In the context of their visit to Turkey, Mogherini and Hahn came together with Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım and the leaders of the main political parties. Mogherini and Hahn also visited the shelled sections of the Turkish Grand National Assembly and paid tribute to the victims of the attempted coup.

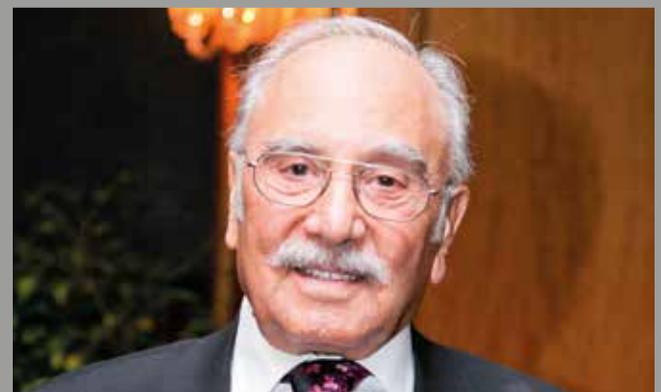
### FORMER CHAIRMAN OF IKV REFİK BAYDUR PASSED AWAY AT AGE 87

As IKV, we deeply regret the loss of one of the doyens of the Turkish private sector, the Turkish Confederation of Employers Associations' (TİSK) Honorary President and at the same time a Former Chairman of our Board of Directors, the distinguished Refik Baydur. We

offer our deepest condolences to his family, his friends and to all of the Turkish business community.

Refik Baydur was born in Erzincan in 1929. Following the completion of his degree at Istanbul University in the Faculty of Economy, he worked at Akbank and Pamukbank between

1953 and 1957. He joined the private sector in 1957. He held numerous positions in various companies including the Timsan Companies Group. He joined the TİSK Board of Directors in 1964 and was Chairman of TİSK Board of Directors between 1989 and 2004.



## PROLONGING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY

The state of emergency that has been declared following the coup attempt of July 15 in Turkey has been prolonged for a further 3 months as of 19 October 2016. The Council of Ministers is empowered to ask for a prolongation of the state of emergency for a period not exceeding 4 months and present it to the approval of the Turkish Grand National Assembly.

According to the Turkish Constitution, a state of emergency can be declared in cases of natural disaster, deep economic crisis and/or the outbreak of widespread cases of violence and the deterioration of public order due to extreme acts of violence. The State of emergency provides extensive powers to the government to rule by executive decrees having the force of law. Since the 15 July coup attempt perpetrated by the FETÖ, widespread dismissals and arrests have been conducted with a view to eliminating members of this group from the bureaucracy, judiciary, education system and military apparatus. Several companies have been taken over by the State and placed under trusteeship due to their financial support to the FETÖ. The infiltration of bureaucratic and military cadres by this group go back a long way but have intensified since the mid-2000s leading finally to the recent attempt to take over control of the country by the use of force. The need to take far-reaching and immediate measures to eliminate the influence of this organisation from the State administration required the declaration of the state of emergency. It should also be added that the Turkish government is not only fighting to dismantle the FETÖ but is also fighting against the PKK in the southeast of the country and the ISIS organisation that has intensified its terror campaign in Turkey in the recent period.

The state of emergency has been in effect in Turkey since 20 July 2016. The state of emergency will be prolonged for 90 more days in line with the recommendation of the National Security Council in Turkey. However, as outlined in the joint statement made by High Representative Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn on the declaration of the state of emergency in Turkey in July, the EU will closely continue to monitor the situation regarding the state of emergency and its implications concerning the respect for rule of law, human rights and fundamental rights.

# THE CUSTOMS UNION TALKS MEETING WAS ORGANISED IN ISTANBUL

IKV's EU Information Centre, in cooperation with TÜRKONFED, organised a meeting entitled "The Customs Union Talks" in Istanbul on 21 September 2016.



