



# IKV MONTHLY

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## OPENING OF A NEW CHAPTER IN TURKEY'S EU NEGOTIATIONS

Chapter 33 entitled Financial and Budgetary Provisions was opened to negotiations at the meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference held in Brussels on 30 June 2016.

**A**fter two years of standstill in Turkey's EU negotiation process, the chapter on Economic and Monetary Policy was opened to negotiations last December. This was followed this year by the opening of Chapter 33 which constitutes a positive development for the progress of the accession negotiations. As a result of the opening of Chapter 33 to negotiations, the total number of chapters opened so far has reached 16.

### What is in Chapter 33?

The chapter mainly covers rules concerning the financial resources for the contribution of all member states to the EU budget. The Budget resources are mainly composed of the traditional own resources consisting of customs duties on imports from outside the EU, sugar levies, agricultural duties; resources based on value added tax (VAT) and on gross national income (GNI) of

each Member State. All Member States must establish the necessary administrative capacities in order to ensure effective coordination for the EU budget, correct calculation of the contributions regarding their own resources and the collection, payment and auditing of their own resources.

Chapter 33 does not include any opening benchmarks. This chapter is directly linked with the alignment of the relevant part of the EU *acquis*. The implementation of legislation is expected to take place once the accession to the EU has been realised. Therefore the legislation in question must be transposed into national law following the membership to the EU. It is noteworthy to highlight that the content of this chapter is also closely related to other chapters such as agriculture and rural development, customs union, statistics, taxation and financial control.

**PAGE 2**



## IKV ORGANISED A SEMINAR ON THE REFUGEE CRISIS

IKV in cooperation with Istanbul Bilgi University organised a seminar entitled "Turkey-EU Cooperation Regarding the Refugee Crisis: Opportunities and Challenges" to discuss the different dimensions of the refugee crisis and Turkey-EU relations.

**T**he seminar took place on 2 June 2016 at Istanbul Bilgi University Santral Istanbul campus Energy Museum. At the beginning of the seminar, IKV Junior Researcher Ahmet Ceran presented the latest developments with respect to the Turkey-EU refugee deal and the Visa Liberalisation Dialogue.

During the seminar, IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas, Director of Istanbul Bilgi University European Institute Prof. Ayhan Kaya, Director of the Migration and Politics Research Centre at Hacettepe University Assoc. Prof. Murat Erdoğan, UNHCR Livelihoods Officer for

Turkey and the MENA Region Damla Taşkın shared their points of views regarding the refugee crisis and assessed its regional impacts with a special focus on Turkey-EU relations.

The panel session started with Assoc. Prof. Murat Erdoğan's comments pertaining to the refugee crisis. Assoc. Prof. Erdoğan touched upon the root causes of the refugee crisis by retracing its historical background and pointed out to Turkey's lack of efficient policies in tackling the arising challenges. Furthermore, Assoc. Prof. Erdoğan stressed that the refugees should be considered as a permanent part of the Turkish

society and thus highlighted the importance of facilitating the refugees' integration to the society. Lastly, he addressed the weaknesses of the Turkey-EU refugee deal.

Prof. Ayhan Kaya deconstructed the conceptual framework of the refugee crisis and its effects on Turkey-EU relations and the Visa Liberalisation Dialogue. Prof. Kaya explored the relations between Turkey's migration management policies and "nation state notion". In that respect, Prof. Kaya compared and contrasted past migration flows and explained the importance of the role played by civil society.

Following the remarks of Prof. Kaya, Damla Taşkın shared her point of view regarding the economic integration of the refugees to the labour market and interpreted this integration on the basis of her experiences on the field. Subsequent to an introduction regarding the leading role of UNHCR, she discussed the different dimensions of current situation regarding the employment, education and integration of Syrian refugees. Later, she presented a future prospect addressing best case practices, main problems and possible solutions.

IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas presented

the general framework and problematic elements of the Visa Liberalisation Dialogue as well as its relation with the refugee deal. Assoc. Prof. Nas drew attention to the dialogue and cooperation opportunity the refugee deal has created between Turkey and the EU. She also emphasised the need to extend this dialogue and cooperation to other layers of Turkey-EU relations. At the end of her speech, Assoc. Prof. Nas referred to the future of Turkey-EU relations in connection with the refugee crisis and the alternative integration models discussed among EU circles.



