



IKV MONTHLY



ISSUE: 85 JUNE 2022

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9 MAY EUROPE DAY CELEBRATED WITH MESSAGES FROM KEY EUROPEAN AND TURKISH OFFICIALS

While Turkey-EU relations are progressing within the scope of the Positive Agenda, Turkey has determinedly been maintaining its ultimate goal, EU membership. Therefore, 9 May has been celebrated as “Europe Day” in Turkey as well since the approval of Turkey’s candidacy.

Symbolically celebrated on 9 May every year, Europe Day marks the anniversary of the historic Schuman Declaration, which is considered to be the first step towards European integration. However, Europe Day has been celebrated bitterly for the last two years, especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has negatively affected the EU. This year’s Europe Day, on the other hand, was celebrated in an atmosphere where the future of the long-established prosperity and peaceful environment in Europe came into question in the shadow of the Russia-Ukraine war.

With the security concerns European countries had to face following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the former Eastern Bloc countries started to turn towards the West. This reminded the international community that the security and welfare of their countries had been provided by the West all along. In this context, Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia applied to become full EU members without delay. Furthermore, Sweden’s and Finland’s application for NATO membership on 18 May 2022 also escalated the debates on European security. Thus, how long the EU’s institutional and security architecture can withstand all these events and changing European conditions has become a significant discussion topic.

The economic consequences of the war undoubtedly brought a rise in prices of many products, especially food. Hence, the outbreak of war on the edge of EU borders has further aggravated the burden on the EU economy, which was already fragile due to the lasting economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Europe Day celebrated in such an atmosphere, EU leaders once again accentuated the importance and achievements of



the EU project. By recalling that the foundations of the Union were laid 72 years ago, the leaders expressed that the EU would emerge stronger from the crises, just like the previous ones experienced throughout the history of EU integration.

Amongst all EU leaders, it was French President Emmanuel Macron who made the most resonant proposal, which was also on behalf of the Presidency of the Council of the EU and envisaged the establishment of a European political community. During his address on Europe Day, Macron emphasised that the EU membership negotiation processes of Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia could continue for many

years. Instead, Macron advocated the establishment of a larger political community in Europe consisting of the democratic EU Member States and non-EU states.

The Conference on the Future of Europe

Another important development that marked this year’s Europe Day was the finalisation of the Conference on the Future of Europe. Throughout the one-year journey, EU citizens discussed what kind of Europe they want to see in the future. Unlike the Convention on the Future of Europe in 2002, candidate countries were not invited to make contributions to this conference. The debate subjects

included climate change and the environment, health, economy, social justice, unemployment, foreign policy, security, democracy, rule of law, rights and values, digital transformation, migration, education, culture, youth, and sports. While the final report centred around 49 proposals, the proposals that required changes in the EU treaties aroused interest the most and brought to fore discussions on institutional reform.

The Future of Turkey-EU Relations and Turkish Leaders’ Messages on the Europe Day

Despite being a long-lasting EU candidate country, Turkey was not invited to make contributions

to the conference. However, Turkey has not withdrawn from its aim of becoming a member state of the EU. It has continued to contribute to the debates on the future of Europe and to make its voice heard. In this context, a series of online meetings were carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate for EU Affairs in order to receive the opinions of Turkish young people, NGOs working in the field of youth, and academics on the future of Europe and the EU. Within the scope of the “Future of Europe and Youth” meetings consisting of four series, young people had the opportunity to express their views.

In the message issued on the occasion of Europe Day, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan underscored the importance of focusing on mutual interests rather than differences. On the other hand, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs Ambassador Faruk Kaymakçı quoted: “Turkey’s membership in the EU will be a great gain not only for Turkey or the EU but also for the world and third countries. That’s why we celebrate Europe Day with enthusiasm and wish Turkey’s EU membership process to accelerate.” The Foreign Minister and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu also asserted that “Turkey has always contributed to the region’s stability and prosperity and Ankara will continue to follow cooperation and dialogue-based policy.”

The key Turkish officials’ messages on Europe Day demonstrate that Turkey still regards EU membership as a primary goal that will contribute to both parties. Although Turkey-EU relations are progressing within the scope of the Positive Agenda at the moment, it does not mean that Turkey has moved away from its ultimate goal, the EU membership.