Within the framework of the "Support to the EU Information Centres Network of Turkey" project, IKV Brussels Representative Haluk Nuray and TÜRKONFED Economics Adviser Pelin Yenigün Dilek discussed the current status of the Customs Union and revealed details pertaining to its ongoing modernisation process.

IKV Brussels Representative Haluk Nuray indicated that Turkey's integration into the Customs Union had been very productive for its economy and highlighted that without the Customs Union, the

Turkish economy would be in a very different situation. He nonetheless explained that the current status of the Customs Union was not sufficient in dealing with the present needs. Nuray added the following statement: "The Customs Union's share is a maximum of 25% in the total trade between the parties. The EU is willing also to invest in other areas such as agriculture and services. As for Turkey, we would like to find a solution to the issues raised by the current status of the agreement and at the same time secure trade advantages in the EU

market vis-à-vis third countries. However, the EU is more willing to create partnership in areas of interest such as the refugee crisis. Personally, I do believe that the latest developments with respect to the Cyprus issue are critical in shaping the future of relations".

TÜRKONFED Economy Adviser Pelin Yenigün Dilek referred to the ongoing discussions with respect to Brexit and its consequences and how discussions pertaining to regional integration are going to evolve. Dilek noted the following: "The euro was launched to unify the EU. Therefore,

common financial institutions were needed but the process has not gone in that way and we are now seeing the current problems with respect to the EU. As we can see in the case of Brexit, regional integration policies are not providing equal benefits to all regions. The system cannot function effectively when the institutions are not sufficiently established. There is also the criticism that economic integration is only benefiting a small fraction of society. The EU needs to be much more harmonious from the current system from the financial and political perspective".

## DR. ERDEM WAS AWARDED THE SPANISH ORDER OF CIVIL MERIT

In recognition of his tremendous contributions to the development of economic cooperation and friendly relations between Turkey and Spain, IKV Board of Directors Member and Spain's Honorary Consul in Izmit Dr. Zeynel Abidin Erdem has been awarded Spain's order of civil merit "Encomienda de la Orden de Isabel la Católica" in a ceremony organised in Ankara on 22 September 2016.

IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu also attended the award ceremony. In his speech, Spanish Ambassador H.E. Rafael Mendivil reminded that Dr. Erdem has been Spain's Honorary Consul in Izmit since 2005. He stressed that the order of civil merit that is awarded to Dr. Erdem is a testimony to his loyalty and friendship to Spain and to a strong and fruitful



relationship between Turkey and Spain. Dr. Erdem has played a tremendous role in Turkey becoming Spain's 7<sup>th</sup> largest trade partner thanks to the activities of the Business Council and to the elaboration of a Joint Action Plan between the parties following the decision of the Spanish Government to choose Turkey as a target country.

## IKV MET WITH YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN EU INSTITUTIONS



IKV Brussels Representative Haluk Nuray attended a meeting organised by the European Foundation for Democracy with members of the Young Professionals in Foreign Policy on 27 September 2016. In the meeting entitled "Turkey in the Aftermath of the Failed Coup", the coup attempt of 15 July 2016 and its possible effects upon Turkey-EU relations were discussed. Furthermore, the events unfolding following the 15 July were tackled

by the participants.

Participants were also informed about Turkey's negotiation talks on the EU *acquis*. Currently, 16 Chapters of the *acquis* have been opened and only Chapter 25 on Science and Research provisionally closed. 14 Chapters of the *acquis* are unblocked by the Greek Cypriot Administration and suspended by the General Affairs and External of 11 December 2006.

# THIRD REPORT ON TURKEY-EU STATEMENT REVEALS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

The European Commission published several reports concerning the progress made under the European Agenda on Migration on 28 September 2016.