## OPENING OF A NEW CHAPTER IN TURKEY'S EU NEGOTIATIONS

### FROM THE FIRST PAGE

#### Turkey's Alignment with Chapter 33

Chapter 33 was one of the chapters blocked by France for a significant period since it was among the four chapters blocked during the Presidency of Nicolas Sarkozy with the argument that the opening of these chapters would facilitate Turkey's EU accession. After the election of Francois Hollande as the President, an improvement was witnessed in Turkey-France relations which led to the decision of lifting the obstacle regarding the opening of Chapter 33 to negotiations.

Turkey's alignment with this chapter is considered to be at an early stage. Measures leading to stronger coordination structures, reinforced administrative capacity and the establishment of implementing rules would have to be proposed before the realisation of accession. According to the assessments made within the framework of 2015 Progress Report published by the European Commission, Turkey's customs legislation is considered to be largely aligned with the *acquis* in the area of traditional own resources while preparations to calculate the statistical VAT base have not started yet. It is emphasised that Turkey needs to take additional measures to combat fraud in VAT and in customs duties so as to ensure appropriate contributions to the EU own resources system upon accession. On the other hand, regarding the GNI-based resource, Turkey continues to align the compilation of its financial and statistical data with the European System of Accounts.

Regarding the administrative capacity, Turkey will need to take new measures to reinforce its administrative infrastructure by the time of its accession. In this regard, stronger coordination structures and the establishment of implementing rules for the accurate collection and efficient monitoring of Member States' own resources as well as for the preparation of reports to the EU are required.

The opening of Chapter 33 bears a critical importance since it indicates that both Turkey and the EU are committed to progress towards Turkey's EU membership. The lifting of France's veto regarding the opening of this chapter to negotiations represents a positive development with a view to the revitalisation of Turkey's EU accession process and it constitutes a good example in pursuing the lifting of the remaining obstacles on the other chapters.

# SEMINAR ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN CYBER LAW

IKV hosted Prof. Llewellyn Joseph Gibbons from the College of Law at the University of Toledo and current guest lecturer at the Faculty of Law at Yeditepe University on 6 June 2016. He gave a detailed presentation on the legal framework of trade secrets, copyright, patents and trademarks in the United States. In his presentation, Prof. Gibbons focused on four main topics: New Federal Trade Secret Law, copyright termination of transfers, patents and the potential problems of trademarks.

In his presentation, Prof. Gibbons touched upon the Defend Trade Secrets Act (DTSA) and its implications vis-à-vis trademarks. He mentioned that 74 percent of American companies consider their Intellectual Property very important and valuable to their activities. Another issue raised by Prof. Gibbons was regarding the Uniform Trade Secrets Act (UTSA) which he argued is in fact not uniform. He stressed that this is due to the fact there is a different implementation of the UTSA across 48 states of the United States with the exception of New York and Massachusetts which continue to use common



law. Prof. Gibbons added that the intention behind the DTSA was to establish a uniform national law of trade secrets to overcome the complexities and costs created by inconsistent state trade secret laws of the United States. In contrast, he explained that it still leaves all state

trade laws in place and effectively adds a new layer of federal law.

In light of the ongoing TTIP negotiations between the EU and the United States, the seminar gave the opportunity to better understand the American legislation and position on trade

secret and intellectual property. In this context, Prof. Gibbons not only explained that trade secrets protection legislation is different between the EU and the United States but also stressed that the TTIP would encourage raising the level of standards in both parties.

## IKV SECRETARY-GENERAL ASSOC. PROF. NAS PARTICIPATED TO THE VISA LIBERALISATION EXPERT PANEL IN BRUSSELS

A visa liberalisation expert panel took place at the European Parliament on 22 June evaluating the socio-economic effects of visa liberalisation on Turkey and the EU. In the event chaired by MEP Ismail Ertug, Turkey's visa liberalisation process and its potential effects

and ramifications with respect to social, economic and business relations were elaborated by expert speakers.

In his opening speech, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the EU Ambassador H.E. Selim Yenel noted Turkey's efforts at passing the reforms necessary

to fulfil the 72 criteria embodied in the visa liberalisation roadmap. IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas referred to the positive effects that visa liberalisation would have on business relations between Turkey and the EU as well as on the overall contribution to Turkey-EU relations as a symbolic

and psychological factor. Other participants at the panel included Alexandra Stiglmayer from European Stability Initiative, TURKONFED Brussels Representative Dilek Aydın, DEIK Communications Director Melih Özsöz and MUSIAD Brussels Representative Alperen Özdemir.

## NEW IKV PUBLICATION ON "REUNITING CYPRUS"

The new IKV report titled "Reuniting Cyprus: New Dynamics & Implications for Turkey-EU Relations" written by IKV Researcher Yeliz Şahin, was published in June 2016.