IKV ISSUED A STATEMENT ABOUT EUROPE DAY

IKV published a statement to celebrate the 9 May Europe Day, which is also the date the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) was founded. When French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman called for the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community 72 years ago, he set in motion a process that was crucial for Europe and the world. As a result of this process, the European continent hosts an integration movement that has no equivalent in other continents. This integration movement, which has gone through various phases until today, has led to significant gains at the supranational level. However, it also faces serious problems and challenges.

Current phenomena such as populism, protectionism, radical nationalism, xenophobia, disinformation, irregular migration, income inequality, gender inequality, cross-border security threats, and inter-state and intra-state conflicts continue to pose problems for the unity and effectiveness of the EU. However, in today's competitive, uncertain, and rapidly changing world, one of the most important prerequisites for Europe's existence on the world stage lies in the ability of member states to take decisions and act as a whole on the basis of shared values.

Russia's attack on Ukraine and the start of an invasion movement pose a vital threat aimed squarely at European values and security. After intervening in Georgia in 2008 and annexing

Crimea in 2014, Russia launched an invasion operation that directly threatens the integrity of a sovereign state. The war, which has been ongoing since on 24 February 2022, has shattered millions of lives, people have lost their lives, others had to leave their homes, and many have become refugees. This shows how fragile peace and security are and need to be actively protected and developed. It also reminds us that history still confronts us with bitter surprises in the middle of the 21st century.

At this critical turning point in history, Turkey-EU relations and Turkey's EU membership goal are perhaps more important than ever. Although it is seen by many as an outdated goal, it is obvious that an EU without Turkey is incomplete in terms of peace and security. Turkey's commitment to Europe's common values will breathe life into the EU in terms of achieving common EU goals such as common security and the European Green Deal and full European integration.

For Turkey, the EU objective that has been put on hold in recent years has led to a slowdown and regression in the reform process and has brought with it many problems. It is necessary to put the goal of a "democratic, free, fair, prosperous, and green Turkey" on the agenda for 2030 by sticking to the goal of membership again. Let's take action together again for a "Turkey within the EU" and a "European Turkey" on 9 May Europe Day.

IKV CHAIRMAN ZEYTİNOĞLU ATTENDED TURKEY-BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA CCI FORUM TURKISH SIDE FIRST MEETING

Turkey-Bosnia and Herzegovina Chamber of Commerce and Industry Forum Turkish Side First Meeting was held online under the chairmanship of IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu on 25 May 2022. Ayhan Zeytinoğlu stated that with the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed between Turkey and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the trade volume between two countries has increased tenfold since 2003 and came close to 1 billion dollars. He added that the potential of both countries is suitable for raising this figure even higher in a short time.

Emphasising that there are several opportunities for cooperation in the fields of energy, health, defence industry, tourism, agriculture, and livestock, Zeytinoğlu stated that bilateral trade and investment relations should be strengthened by benefitting from these opportunities.



At the meeting, the election of the Vice Presidents and the Board of Directors of the Turkey-Bosnia and Herzegovina Chamber of Commerce and Industry Forum was also held.



IKV HELD A PANEL ON EU EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FOR YOUTH

On 16 May 2022, as part of 9 May Europe Day and European Year of Youth, IKV held a panel entitled "EU Education Programmes and Career Opportunities for Youth" in cooperation with Ankara University European Union Research and Application Center (ATAUM). After the opening speech of ATAUM Director Prof. İlke Göçmen, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs Ambassador Faruk Kaymakçı made statements about Turkey-EU relations. Considering that the achievements between 1999-2007 contributed to the positive progress of the relations between Turkey and the EU, as well as added value to Turkey in many different areas, Kaymakçı stated that the strained relations began to recover. Underlining once again that the ultimate goal for Turkey is full membership, Kaymakçı stated that both Turkey and the EU should continue to fulfil their obligations to achieve this goal.

After Kaymakçı's speech, the first session entitled "European Solidarity Corps-ESC and Volunteering" started. The first speech in this session was

made by Ambassador of Hungary to Turkey Viktor Mátis, who was in Turkey as part of the European Voluntary Service (EVS) during his student years. Ambassador Mátis started his speech by talking about the experiences he gained during his time in Turkey, how these experiences contributed to him in career planning, the activities he carried out during the programme, and the choices he made. Considering the importance of young people benefitting from the EU Education Programmes, Mátis concluded his speech by proposing the youth that opportunities should be used efficiently.

In the sessions, while experts from Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate of Foreign Affairs and Turkish National Agency introduced the contents of the Jean Monnet Scholarship Programme and Erasmus Programme, university students and representatives from Jean Monnet Scholars' Association, Erasmus Student Network (ESN) and Embassy of Finland in Ankara discussed the benefits of these programmes for youth within the scope of career opportunities.