The Third Report on the progress made in the implementation of the Turkey-EU Statement constitutes the most critical part of this effort. The Third Report on the implementation of the Turkey-EU Statement which was agreed on 20 March 2016 proves the substantial decrease in both irregular crossings from Turkey to the EU (mostly Greece) and fatalities of migrants. According to numbers shared by the Commission; since the Second Report, the average daily irregular arrivals from Turkey to Greece have decreased to 81. In contrast with the same period last year, this shows a steady decrease in the numbers of irregular arrivals. Between June-September 2015, average arrivals were 1,700 a day. Indeed, a significant fall in the number of fatalities at the Aegean Sea has thus been recorded. Following the Statement, only 11 people died trying to reach Greece from Turkey by irregular means.

On the other hand, some serious concerns and areas requiring improvement have reflected to the Third Report. Mainly, it is observed that the operational and personal capacity at the hotspots in the Greek Islands is falling short of the needs according to the Commission. Therefore, it is foreseen at the Member States should urgently increase their assistance to Greece through the various EU Agencies in that respect. The current shortfall of

59 experts for the European Asylum Support Office and shortages for Frontex must be filled until the end of 2016.

The slow pace of processing of asylum applications by the Greek Asylum Service and the return process of the irregular migrants from Greece to Turkey is the second critical issue. Since June 2016, 116 migrants including 22 Syrians were returned to Turkey from Greece. Further effort is necessary both in Turkey and the EU to increase the capacity of reception and enhance the living conditions of the migrants. In that context, thanks to the recent legal developments in Turkey, over 8,000 work permit applications for Syrians have been approved. This represents a doubling of the figure for the whole of 2015.

### Failed Coup Attempt has been on the Commission's Agenda

The failed coup attempt which represents a direct attack to Turkish democracy was also on the agenda of the Third Report. The EU strongly condemned the coup and expressed its full support and solidarity to Turkey. As mentioned within the Report, the aftermath of the coup attempt affected the implementation of the Turkey-EU Statement negatively. Yet, the recovery has been occurring in an accelerated manner; and the implementation started to be normalised.

The last topic which was considered within the Third Report

was the current situation regarding the allocation of the 3 billion euro by the EU within the framework of Turkey-EU Statement for humanitarian and non-humanitarian assistance in terms of overcoming the refugee crisis. According to the report, since the 15 June 2016, the total amount allocated has reached 2.239 billion euros for 2016-2017. In addition to this, for humanitarian purposes, already 512 million euros have been contracted. 348 million euros of this contracted amount was signed with the World Food Programme to implement the Emergency Social Safety Net which will be the EU's largest ever humanitarian programme.

In addition to the Third Report on Turkey-EU Statement, the Commission revealed critical numbers and actions concerning the resettlement and relocation of migrants on 28 September 2016. According to the latest numbers, under the 1:1 scheme, a total of 1,614 Syrians were resettled from Turkey to the EU. Furthermore, the numbers of persons that are ready to be resettled are 509. The Commission commented that the pace needs to be maintained. On the other hand, enhancing increased relocation of persons from Greece and Italy to other Member States is on top of the Commission's agenda. At the current time, 5,651 asylum seekers have been relocated since October 2015.

## TIMELINE SEPTEMBER 2016

Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris Avramopoulos' visit to Turkey	1	EP President Martin Schulz's visit to Turkey
	2	Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly President Pedro Agramunt's visit to Turkey
	3	
	4	President Erdoğan attended the G20 Summit in Hangzhou, China (4-5 September)
	5	
IKV Brief entitled "Turkey-EU Refugee Deal and Visa Liberalisation: How to Secure Long-Term Cooperation" published	6	
	7	Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu attended the meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg
The EU allocated 348 million euros fund to Turkey for Syrian refugees	8	
	9	Turkey-EU High Level Political Dialogue meeting was held in Ankara
NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg's visit to Turkey (8-9 September)	10	
	11	Norwegian Foreign Minister Borge Brende's visit to Turkey
	12	
	13	Hisarcıklıoğlu attended Eurochambres Joint Members Meeting in Brussels
	14	
	15	
	16	
	17	
	18	
IKV Brief entitled "Sectors in the EU are Preparing for a Low-Carbon Economy" published	19	
	20	President Erdoğan made a Speech at the UN General Assembly
	21	
IKV's "Customs Union Talks Meeting" was held in Istanbul	22	Dr. Zeynel Abidin Erdem was awarded the Spanish Order of Civil Merit
	23	
	24	
British Foreign Minister Boris Johnson's visit to Turkey (25-27 September)	25	Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides' visit to Turkey
	26	
IKV met with young professionals working in EU institutions in Brussels	27	
	28	
	29	Danish Foreign Minister Kristian Jensen's visit to Turkey
	30	Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics' visit to Turkey