The Cyprus question has been on the international agenda for six decades and has remained intractable despite countless mediation efforts. Today, 12 years after the initial hope and the subsequent trauma caused by the failure of the Annan Plan, the momentum generated in the UN-sponsored reunification talks between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot leaders since their

resumption a year ago, has created the expectation that a solution to the decades-long Cyprus problem is within reach. Despite the complexity and sensitivity of the issues discussed, the view that "stars are uniquely aligned for a settlement in Cyprus" has been voiced by many influential politicians and decision-makers.

IKV has been closely observing the developments in the Cyprus reunification talks. As is known, the unilateral membership of the Greek Cypriot Administration prior to a solution to the Cyprus question has seriously hindered Turkey's EU accession process. In light of the momentum gained in the talks, IKV

paid a visit to the TRNC and held contacts with key Turkish Cypriot officials.

The IKV publication, which focuses on the current round of reunification talks on the island, strives to explore the new dynamics which have generated optimism for the settlement of the Cyprus problem. This publication sheds light on the EU's involvement in the Cyprus problem with particular emphasis on the unilateral membership of the Greek Cypriot Administration prior to a solution and its implications for Turkey's EU accession process and for the Turkish Cypriot community. The final section

of the publication aims to analyse the respective positions of the parties regarding the key issues on the negotiation table.





# IKV CAME TOGETHER WITH SYRIAN REFUGEES AT AN IFTAR DINNER

At the occasion of the International World Refugee Day on 20 June 2016, the European Union's Information Centres Network in Turkey organised iftar dinners for refugees across 20 provinces in Turkey.



The IKV EU Information Centre organised an iftar dinner at Darüzzıyafe near Süleymaniye Mosque at the occasion of World Refugee Day. Head of EU Delegation to Turkey Ambassador H.E. Hansjörg Haber, IKV Vice-Chairman Prof. Halûk Kabaalioğlu, Members of IKV Board of Directors, representatives from foreign missions, NGOs, academia and media attended the dinner organised in Istanbul for the refugees.

In his speech, Head of EU Delegation in Turkey Ambassador H.E. Haber explained that the current situation of the Syrians bears similarity with that of many

European families 70 years ago and added that he hoped that the Syrians would also be able to create a better future as did previously European families. Furthermore, Ambassador H.E. Haber reminded that various crises are still ongoing in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and other areas, affecting its citizens and causing grief all around the world. Reminding that refugees have been forced to leave their homes and that they are people living in extreme conditions, Ambassador H.E. Haber expressed his gratitude for Turkey's continuous hospitality and support to the refugees.

In his speech, IKV Vice-Chairman Prof. Kabaalioğlu expressed his great joy in being together with Syrians and indicated that the number of Syrian refugees which have been forced to flee their country and find refuge in neighbouring countries as a result of war has risen to 5 million people. Thanking the EU Delegation and the EU Information Centres Network for their sensitivity with respect to the refugee issue which has become one of the most important problems of our time, Prof. Kabaalioğlu highlighted that Turkey was cooperating closely with the EU in finding solutions to the issues pertaining to the Syrian refugees.



## TIMELINE JUNE 2016

EU Education Forum was held in Kocaeli (30 May-1 June)	1	Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Çelik's visit to Brussels
IKV organised a seminar on the refugee crisis	2	
	3	
	4	
IKV organised a cycling event in Istanbul for World Environment Day	5	
	6	Minister for EU Affairs Çelik received President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
IKV hosted a seminar on the latest developments in cyber law	6	
Minister for EU Affairs Çelik received Slovak, Italian and Dutch Ambassadors	7	
	8	Terrorist attack in Istanbul
	9	Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu attended the Trilateral Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Turkey-Poland-Romania
	10	Minister for EU Affairs Çelik's visit to The Hague
	11	
	12	
	13	
IKV Brief on "TTIP Process and Public Opinion: Is Support for the Agreement Decreasing?" published	14	Head of EU Delegation in Turkey Ambassador Haber resigned
	15	Minister for EU Affairs Çelik's visit to Bratislava
Second Report on Turkey-EU Statement regarding refugee crisis	15	
	16	
	17	
	18	
10 <sup>th</sup> EU Summer School was held in Istanbul (20 June-1 July)	18	
	19	
IKV came together with Syrian refugees at an iftar dinner	20	
	21	Minister for EU Affairs Çelik's visit to Rome (21-23 June)
	22	TRNC Foreign Minister Ertuğruloğlu's visit to Turkey (21-23 June)
IKV Attended the Visa Liberalisation Expert Panel in Brussels	22	
	23	Britain voted to leave the EU
	24	Turkey-EU JCC Members' visit to Prime Minister Yıldırım
	25	
	26	
	27	
IKV Brief on "Turkey-Belgian Relations and Its Importance from the EU Perspective" published	24	
	28	Istanbul's Atatürk Airport struck by terrorist attack
IKV Brief on "Critical Turning Point in Cyprus Negotiations: Is a Solution Possible in 2016?"	28	
	29	Minister for EU Affairs Çelik's visit to Brussels (28-30 June)
	30	Chapter 33 opened to negotiations