IKV CHAIRMAN ZEYTİNOĞLU PARTICIPATED IN THE 78TH TOBB ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu attended the 78th Ordinary General Assembly Meeting of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) on 13 May 2022. IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu participated in the General Assembly in

his capacity as TOBB Vice President and Kocaeli Chamber of Industry Chairman. Prior to the General Assembly Meeting, which was held in hybrid format, TOBB Board members visited Anıtkabir and appeared in the presence of Atatürk.

İKİV ORGANISED A TRAINING PROGRAMME ON TURKEY-EU-NATO RELATIONS IN BRUSSELS



In cooperation with the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) and Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), İKV organised an EU and NATO training programme for Turks living abroad on 23-25 May 2022. Within the scope of training programme, young people of Turkish origin living and studying in different European countries were given training on the

basic features of the EU, its structure, Turkey-EU relations, NATO, migration, and the future of the EU. The training programme was held at the TOBB-İKV Brussels Representative Office. YTB President Abdullah Eren, Permanent Representative to the EU Ambassador Mehmet Kemal Bozay, and Turkey's Permanent Representative to NATO Ambassador Basat Öztürk delivered the opening speeches.

At the meeting, İKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas gave a lecture on "Structural Transformation of the EU from Past to Present." At the same time, İKV Brussels Representative Haluk Nuray discussed "Turkey-EU Relations." The closing of the programme and certificate ceremony was held with the participation of Republic of Turkey Brussels Ambassador Dr. Hasan Ulusoy.



İKİV EU INFORMATION CENTER ORGANISED EU SIMULATION FOR YOUTH

İKİV İstanbul EU Information Center organised an event entitled "EU Simulation for Young: International Relations" on 10-11 May 2022 on the occasion of 9 May Europe Day and European Year of Youth. The European Parliament and the European Council were simulated during the event

and many participants from different universities located in İstanbul discussed EU enlargement and EU foreign policy. İKV Deputy Secretary General M. Gökhan Kilit made the opening speech of the event. Stating that support for Turkey's EU membership process is very high

amongst young people, M. Gökhan Kilit emphasised that İKV would continue to work in order to increase the awareness of the Turkish society, especially young people, regarding the EU. At the closing session of the event, a certificate and award ceremony was held.

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8	Turkish key officials issued congratulatory messages for 9 May Europe Day.
9	Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu met with EU Special Representative for Western Balkans Miroslav Lajcak.
10	Turkey-EU High-Level Agricultural Dialogue was held in Ankara.
11	Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu attended the informal meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers.
12	İKİV EU Information Center organised an EU Simulation for Youth.
13	İKİV Secretary General Nas attended the 3 rd Process Safety Symposium.
14	İKİV held a panel on the modernisation of Turkey-EU Customs Union and the Green Deal.
15	İKİV Chairman Zeytinoğlu participated in the 78 th TOBB Ordinary General Assembly.
16	İKİV held a panel entitled "EU Education Programmes and Career Opportunities for Youth" in cooperation with ATAUM.
17	İKİV Secretary General Nas discussed the Green Deal at Yaşar University.
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21	İKİV Secretary General Nas spoke at the webinar entitled "How Ready Are Turkish Companies for Green Transformation?"
22	İKİV organised a training programme on Turkey-EU-NATO relations in Brussels.
23	Swedish and Finnish top diplomats visited Turkey for NATO bid talks.
24	İKİV Chairman Zeytinoğlu participated in the Turkey-Bosnia and Herzegovina Chamber of Commerce and Industry Forum Turkish Side First Meeting.
25	Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu participated in the Trilateral Foreign Ministers Meeting of Turkey, Romania, and Poland.
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27	İKİV Secretary General Nas attended the Turkey-EU Bridge Workshop.
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30	İKİV Secretary General Nas gave a training on the Green Deal at a seminar organised for ASELSAN senior executives.
31	Turkey-EU Political Dialogue Meeting was held at the political directors level.