## PRESIDENT RECEP TAYYİP ERDOĞAN MADE A SPEECH AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan made a speech at the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly which was held in China on 20 September 2016. In his speech, Erdoğan touched upon the issues of hunger and poverty facts around the world, refugees, terrorism, sustainable development and the coup attempt in Turkey.

**D**uring his visit to the US, President Erdoğan was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Veysi Kaynak, Minister of Justice Bekir Bozdağ, Minister of Family and Social Policies Fatma Betül Sayan Kaya, Minister for EU Affairs Ömer Çelik, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Economy Nihat Zeybekci, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Berat Albayrak and member of the Turkish Parliament.

In his speech, President Erdoğan congratulated H.E. Peter Thomson on his election as the presidency and thanked to H.E. Mogens Lykketoft for his contributions during the presidency. Regarding the coup attempt in Turkey, President Erdoğan, in his speech, informed world leaders about the FETÖ which is a national security threat for not only Turkey but all 170 countries. Calling on heads of state and government as well as delegates at the UN

General Assembly, President Erdoğan stated that the coup attempt of the 15 July was organised by the FETÖ, which aimed at dominating the state, institutions, education, Turkish Military Force, NGOs and influencing democracy, tolerance and education.

Even though the humankind in the 21<sup>st</sup> century experienced some great achievements in science, technology and health conditions, hunger, poverty, refugee crisis, illiteracy and terrorism remain issues that the world is still struggling with. In this respect, President Erdoğan stated that peace and security in countries and the regions can only be achieved by taking an urgent action and presenting leadership with a consciousness of governments' responsibilities. By stating the importance of the Security Council in order to reach the purpose of global efforts, President Erdoğan added that the world is bigger than 5 countries to the

international public opinion on every occasion.

Concerning the refugee issue, President Erdoğan stated that Turkey hosting almost 3 million Syrians spent 12.5 billion dollars in order to support refugee protection and their basic needs. By reducing the number of irregular flow to the EU, he also underlined that Turkey successfully fulfilled the requirements of the 18 March statement between Turkey and the EU. President Erdoğan also called on EU officials and international community to support a practical cooperation concerning Syria and the fight against terrorist organisations.

Regarding the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, President Erdoğan underlined that countries should continue to encourage useful mechanisms for Least Developed Countries in terms of meeting transformative goals of the 2030 Agenda. In his terms, Turkey's Official Development Assistance reached 3.9 billion dollars in 2015.



## ÇAVUŞOĞLU ATTENDED THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



**M**inister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu attended the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Meeting on 7 September 2016 upon the invitation of Estonia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Marina Kaljurand.

In his address to the Committee, Minister Çavuşoğlu explained the details of the coup attempt of July 15 in Turkey, the workings of the FETÖ

behind the coup attempt and the extensive measures adopted to eliminate this organisation from the state apparatus. Çavuşoğlu praised the Council of Europe for its support to the Turkish government following the coup attempt as exemplified by the visits of its Secretary-General Thorbjørn Jagland, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia Marina Kaljurand representing the term

presidency, and President of the Parliamentary Assembly Pedro Agramunt to Ankara. Çavuşoğlu also expressed in his statement that Turkey will remain committed to its obligations emanating from its membership to the Council of Europe despite the hardships it is going through. Turkey is among the founding members of the Council of Europe having joined the organisation in 1949.