## 10,000 CYCLISTS CROSSED THE BOSPHORUS BRIDGE



At the occasion of the World Environment Day, the Third International Cycling Festival was held in cooperation between IKV EU Information Centre and the Turkish Cyclists' Association with a high

level of participation of more than 10,000 Turkish and foreign cyclists. This event which was supported by the European Delegation to Turkey and the United Nations Turkey, aimed to contribute in

raising public awareness of the pollution and promoting the use of environmentally friendly transport means such as bicycles.

The tour started at the European side of Istanbul in

front of Lutfi Kırdar International Convention Centre and ended in Kadıköy in the Anatolian side. While crossing the Bosphorus Bridge, the cyclists formed a colourful bunch. The opening of the Intercontinental

Istanbul Bicycle was realised by IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu and Cyclists' Association Chairman Murat Suyabatmaz. At the end of the festival, 10 participants were awarded with a bicycle.



## THE EU EDUCATION FORUM WAS HELD IN KOCAELI

The EU Education Forum was held in Kocaeli on 30 May-1 June 2016, bringing together 120 teachers and educators, academicians, journalists and representatives from NGOs from 19 provinces of Turkey. The Forum established in 1996 is organised by EU Information Centre Networks of Turkey with

the financial support of the Delegation of the EU in Turkey.

IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu delivered the opening remarks of the Forum. Deputy Head of EU Delegation in Turkey Béla Szombati attended the opening ceremony and came together with the participants in a panel.

IKV EU Information Centre Coordinator Gökhan Kilit and six educators from Istanbul also attended the forum. At the forum, teachers and educators discussed mainly education philosophies empirical learning and pedagogic issues during the various workshops and panels.

## THE 10<sup>th</sup> EU LAW SUMMER SCHOOL WAS HELD IN ISTANBUL

### YEDİTEPE UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW 10<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN UNION LAW SUMMER SCHOOL



IKV organised the 10<sup>th</sup> EU Law Summer School in cooperation with TOBB, Yeditepe University Faculty of Law and Amsterdam University Law School. From 20 June 2016 to 1 July 2016, the Summer School was held in Istanbul at Yeditepe University. The programme was open to participants coming from public institutions and the academic world as well as lawyers, attorneys,

representatives from the private sector and civil society working on EU Affairs.

Former Judge at the European Court of Justice Prof. Vilenas Vadapalas along with Prof. Dr. A.A.M. Schrauwen, Dr. J.H. Mathis, Dr. R.H. Van Ooik, Dr. T.A.J.A. Vandamme, Dr. M.A.H. (Aart) Loubert from the Amsterdam University Law School and also Member of Stuttgart Bar, Lawyer

of the "Soysal case" and Faculty Member of the Yeditepe University Faculty of Law Rolf Gutmann delivered lectures on the EU Constitutional Law, free movement of persons, Internal Market law, Turkey-EU Association Law, EU external relations and regional trade agreements, refugee and human rights. A certificate was given to the participants who completed the summer school.



## TURKEY-EU COUNTER-TERRORISM DIALOGUE



**T**urkey-EU Counter-Terrorism Dialogue was held in Brussels on 8 June 2016 with the Turkish delegation led by Research and Security Affairs Chief for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tunç Uğdul and the European delegation led by EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator Gilles de Kerchove. This meeting took place within the framework of Turkey and EU's regular exchanges on counter-terrorism.

At the meeting, the EU and Turkey pointed out to the direct impact of counter-terrorism on Turkish and EU citizens and stressed the importance of combatting jointly the attacks threatening peace and security. In this respect, in a joint statement,

both parties strongly condemned the recent terrorist attacks in the EU and in Turkey and reaffirmed their determination to jointly combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with international law.