IKV ORGANISED A PANEL ENTITLED “MODERNISATION OF THE TURKEY-EU CUSTOMS UNION AND THE EFFECTS OF THE GREEN DEAL”

On 12 May 2022, IKV organised a panel entitled “Modernisation of the Turkey-EU Customs Union and the Effects of the Green Deal” in cooperation with the Marmara University Institute of European Studies. The opening speech of the panel, which was moderated by IKV Deputy Secretary General M. Gökhan Kilit, was delivered by IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu. Zeytinoğlu stated that Turkey would have to adapt to Green Deal standards, just like Turkey adopted EU standards related to the Customs Union in the past. Highlighting that the EU will impose import duties on certain sectors, Zeytinoğlu pointed out that Turkey should establish an Emissions Trading System compatible with the EU.

The speakers of the first session were the General Manager of Sarkuysan Sevgür Arslanpay and the Chief Executive Officer of HKTM Tunç Atıl. Indicating that the large companies are aware of the Green Deal, Arslanpay said that SMEs and



small companies still do not fully understand the importance of the process. Speaking after Arslanpay, Atıl stated that the factory built on the land purchased for HKTM in 2012 for the purposes of renewable energy

and efficiency was the first factory in its sector to receive the LEED GOLD certificate.

Speaking in the second session, IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas stated that the political

relations between Turkey and the EU have reached an impasse which negatively affects the process within the framework of the Customs Union. Nas also stated that the modernisation of the Customs

Union would enable Turkey to act simultaneously with the EU's FTAs, create a more effective dispute resolution mechanism, and solve the visa problem. The second speaker of the session, Assoc. Prof. Esra Yüksel Acı from Marmara University, touched upon the shortcomings in recycling and underlined that carbon emissions continue to spread since energy is also used in recycling factories during the recycling process. The last speaker of the session, Assoc. Prof. Rana Atabay Kuşçu from Istanbul Medipol University, addressed the issues related to Turkey-EU trade relations, the EU's changing trade strategy, the modernisation of the Turkey-EU Customs Union and the Green Deal. She concluded her speech by saying that Turkey is not only a neighbour and a strategic partner, but also an EU candidate country, which is the most important issue that should not be forgotten in the modernisation of the Customs Union.

IKV SECRETARY GENERAL NAS PARTICIPATED IN VARIOUS PROGRAMMES AND EVENTS



In May 2022, IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas discussed Turkey-EU relations and crucial foreign policy issues in various events and programmes. IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Nas first participated in the 3rd PROCESS Safety Symposium organised by Kocaeli Chamber of Industry on 11 May 2022 and made a presentation. The symposium,

which was on the effect of ATEX, pressure vessels, REACH, and digital transformation in the industry on process safety under the EU's SEVESO Directive, was held in Gebze IT Valley. Assoc. Prof. Nas attended the symposium session titled “REACH and the Management of Hazardous Chemicals” and made a presentation on “The European Green Deal and Turkey.”

On 13 May 2022, IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas participated in the international conference entitled “Economic Dimensions of Sustainability” jointly organised by the Turkish-German University (TAU) and DAAD. At the conference, Assoc. Prof. Nas gave a presentation on “The Effects of the European Green Deal on Turkey-EU Relations, Climate Diplomacy and the Private Sector”.

On 17 May 2022, Nas held an educational webinar on “European Green Deal and Turkey” for Yaşar University Faculty of Law students. In the webinar, which began with the opening speeches by International Law Implementation and Research Center Director Prof. İşıl Özkan and Prof. Deniz Kızılsümer Özer, Assoc. Prof. Nas discussed the European Green Deal and its effects while also highlighting the importance of evaluating the issue in terms of legislation, institutional structure, and Turkey-EU relations.

On 23 May 2022, Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas spoke at the webinar entitled “How Ready are Turkish Companies for Green Transformation?” jointly organised by TEPAV and

Dünya Newspaper. The opening speech of the webinar, moderated by Chairman of the Board of Directors of Dünya Newspaper Hakan Güldağ, was delivered by President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu. Following the presentation of TEPAV's report on the subject by Prof. Dr. Güven Sak, Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas and GazDay General Manager Mehmet Doğan delivered their speeches. In her speech, Assoc. Prof. Nas stated that the green transformation brought about by the European Green Deal affected Turkey and emphasised the importance of preparing companies for this transformation.

On 25 May 2022, Nas attended the “Green Business Summit: Green Transformation Paradigms” meeting organised by the Sustainability Academy and Fortune Turkey and gave a speech at the “Business World in Green Transformation Perspective” session. In her speech at the session moderated by TÜSİAD Deputy Secretary General Nurşen Numanoğlu, Nas touched upon the impacts of the European Green Deal and stressed that these impacts

triggered a comprehensive change in different sectors such as energy, industry, agriculture, and transport.