### OFFICIAL VISITS FROM MEMBER STATES TO TURKEY

**F**ollowing the Foreign Minister of Norway Borge Brende's visit to Turkey on 9 September 2016, two Member States' Foreign Ministers visited Turkey in the aftermath of the failed coup attempt on 15 July. On

29 September 2016, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia Edgars Rinkevics and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark Kristen Jensen, at the occasion of their visits as an official envoy of their governments, gathered the chance to fully express their

governments' solidarity with Turkey as it was faced with a failed coup attempt on 15 July 2016.

During their meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, bilateral relations, regional issues and Turkey's EU accession process were also

discussed. European ministers expressed their support for further enhancing bilateral ties and agreed to increase contacts between the countries. During their meeting with their Turkish counterpart Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, the common message was

to fully support for Turkey's established institutions. Moreover, all parties indicated their willingness to further strengthen the ties between the countries in all areas, including economic, social and political relations.

## THE HIGHEST OFFICIAL VISIT AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT

The President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz paid an official visit to Turkey on 1 September 2016.

During his first visit to Turkey after the coup attempt of 15 July, the President of the EP Schulz came together with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and President of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey İsmail Kahraman.

In his meetings with Turkish officials, EP President Schulz condemned the coup attempt and stated that the EP will continue to support democracy in Turkey. On the one hand, Schulz indicated that Turkish citizens showed a remarkable resilience during the coup attempt. On the other hand, he underlined that democratic rules are essential for Turkey by

declaring that "democracy is much more than the simple act of voting. Democratic standards require pluralism, a vibrant press, a separation of power and free parliamentarians with an independent mandate". Schulz also added that the state of emergency should not fail the test of proportionality and of the rule of law.

Moreover, he emphasised that the EU is also struggling with the same challenges Turkey faces. For this reason, a shared intelligence and boosting cooperation between both parties is vital to tackle multiple crisis. In his terms, the EP is willing to deepen Turkey-EU relations, especially on key benchmarks of the 18 March EU-Turkey statement.



## BORIS JOHNSON'S VISIT TO TURKEY

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson visited Turkey between 25 and 27 September 2016.

During his visit to Turkey, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson had a range of talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and Minister for EU Affairs Ömer Çelik. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson also visited refugee camps in Gaziantep.

Following the meetings,

Foreign Secretary Johnson and Minister of Foreign Affairs Çavuşoğlu made a press conference. In his speech, Foreign Secretary Johnson stated that the Turkish people have shown one of the biggest success by standing against a coup attempt. The common message given by two leaders was to strengthen bilateral relations in many policy areas such as the fight against terrorism,

economic and trade relations as well as foreign affairs. Both leaders mentioned that Turkey and the UK stood against terrorism. In his speech, Foreign Secretary Johnson also underlined that Turkey and the UK have the same position in Syria. Regarding economic activities, Johnson stated that bilateral economic relations are on track and trade has been increasing 70 percent in the last five years.

## HİSARCİKLIOĞLU ATTENDED EUROCHAMBRES MEETING



TOBB President and EUROCHAMBRES Deputy President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu attended the EUROCHAMBRES Joint Members Meeting in Brussels on 9 September 2016. At this occasion, Hisarcıklioğlu met with leading

officials of the international and European business community. During the meeting, preliminary elections were held with respect to the Board Members who will be representing non-EU Member States at the Board of

Directors of EUROCHAMBRES starting in 2017. In that context, representatives from Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine were elected to the Board. That was also Azerbaijan's first election to

the EUROCHAMBRES Board. Hisarcıklioğlu took the chance to congratulate all of the delegates of the countries represented at the election.

EUROCHAMBRES Secretary General Arnaldo Abruzzini was also present at the TOBB

Brussels Office during the election. Following the 23 June referendum in the UK, Former European Commission Vice Chair Günter Verheugen who was attending the election spoke about the latest developments in the EU.

## PRESIDENT ERDOĞAN ATTENDED THE G20 SUMMIT

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attended the G20 Leaders' Summit which was held in China between 4 and 5 September 2016. At the summit Turkey and China signed three agreements in areas covering nuclear security, energy and agricultural health certification.