This meeting focused on possible areas of cooperation especially in terms of sharing information, enhancing law enforcement, combatting the financing of terrorism and strengthening judicial cooperation. Both parties reiterated their commitment to urgently step up their efforts to tackle the threat posed by Daesh/ISIL and to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters.

## TURKEY HIT BY TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAIN

**O**ver the last few months, the increasing number of terrorist attacks witnessed across Turkey and all around the globe calls for a global cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

After the deadly attacks in January and March 2016, terrorist attacks hit Istanbul twice in June. A car bomb exploded on 7 June 2016 targeting a police vehicle in the Vezneciler District, near Istanbul University and the Grand Bazaar which is one of the most popular tourist attractions

in Istanbul. The attack caused the loss of 11 people and wounded more than 30 people.

Three weeks later, on 28 June 2016, a second terrorist attack took place at Atatürk Airport in Istanbul. As a result of a gun attack and a triple suicide bombing in the airport caused the loss of 44 Turkish and foreign citizens and wounded more than 200 people. Many similarities can be observed with this deadliest attack witnessed this year by Turkey and by Brussels in March

2016 following the attacks at the Zaventem Airport and Maelbeek metro station.

Following the attacks at Atatürk Airport, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan declared a day of national mourning and said that this attack should serve as a turning point in the global fight against terrorism. Leaders all around the world expressed their continuing solidarity and support to the Turkish government and its citizens. They reaffirmed their

commitment to reinforce international cooperation to fight the global threat of terrorism. In this respect, EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini and European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn released a joint press release expressing their continuing solidarity to the

government of Turkey and the Turkish people.

As IKV, we strongly condemn these terrorist attacks and extend our deepest condolences to those who lost their lives and wish a fast recovery to those injured. As a country which tragically has experienced such abominable terrorist acts numerous times, we call the international community to unite and to strengthen our cooperation with all parties against the scourge of terrorism.

## SECOND REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TURKEY-EU STATEMENT SHOWS GOOD PROGRESS

The European Commission adopted its second report on the Turkey-EU Statement which sets a baseline for enhanced cooperation and burden-sharing between Turkey and the EU concerning the refugee crisis.

**A**s the main outcome; sharp and continued decrease of people crossing irregularly or losing their lives in the Aegean Sea on their way from Turkey into Greece has been considered as a promising and positive result. According to the report, the Member States' effort towards resettlement and offering legal and safe pathways as alternative also was increased during the reporting period.

The report gives details on the current situation regarding the EU financial support

provided through the Facility for Refugees in Turkey. So far, 150 million euros under the EU budget has been contracted; out of which around 105 million euros has been disbursed notably to cover expenses for food, healthcare, accommodation and access to education of Syrian people. In addition to the 1 billion euros provided by the EU budget, all EU Member States have now sent their contribution certificates for the 2 billion euros pledged for the period covering 2016-2017.

The acceleration of the visa liberalisation dialogue between Turkey and the EU constituted an essential part of the Turkey-EU Statement. The report also shed light on the current developments regarding visa-free travel aspirations of Turkish citizens. As indicated, since the last report on visa liberalisation published on 4 May 2016, further progress has been achieved, notably with the entry into force of the Turkey-EU Readmission Agreement which still requires a final decision on its actual application. The

Commission continues to support Turkey in the work that are still needed to fulfil the remaining benchmarks and invites Turkey to enact these measures as soon as possible to enable the EU to lift the visa requirements for Turkish citizens.

Lastly, the Commission asserted that some areas require enhanced and more efficient approaches. First of all, urgent attention should be given by Greece to increase its capacity in processing asylum applications and appeals on an

individual basis and to ensure returns and readmissions. Greece should also enhance the reception capacity on its islands and improve the day-to-day management and coordination of the hotspots, with the support of the EU and the Member States. On the Member States side, the Commission asked them to accelerate efforts in order to increase the number of resettlements. Equally, Turkey will need to take the necessary measures to fulfil the remaining visa liberalisation benchmarks as soon as possible.

# NEGOTIATIONS ON AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT TO BEGIN WITH 4 KEY PARTNERS

The EU Council gave the mandate to the European Commission to start negotiations on comprehensive air transport agreements with third countries including Turkey.

The Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council adopted mandates that allow the European Commission to start negotiations on comprehensive EU-level air transport agreements with four key partners of the EU which are the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Qatar, the UAE and Turkey on 7 June 2016. The agreement with ASEAN countries is set to become the first EU bloc-to-bloc aviation agreement signed by the EU. The Council also stressed that the UAE, Qatar and Turkey represent some of the most dynamic and fastest growing aviation markets.