On 28 May 2022, Nas attended the workshop organised by the “EU-Turkey Bridge,” the working group on Turkey-EU relations and made a presentation on “Effects of the European Green Deal on Turkey-EU Relations.” In her speech, Assoc. Prof. Nas stated that the European Green Deal, which would trigger a harmonisation process for Turkey and allow relations to be restructured based on mutual benefit, had a stimulus effect on Turkey-EU relations.

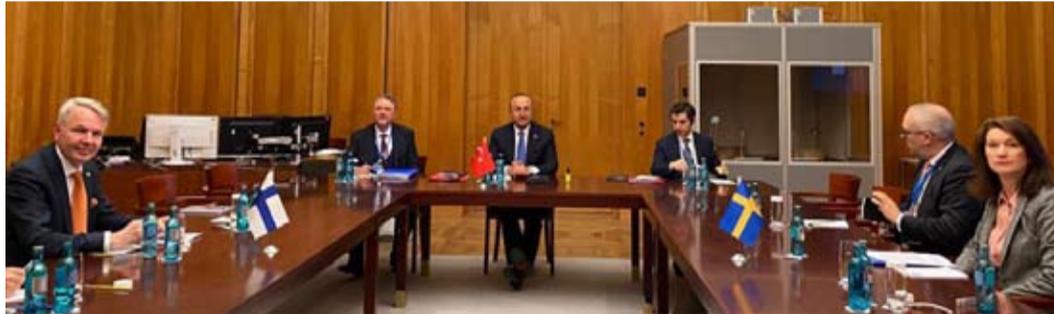
Finally, Assoc. Prof. Nas gave a training entitled “Adaptation to the European Green Deal and Green Growth Strategies” at the seminar organised for ASELSAN senior executives on 30 May 2022. Within the scope of the training, the development of the European Green Deal, its roadmap, its effects on different fields such as industry, trade and agriculture, and its transformative results in Turkey-EU relations were discussed. After the presentation of Assoc. Prof. Nas, the seminar continued with a Q&A session.

HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES

FOREIGN MINISTER ÇAVUŞOĞLU PARTICIPATED IN THE INFORMAL MEETING OF NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS

Foreign Minister and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, met with his Swedish and Finnish counterparts at the Informal Meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers, held in Berlin on 14-15 May 2022.

At the press conference after the meeting, Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu made statements regarding Turkey's stance on Sweden's and Finland's NATO membership. Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu firstly pointed out Sweden's and Finland's support for the PKK/YPG terrorist organisation, which has been attacking Turkish people and troops. Çavuşoğlu also reminded that these countries have been imposing export restrictions on Turkish defence industry products due to Turkey's fight against PKK/YPG. Highlighting that these



terrorist groups pose danger to the Turkish public, Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu expressed that it would be unacceptable for a country that aims to join the NATO alliance to impose restrictions on a NATO ally.

While stressing that Sweden and Finland should end their support for these terrorist organisations, Foreign

Minister Çavuşoğlu also voiced Turkey's concerns on whether or not these countries would return to their current policies after joining NATO. Emphasising that both countries should provide definite security guarantees to Turkey, Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu stated that the restrictions on the Turkish defence

industry and the bans on export permits against Turkey should also be lifted.

Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu underscored that Turkey's concerns could be proven with photos and other documents. However, Çavuşoğlu also disclosed that the two countries have already stepped

out to address Turkey's concerns. Stating that Turkey has no intention to use this process as a bargaining tool, Çavuşoğlu expressed that taking into account Turkey's concerns are of fundamental concern when joining the Alliance.

Speaking to reporters following the talks, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg also touched upon Turkey's stance on Sweden's and Finland's potential NATO membership. Stressing that it was not Turkey's intention to block two countries' NATO membership, Jens Stoltenberg quoted "I'm confident that we will be able to address the concerns that Turkey has expressed in a way that doesn't delay the membership or the accession process."

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TURKEY-US STRATEGIC MECHANISM HELD IN NEW YORK

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu paid an official visit to New York, US, on 16-19 May 2022. Although the main purpose of this was to participate in the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), the visit was crucial for the future of Turkey-US relations. During the visit, Minister Çavuşoğlu held several bilateral meetings with his counterparts and prominent diplomats while also attending the "Global Food Security Call to Action" ministerial meeting. In this context, Çavuşoğlu also met with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the European Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson. Within the scope of the visit, the first meeting of the Turkey-US Strategic Mechanism, launched last year by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and US President Joe Biden, was also held at the ministerial level on 18 May 2022. Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken drew out the roadmap of the mechanism which targets concrete steps in the fields of defence industry, security, and trade.