During his attendance, President Erdoğan accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu was welcomed by President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping. At the margins of the summit, Turkey and China signed three agreements in areas covering nuclear security, energy and agricultural health certification.

At the occasion of the summit, President Erdoğan had the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings with other fellow leaders of the G20. During President Erdoğan's meeting with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, the two leaders had the chance to discuss the issues such as Syria, the

fight against all forms of terrorism and climate change. President Erdoğan stressed Turkey's support for the UN's efforts in ensuring humanitarian access into the region. Moreover, President Erdoğan met with Russian President Vladimir Putin, US President Barack Obama, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President François Hollande, and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi during the summit.

Following these meetings, President Erdoğan held a press conference where he gave details on the latest developments in Turkey in the aftermath of the failed coup attempt. During his attendance, President Erdoğan

also attended a working session entitled "Enhancing Policy Coordination and Breaking a New Path for Growth".

Upon the conclusion of the G20 Summit, a Final *Communiqué* was published and presented to the public. In that context, the leaders of the G20 largest economies have agreed to the following:

- Strengthening Policy Coordination,
- Breaking a New Path for Growth,
- More Effective and Efficient Global Economic and Financial Governance,
- Robust International Trade and Investment,

- Inclusive and Interconnected Development.

The leaders have acknowledged that the global economic recovery is progressing and that as the latest economic results have proven; resilience is indeed improving in some of the economies of the G20 countries. On the other hand, they also highlighted the fact that growth still remained rather weak and that it needed to be further enhanced. They have notably underscored the challenges posed by current geopolitical developments in areas such as the Middle East, the ongoing refugee crisis as well as the scourge of terrorism as difficulties upon the

global economic outlook. In that respect, the emphasis has been put upon closer partnership and joint action within the framework of the G20 and cooperating together in order to foster and stimulate growth.

Moreover, the parties have also agreed in working together towards a more interconnected and inclusive world economy in order to help meet the goals of the new era in terms of global growth and sustainable development, taking into account the objectives as spelled out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda along with the Paris Agreement following the COP 21 Summit.

## NATO SECRETARY GENERAL STOLTENBERG'S VISIT TO TURKEY

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg paid a two-day visit to Turkey on 8-9 September 2016 in order to demonstrate the Alliance's solidarity with Turkey after the coup attempt. During his visit, the Secretary General came together with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and the Minister of Defence Fikri Işık. The main issues discussed in the meeting were Turkey's contributions to the Alliance's shared security,

including in Afghanistan, the fight against ISIL and in NATO's efforts to stop human trafficking in the Aegean Sea.

In the press meeting held together with Minister of Foreign Affairs Çavuşoğlu, Stoltenberg reiterated NATO's condemnation of the recent coup attempt, expressing condolences for those who lost their lives, and respect for the courage of the Turkish people. He also underlined that a strong and democratic Turkey is essential for the stability and security of Europe and the region.



## KATI PIRI AND ELMAR BROK VISITED TURKEY

A delegation of Members of the EP, composed of Elmar Brok and Kati Piri, visited Turkey in order to express the EU's solidarity with the Turkish people following the coup attempt of 15 July 2016.

A delegation of Members of the European Parliament visited Turkey on 23-25 August 2016. The delegation was composed of the Chairman of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee Elmar Brok and the European Parliament's Rapporteur for Turkey Kati Piri. The aim of the visit was to express the solidarity of the EU institutions with the Turkish people following the coup attempt on 15 July 2016, to get first-hand information on recent developments in Turkey and underline the importance of respecting the rule of law in the aftermath of the coup.

Brok and Piri held meetings, amongst others, with Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım, several Ministers, including Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik and the then Minister of the Interior Efan Ala, the Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) İsmail Kahraman, leading members of the political groups at the TGNA as well as civil society organisations. The importance attached by Turkey and the EU to



their relationship was underlined during the discussions, as was the commitment by both parties to stick to the agreement reached on 18 March 2016 to deal with the refugee crisis. On visa liberalisation, the members welcomed the enormous progress achieved by Turkey in the fulfilment of the 72 benchmarks

required for all countries wishing to benefit from visa liberalisation to access the Schengen area.