The Council explained that these agreements aim at creating new business opportunities, improving market access along with ensuring fair

competition under transparent market conditions. Moreover, it also highlighted the fact that the agreements are set to increase Europe's international connectivity in terms of air transport and ensure a higher quality of service for air passengers. In that context, it is assumed that airlines, airports and air passengers will benefit from enhanced regulatory cooperation along with convergence in areas pertaining to aviation safety, aviation security and economic regulation.

From Turkey's perspective, it is expected that the agreement would increase and diversify the number of air connections between Turkey and the EU. As a result, it is anticipated that this agreement will further strengthen Turkey's position as a potential aviation hub in the region.



## IKV'S NEW PUBLICATION ON THE STATE OF TURKEY'S EU NEGOTIATIONS

The updated 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the IKV publication entitled "What is the State of Play in the Chapters Opened to Negotiations?" (in Turkish) prepared by IKV experts, was published in June 2016. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the publication, IKV experts provide information on the content of the chapters opened to negotiations, the current developments in the EU and Turkey's level of alignment with the EU *acquis* regarding

the policy areas concerned. In that respect, the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the publication takes into account the assessments made by the European Commission in its 2015 Turkey Progress Report and the reforms foreseen by the Turkish Government in the Nation Action Plan for EU Accession (2016-2019). This publication has been prepared with the aim of raising awareness about Turkey's EU accession process among the Turkish public.



## HEAD OF EU DELEGATION TO TURKEY AMBASSADOR H.E. HABER RESIGNED



Head of EU Delegation to Turkey Ambassador H.E. Hansjörg Haber announced on 14 June 2016 his resignation after having served for 10 months. Ambassador H.E. Haber was appointed as Head of EU Delegation in Turkey on 31 August 2015 by High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini. The European Commission noted that Ambassador H.E. Haber will remain in his position until 1 August 2016 and that a successor would soon be appointed.

During his services, significant

developments had taken place in Turkey-EU relations such as the refugee agreement, the opening of the chapters on Economic and Monetary Policy as well as on Financial and Budgetary Provisions to negotiations as well as the realisation of the High Level Political Dialogue, the High Level Economic Dialogue and the High Level Energy Dialogue. On behalf of IKV, we would like to thank Ambassador H.E. Hansjörg Haber for all the previous work he has conducted while serving as Head of EU Delegation to Turkey.

## ARISING TENSION BETWEEN TURKEY AND GERMANY OVER THE 1915 EVENTS

The Bundestag, which constitutes the lower house of the German Parliament, has approved a resolution on 2 June 2016, which recognises the 1915 events as 'genocide'. Germany is the 12<sup>th</sup> EU Member State officially recognising the 1915 events as 'genocide'. The resolution was supported by Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) as well as Social Democrats (SPD) and the Greens (die Grüne). The resolution was originally proposed last year, to mark the centennial of the

1915 events, but it had been postponed because of concerns regarding possible damage to relations with Turkey.

The Turkish government condemned the resolution and deemed it "null and void", and called H.E. Hüseyin Avni Karslıoğlu, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Federal Republic of Germany back to Ankara for consultations. In an official statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs put forward Turkey's concern that the German Parliament interpreted history arbitrarily,

without taking into account all relevant factors.

Despite the resolution, German Chancellor Angela Merkel explained that there are many common interests, which binds together Germany and Turkey, in terms of personal, economic, political and strategic ties. As a consequence of the resolution, the Turkish government decided to block plans pertaining to the visit of a senior German delegation to Incirlik Air Base as a result of strained relations between Turkey and Germany.



# MINISTER FOR EU AFFAIRS ÇELİK'S VISIT TO EU

Following his appointment as the new Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator, Ömer Çelik paid various official visits to Brussels, the Hague, Rome and Bratislava in June 2016.

## Visits to Brussels

In the aftermath of the newly-established government in Turkey, Brussels was the first stop for the newly appointed Minister for EU Affairs Çelik. During his visit to Brussels on 1 June 2016, he held separate meetings with President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn and European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris Avramopoulos. Minister Çelik and EU officials had thus the opportunity to assess the latest developments in Turkey's EU accession process, especially regarding the Visa Liberalisation Dialogue and the migration crisis.