In the joint statement released following the meeting between Minister Çavuşoğlu and his US counterpart Blinken, it was emphasised that the two countries would continue to work together in the face of geopolitical challenges. The F-16 talks took place in a positive atmosphere, and two actors opposed Russia's intervention in Ukraine. Two countries supported Ukraine's territorial integrity and deemed the war waged by Russia "unacceptable". Çavuşoğlu highlighted Turkey's determination for a result-oriented mechanism and both sides' willingness to take steps in this regard.

THE TRILATERAL FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING OF TURKEY, ROMANIA AND POLAND HELD IN İSTANBUL



On 27 May 2022, Foreign Minister and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu hosted his Romanian and Polish counterparts Bogdan Aurescu and Zbigniew Rau in İstanbul for the annual Trilateral Foreign Ministers Meeting of Turkey, Romania and Poland.

During the meeting, NATO's future and its new Strategic Concept, the developments in Ukraine as well as strengthening the trilateral cooperation were addressed by the ministers. Minister Çavuşoğlu expressed the need to include a resolution to fight against all forms of terrorism in NATO's new Strategic Concept.

Minister Çavuşoğlu also had bilateral talks with Romanian Foreign Minister Aurescu and Polish Foreign Minister Rau. While Minister Çavuşoğlu signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in diplomatic archives with Romanian Foreign Minister Aurescu, he also stated that a High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council would be established with Poland.

FINNISH AND SWEDISH OFFICIALS VISITED ANKARA TO DISCUSS THEIR NATO BIDS

Finnish and Swedish officials visited Turkey on 25 May 2022 to hold consultations with Turkish officials regarding their NATO bids. Following a security policy review triggered by Russia's war on Ukraine, Finland and Sweden formally applied to join the Alliance on 18 May 2022 in a move that represents a major break from their traditional policy line of military non-alignment. The NATO membership applications by the two Nordic states, have been welcomed by almost all allies, except for Turkey which has voiced reservations citing Sweden and Finland's ties with terrorist organisations. Despite its historic support for NATO's "open door policy", Turkey has criticised Helsinki and Stockholm for not being sensitive to its security concerns and expressed particular concern about Stockholm's position on terrorist organisations PKK and its Syrian offshoot YPG.

Turkey has asked for concrete assurances from Stockholm and Helsinki in addressing its legitimate concerns regarding the fight against terrorism. According to a Directorate of Communications



statement outlining Turkey's stance on Sweden's NATO membership application, Ankara has demanded that Stockholm lift the arms export restrictions imposed on Turkey in the wake of Operation Peace Spring in north-east Syria, stop lending political support to terrorism, eliminate sources of terrorist financing, stop providing arms to PKK/YPG and show solidarity in the global fight against terrorism.

Visiting Ankara in an attempt to address Turkey's concerns, the Swedish delegation led by State Secretary Oscar Stenström and the Finnish delegation led by Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Jukka Salovaara first met separately with the Turkish delegation headed by Presidential Spokesperson Ambassador

İbrahim Kalın and Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sedat Önal prior to holding a trilateral meeting. Speaking after the meeting, Presidential Spokesperson Kalın reconfirmed Ankara's expectation that the two countries would take concrete steps in addressing its security concerns within a certain timeframe and that Stockholm and Helsinki's NATO bids could not move forward unless Turkey's concerns are tackled. It is important to note that Turkey's concerns regarding the membership bids of Finland and Sweden have also been acknowledged by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg as he has underscored the need to address these while highlighting that Turkey is an important NATO ally on various occasions.

WTO PANEL FOUND THE EU'S STEEL IMPORT MEASURES AGAINST TURKEY CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE RULES

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has backed Turkey's complaints, ruling that EU steel import restrictions are contrary to international trade rules.

The European Commission introduced a series of "safeguard" measures in July 2018 to mitigate the possible effects of metal tariffs brought by former US President Donald Trump. Under these measures, steel was allowed to be imported without tariffs up to certain quotas, while a 25% tariff was imposed if the quotas were exceeded. The safeguard measures were planned at first to last until the end of June 2021 with quota limits increasing 5% each year but extended to 2024.

In accordance with the WTO rules, the members are allowed to apply "protective" measures in case the imports reached the point that would harm the local industry as a result of "unforeseen developments".