During their visit, Chairman Brok and Turkey rapporteur Piri also gained a better understanding on the challenges posed by the Gülen movement to the independence of the State institutions. The members

fully supported that the active participants of the coup attempt respond before the law for their crimes, emphasising at the same time how important it is to respect process and deal with all cases in respect of rule of law, fundamental rights and Council of Europe standards. EP Members also had a

constructive discussion with Prime Minister Yıldırım on the need for reaching a positive solution to the Cyprus issue. Both parties highlighted the critical importance of strengthening joint efforts towards a long-lasting settlement and noted positively the ongoing discussions between both sides.



## THE LAUNCH OF THE EU'S LARGEST HUMANITARIAN AID PROGRAMME

Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides visited to Turkey to launch the ESSN.

The Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) aid project will be implemented by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay), in close collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Social Policy and the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD). The aid programme with an initial budget of 348 million euros is set to provide a grant for 1 million

refugees in Turkey by the first quarter of 2017. The aid programme grant will be transferred directly in cash on a monthly basis to the refugees through electronic cards which will be distributed to them across Turkey. Under the aid programme, the cash cards planned to be handed out as of October 2016 are an innovative and effective system that can enable the most vulnerable refugees to buy the essentials they need to sustain their

families and to send their children to school.

During his stay in Turkey on 26 September 2016, Stylianides also visited other EU humanitarian projects funded under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, including a Community Centre for Syrian refugees run by Kızılay and a Child Protection Support Centre supported by the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and UNICEF.

## COMMISSIONER DIMITRIS AVRAMOPOULOS VISITS TURKEY

Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris Avramopoulos paid an official visit to Turkey on 1 September 2016. During the meeting, Commissioner met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and Minister for EU and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik. Avramopoulos also

made a speech at the Turkish Grand National Assembly on behalf of the EU to convey a message of solidarity to Turkey after the coup attempt. Commissioner Avramopoulos expressed his concerns and solidarity with Turkish people. Avramopoulos also underlined the need to protect and follow European standards regarding the rule of law.

In the context of their meetings, leaders discussed about current efforts for reducing irregular refugee flow from the Aegean Sea to the EU and shared their strong commitments to move forward the cooperation on the refugee crisis as well as the visa liberalisation process for Turkish citizens.



# EU'S DELIBERATIONS ON ITS FUTURE: QUESTION OF ENLARGEMENT AND TURKEY'S MEMBERSHIP PERSPECTIVE

The month of September witnessed important events with regard to discussions about the EU's future following a Brexit process and its influence on European integration and enlargement perspective.

Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem NAS,  
IKV Secretary General

Following meetings of French, German and Italian leaders in Berlin in June and in Italy in August, the EU27 met in Bratislava on 16 September to discuss priorities of the Union with a view to the future of European integration following the Brexit vote. President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker had already made his annual State of the Union speech on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September and noted areas of priority action for the EU to be able to meet the current challenges facing the Union. Juncker particularly focused on facilitation of employment and growth, digital single market, energy union, deepening the Single Market and Economic and Monetary Union, a new migration policy with stronger border controls, enhancing democratic participation in the EU, greater security against terrorism and a stronger international role for the EU. Referring to his statement in 2015 to the effect that "there is not enough Europe in this Union and not enough Union in Europe", Juncker said that this observation still holds true and the EU may be considered as undergoing an existential crisis. Juncker underlined that the following 12 months are critically important to reconstitute the common denominator among the Member States and that the EU needs a concrete action plan for the immediate future as well as a common vision for the medium to long term. He also announced that the Commission would come up with a White Paper on the priorities and principles of a post-Brexit EU in March 2017 during the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. It is also expected that negotiations between the EU and Britain on the conditions of withdrawal from membership will commence as of March 2017.