Minister Çelik also paid a second visit to Brussels on 28-30 June with the aim of attending the Turkey-EU Intergovernmental Accession Conference during which the chapter on Financial and Budgetary Provisions was opened to negotiations. At the Conference, Minister Çelik stressed that the opening of a new chapter to negotiation represents a significant step and shows Turkey's determination to revive the accession negotiations as it was underlined in Turkey-EU Summits on 29 November 2015 and 18 March 2016. He also called upon the opening of the Chapters on Energy; on Judiciary and Fundamental Rights; on

Justice, Freedom and Security; on Education and Culture and on Foreign, Security and Defence Policy to the negotiations in order to sustain this new dynamism in Turkey's EU accession process.

At the occasion of his visit to Brussels, Minister Çelik also came together with European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides, European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris Avramopoulos, European Commissioner for Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn, EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini as well as Manfred Weber, Chair of the European People's Party (EPP) Group. The latest developments in Turkey-EU relations and the cooperation in the fight against terrorism were at the core of the discussions. The UK referendum with respect to leaving the EU and the subsequent Brexit process were also important items on the agenda of these meetings. Lastly, Minister Çelik along with Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu also met with First Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans to discuss Turkey-EU relations with a special focus on the visa liberalisation process.

## Visit to the Hague

On 10 June 2016, Minister for EU Affairs Çelik visited the Netherlands which is holding the EU Presidency. Within the framework of his visit, Minister Çelik met with Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs Bert Koenders and also President of the Senate Ankie Broekers-Knol. The main topics discussed during these meetings were the latest developments in Turkey-EU relations, the visa liberalisation process and bilateral relations.

## Visit to Bratislava

On 14 June 2016, Minister for EU Affairs Çelik paid an official visit to Slovakia which will take over the EU Presidency from the Netherlands as of 1 July 2016. Therefore the meetings held with Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Miroslav Lajčák and also Secretary of State for EU Presidency Ivan Korčok gave the opportunity to assess the latest developments regarding bilateral and Turkey-EU relations and the visa liberalisation process but also to discuss about the priorities of the Slovak EU Presidency. Minister Çelik also met with high representatives of the Slovak Parliament.

## Visit to Rome

During his visit to Rome on 21-23 June 2016, Minister for EU Affairs Çelik came together with Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Paolo Gentiloni. At the joint press conference held by both Ministers, in light of the impacts of global



and regional challenges on both Turkey and Italy, the importance of reinforcing cooperation between both parties in managing the refugee crisis, in fighting terrorism and ensuring the security of the region was highlighted. In this respect, Minister Çelik also emphasised the need for the EU and Turkey to pursue their efforts to solve together the refugee crisis. He further explained that the protection of EU values and the dynamics of the European democracies rely heavily on

the good management of the migration crisis.

Minister Çelik also met with Secretary of State for European Affairs Sandro Gozi and representatives of the Italian Senate and Chamber of Deputies. The latest developments regarding Turkish-Italian relations and Turkey-EU relations, the visa liberalisation process, the management of migration and the fight against terrorism were the main topics discussed during these meetings.

## WINNERS OF THE EUROPEAN BUSINESS AWARDS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT ANNOUNCED

Winners of the European Business Awards for the Environment were announced in the ceremony organised by TOBB and the Regional Environmental Center and supported by the Ministry for EU Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation. The eight winners will represent Turkey at the European Business Awards for the Environment on 27 October 2016 in Tallinn, Estonia.

The ceremony was held in Ankara on 3 June 2016 with the participation of Minister of Environment and Urbanisation Mehmet Özhaseki, TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the EU to Turkey Béla Szombati and Undersecretary of the Ministry for

EU Affairs Ambassador R. Engin Soysal. Ambassador R. Engin Soysal made an opening speech of the ceremony and presented the awards to the winners in their environmentally friendly technologies and innovation category.

In his speech, TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu stressed the importance of raising more awareness on environmental issues within the private sector. In regards to the climate change, he emphasised the need for promoting more environmentally friendly and energy efficient companies as well as combating desertification. Minister of Environment and Urbanisation Özhaseki stated that it is crucial



for Turkey to have a better use of energy while protecting environment. This balance, in his term, remains one of the main priorities of Turkey. He also drew attention to the global

environmental issues such as scarcity, air quality, soil, water and energy supply. He added that industry is one of the most sensitive and crucial sectors in regards to environmental issues. Deputy

Head of the Delegation of the EU to Turkey Szombati highlighted the importance of environmental awareness and sustainable development policy area where the EU itself pledged 1.5 billion euros.

# BREXIT AND THE TURKISH PERSPECTIVE

The decision by British voters to leave the EU in their historic referendum has significant implications for the status of candidate countries, such as Turkey.