After Joe Biden was elected as the US President in 2021, tariffs for some exporting countries, including

the 27 EU members were suspended. Due to this decision, the base of the safeguard measures which refers to the WTO rule, accusing of "unforeseen developments" ceased to exist.

Turkey, which makes a significant part of its steel exports to the EU, followed the developments, and complained that the measures implemented by the EU violated its commitments to the WTO. Turkey's complaint was based on the fact that the quota increases were less than 5% each year. The measures have also been extended until 2024 even though the US has already suspended the tariffs.

The WTO panel acknowledged that the European Commission failed to substantiate allegations that steel imports have increased due to unforeseen developments and that the EU industry was at risk of serious

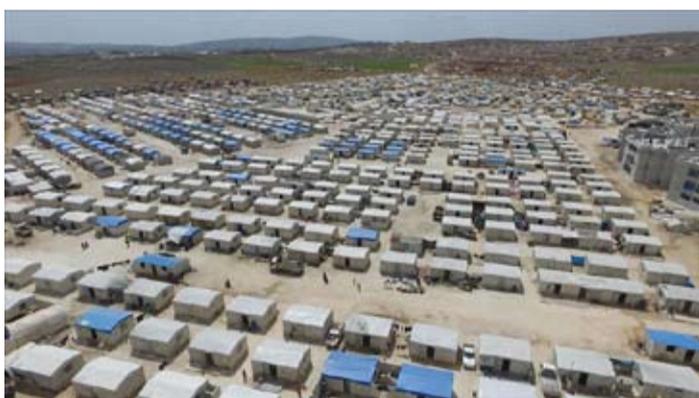
injury. The panel recommended that the EU align its measures with global trade rules.

With this decision, Turkey contributed to the case law decisions by staying within the mechanisms of the WTO, of which it is a founding member. The report, which was considered as an important success for Turkey since it was not appealed by the EU, would be accepted by the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body.

The fact that the WTO decision was made before July is important since it is when the EU will review its measures. The EU needs to harmonise its existing measures after this decision. At the next stage, necessary follow-up should be made within the framework of bilateral relations with the EU for the full implementation of the panel's decision.



TURKEY PREPARES TO RESETTLE 1 MILLION SYRIANS IN NORTHERN SYRIA



Turkey officially hosts four million refugees and has been the largest refugee hosting country in the world for the past seven years. At the end of 2020, 3.64 million Syrians were taken under Temporary Protection (TP) by the government. There are also 322,188 International Protection (IP) applicants, mainly from Iraq, Afghanistan, and Iran in the country.

Following these developments, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan announced that Turkey is working on a new major construction project in Syria's Idlib province to support the voluntarily return of 1 million Syrians, stressing that it will

take place with the contribution of the national and international non-governmental organisations.

President Erdoğan emphasised that around 500,000 Syrians have already returned to the safe regions in Syria and the construction of houses has been one of the steps for the return of Syrians. Erdoğan stressed that Turkey will cooperate with local governments in 13 different regions, including Azez, Jarablus and Tal Abyad. Erdoğan also added that 57,306 houses have already been built and another 20,000 houses will be constructed in new residential areas with mosques, schools, health centres and social facilities.

TURKEY ADOPTED A BILL TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND HEALTH WORKERS

On 12 May 2022, the Grand National Assembly of Turkey adopted a bill that aims to prevent and combat violence against women and health workers. Intentional crimes against women and health workers will be classified as catalogue offenses, which will make perpetrators subject to pre-trial detention.

Turkey has made significant progress in deterring violence against women and health workers in recent years. The new bill adopted by the Turkish Parliament amends the current legislation and includes stalking as an offense for the first time. The bill is expected to help the Turkish government to reduce domestic violence and violence against health workers committed by patients or their parents, relatives, or friends.

Under the new bill, a discretionary discount will not be granted for positive behaviour of the perpetrator during the judgement process. Furthermore, the minimum penalty for a minor injury that does not require surgery would be six months' imprisonment.



Likewise, the minimum penalty for the crime of torture against women would be five years imprisonment.

The bill also includes basic rights for health workers. It puts an end to the case of perpetrators being released pending trial in cases where health workers are injured.

In such a case that health workers are victimised, no light penalty will be imposed due to the perpetrators' judicial behaviour. On the other hand, under the new law, the state will cover compensations resulting from malpractice cases instead of the healthcare professionals themselves.