## How will Brexit Influence European Integration and the Enlargement Perspective?

The EU will undergo a significant shift with the Brexit process since it will be losing a prominent Member State possessing the second largest economy in the Union and a developed foreign and global policy capacity. Britain's contribution to the budget, human resources of the EU institutions and policy making skills will be missed especially by Member States which are worried about further Germanisation of the Union without Britain. On the other hand, Britain already opted out of two leading policy areas of the EU, the Economic and Monetary Union and the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice without any plans to join either in the near future. Thus, it seemed clear even if Britain had chosen to stay in the EU, it would take the sidelines in the further progress of European integration. No doubt, Britain's separation from the EU will entail a difficult and complicated process and one of the most important issues of contention will emerge over the conditions for Britain's access to the Single Market and rights of EU nationals residing in Britain following Brexit.

Brexit -if it actually happens in the end- will disrupt the balances in the Union and lead to a rethinking of the center of gravity of European integration. The attempt to emphasise the Franco-German-Italian tripartite leadership in the EU led to a dead end with the sharp criticism aired by the Italian Prime minister especially regarding the EU's policies of migration and economic and monetary policy. With East European Member States such as Poland growing more critical of the Union and adopting a more reactionary approach and growing right-wing populism in many Member States, it is becoming more challenging for the EU to speak with one voice and find solutions to its



imminent problems. Member States which are divided along the North-South and East-West axis are finding it ever more difficult to negotiate a common denominator between themselves and convince their citizens of the merits of European integration. The withdrawal of Britain from EU membership may even make this more difficult and lead to a fragmentation of the Union.

Under such difficult conditions, the enlargement perspective appears more important for the EU. Enlargement has always been a motor for further integration since it reinforced the EU's appeal to non-member countries in its vicinity and acted to accelerate deeper integration. The existing Member States wanted to make sure that they put one more brick in the wall of a united Europe before another member comes along and increases the diversity of views in the Union. The Juncker Commission made it clear at the start of its mandate that enlargement was not a priority and accession of new Member States would not take place during its 5-year term. With a dimmer membership perspective, candidate countries such as Turkey and Western Balkan states increasingly became critical of the EU's ambiguous and fluid policies towards them. In a post-Brexit EU, the need for a stronger

enlargement dimension may be needed as the EU searches for a new balance and center of gravity to take the integration process to the next level.

## Will Turkey Find a Place in the Future of the EU?

Most people would accept that Turkey has a very important place in Europe in terms of contributing to its security, fending it off from multiple risks emanating from unstable regions and resolving its problems such as the refugee crisis. However, Turkey's probable membership to the EU is another issue. It is resented by several Member States and political party groups on grounds of identity considerations and/or assessments that Turkey's entry could destabilise the EU due to its size, geography and internal problems. Turkey's membership perspective has been recognised by the EU however, and accession process started with a view to accession. Whether or not membership will actually take place depends on both the particulars of the Turkey-EU relationship and accession process as well as the shape the EU will take in the coming years. Turkey may find it easier to find a place in an EU which is loosely integrated on the basis of trade and economic ties.

Hence, how the Brexit process

will be managed and how it will affect overall European integration carries a critical significance for the future of Turkey and EU relations. If Brexit leads to alternative formulations of EU membership based on acceding to variable levels of integration, Turkey's membership may be viewed from such an angle and acquire a new perspective. At the moment, keeping the accession process alive by opening new chapters and igniting the process by way of complementary processes such as the high level dialogue mechanisms appear to be the most viable option. This would save some more time for both parties to make the most of relations and in the meantime plan their strategies for a longer-term future. It should also be borne in mind that Cyprus talks have also reached a critical phase and their successful conclusion may make a decisive impact on Turkey's accession talks sooner than we would have expected. Keeping this option open, a Turkey-EU relationship which is based more on rationalism, respect, trust and dialogue would be in both parties' interest while Turkey's democracy, rule of law and human rights record would also benefit from a stronger involvement with the EU.