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The people of Britain voted for a British exit, or Brexit, from the EU in a historic referendum on 23 June 2016. Given the choice to remain or leave the EU, nearly 17.5 million British citizens (representing 51.9 percent of the voters) voted to leave. This will be a date etched into the history of the UK. Following the result of the referendum, David Cameron resigned as Prime Minister of his country. Much ink has been spilled regarding the bad news that goes along with that decision: economic turmoil, a faltering British economy, a high chance of a Scottish independence from the UK, to name just a few of the challenges. An unintended consequence may also be straining of the UK system and a political re-alignment in British politics. The referendum results have exposed the deep social, economic and cultural divide which exists in the UK today and one should note that it has also led to huge uncertainty about the European project and the position of candidate countries such as Turkey.

## Brexit and the Challenges Facing the European Project

Undoubtedly, Brexit represents a fundamental challenge for advocates of the European project and a desire for an 'ever closer union'. EU leaders are conscious of the need to avoid further fragmentation and are likely to adopt a tough stance vis-a-vis Britain in future negotiations. Many believe that Brexit would send the EU down an uncharted course fraught with uncertainty yet the British are not the only ones with doubts about the EU. In a number of nations, the portion of the public with a favourable view of the Brussels institutions fell markedly since 2012 to 2013 as the European economy cratered. Favorability subsequently rebounded in 2014 and 2015. Nonetheless, the EU is again experiencing an abrupt dip in public support, with favourability down in five of the six nations surveyed in both 2015 and 2016. According to a new Pew Research Center survey of 10 EU countries, which account for about 80 percent



of the EU's population and GDP, only 27 percent of Greeks, 38 percent of French, and 47 percent of Spanish have a favourable view of the EU. The institution's strongest backers are the Poles (72 percent) and Hungarians (61 percent).

Disagreement over whether governance in Europe should be more or less centralised is at the heart of disaffection. 65 percent of Brits want the EU to return some power to national governments. It is a sentiment that many other Europeans share: In six of the 10 countries surveyed, more people want devolution of EU power than support the *status quo* or favour giving more power to Brussels. This includes roughly two-thirds of Greeks (68 percent) and pluralities in Sweden (47 percent), the Netherlands (44 percent), Germany (43 percent) and Italy (39 percent).

Much of the disaffection with the EU among Europeans may be attributed also to Brussels' handling of the recent refugee crisis. In every country surveyed, the majorities

disapprove of how Brussels has dealt with the problem. This includes 94 percent of Greeks, 88 percent of Swedes, and 77 percent of Italians. The EU's handling of economic issues is another source of disappointment about the institutions. Roughly nine-in-10 Greeks (92 percent) disapprove of how the EU has dealt with European economic issues. About two-thirds of Italians (68 percent), French (66 percent), and Spanish (65 percent) are similarly critical. The strongest approval of Brussels' economic efforts is in Poland and Germany, both just 47 percent, which hardly amounts to a ringing endorsement.

## Brexit's Impact on EU-Turkey Relations

Anxiety about what comes after the Brexit vote is not limited to Europe. Turkey is also concerned about its relationship with the UK and its prospects of joining the EU. Brexit's uncertain impact on the future of the EU may also affect Turkey's possibility of obtaining

EU membership. Britain was seen as Turkey's main backer and now many Turks worry that Brexit will mean losing a crucial ally. So far the reaction from the Turkish side on the Brexit issue has been measured. According to Anatolia News Agency, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on 24 June 2016 said that he did not expect the UK to leave and he also suggested that Turkey might have a referendum of its own to decide whether to continue pursuing EU membership or not.

For decades, the EU membership has been a common target for consecutive governments and associated with the quest for development and better living standards by the majority of Turkish citizens. Turkey first applied for associate membership in 1959, and signed an Association Agreement in 1963 aiming for its eventual accession into the EU. The Turkish government formally applied for membership in 1987, declared as a candidate state to join the EU in 1999, and since 2005 Turkey

has been conducting accession negotiations with the EU but the process has shown a long period of stalemate. In order to join the Union, Turkey would have to meet a list of conditions in various areas such as human rights and foreign policy. Government critics worry if Turkey drops its EU bid, the country's human rights record which watchdog organisations say has deteriorated over recent years could even get worse. Whether Turkey decides to continue to uphold this battle or not, it will likely be influenced by what kind of EU emerges once the Brexit materialises.

In conclusion, the unexpected decision by British voters to leave the EU in their historic referendum is tumbling dominoes around Europe, with critical implications also for the status of candidate countries, such as Turkey. The debates within Europe over the future of the EU institutions and the status of Turkey are not being laid to rest anytime soon.