TURKEY PROVIDES SHELTER AND SOCIAL SUPPORT TO DISPLACED UKRAINIAN ORPHANS



The joint efforts of the first ladies of Turkey and Ukraine, Emine Erdoğan and Olena Zelenska resulted in Turkey becoming a pioneer in its region in the evacuation of the orphans from the conflict zones in Ukraine. Starting with the arrival of the first group of children as early as 25 March 2022, Turkey has so far

successfully managed to evacuate and provide shelter for nearly one thousand orphans and their carers. The children and their carers are given accommodation in some hotels in the provinces of Muğla, Sakarya and, mostly Antalya and are put in touch with the Ukrainian population settled there. All their needs including

education, regular health checks as well as psychiatric and social support are met by the government through the help of the social aid and solidarity foundations of the Ministry of Family and Social Services.

Cooperating with the Turkish Red Crescent, UNICEF, and NGOs, the Ministry organises social, cultural, sports and educational activities, including Turkish language classes for Ukrainian children to help with their integration into Turkish society. They were recently brought together with Turkish children on two occasions, namely the National Sovereignty and Children's Day on 23 April and Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day on 19 May, to participate in the commemoration activities for these national holidays in Turkey.

Since the conflict in Ukraine started on 24 February, many vulnerable groups including children are either stuck in the middle of violence or are displaced internally; many of them have also been fleeing to neighbouring countries. Orphans living in orphanages across the country constitute one of these vulnerable groups, as Ukraine is the country with the greatest number of orphans in Europe, according to the UN refugee agency UNHCR. UNICEF's Regional Child Protection Adviser for Europe and Central Asia Aaron Greenberg has pointed out the fact that Ukraine is faced with "a child protection crisis of extraordinary proportions" as the number of injuries and deaths rise

as a result of attacks on schools and healthcare facilities. Equally important is the fact that the war has impacted children's well-being as a result of the physical and mental trauma they had to go through.

Ukrainian Ambassador Vasyl Bodnar and Ukrainian Consul-General in Antalya Emir Rustamov both expressed their gratitude for the Turkish government to the evacuation of the Ukrainian orphans as well as the efforts made to provide them with a safe and comfortable environment during their stay in Turkey. On the other hand, Turkey has announced that these children who used to be in orphanages before when they were in Ukraine are now under Turkey's care.

İSTANBUL RANKED ONE OF THE BEST MARATHON DESTINATIONS IN EUROPE

Turkey's largest city and the country's economic centre, İstanbul, ranked as the sixth-best European city for marathon runners, according to a new study by Runners Need.

Runners Need, a London-based running equipment specialist, conducted a five-factor study by analysing the air quality, weather conditions, number of landmarks, cost of running supplies and popularity of marathons in more than 60 European cities to rank the marathon destinations of the continent. While Barcelona ranked first in the study, Madrid, Athens, Seville, and Lisbon were the other



European cities that made it into top five.

İstanbul ranked in the top ten for two reasons: The city offers one of the most scenic running routes in Europe with 621 landmarks to take in and is home to the world's

only intercontinental marathon that takes runners between Asia and Europe.

İstanbul also offers a running package (water, bananas and running shoes) that is 36% cheaper than average to the runners.

The İstanbul Marathon (*Maraton İstanbul*) welcomes runners all around the world since 1979 and was included in the "Gold Label Road Races" of the World Athletics Association (IAAF). *Maraton İstanbul* will be held on 6 November 2022 this year, and the number of people participating in the event is expected to be similar to the pre-pandemic times.

İSTANBUL AND İZMİR SELECTED AMONGST THE EU'S 100 CLIMATE-NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES PROGRAMME

The European Commission announced the cities that will be participating in the EU Mission for 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030, the so-called Cities Mission. The Cities Mission aims to mobilise local authorities, citizens, businesses, investors, regional and national authorities to transform the 100 selected cities into climate-neutral, smart, and innovative hubs that would serve as examples for other cities.

After a long evaluation process by the EU, İstanbul and İzmir were selected to take part in the mission to which 24 cities from Turkey and 377 cities from Europe applied. Furthermore, İstanbul and İzmir are the only two cities out of the 12



participating in the EU programme that are not located in an EU Member State. Participation in this EU initiative offers Turkey the opportunity to take the lead in the transition toward climate neutrality and the fight against climate change.

The selected cities will need to prepare, sign, and implement Climate City Contracts, that are not legally binding but demonstrate explicit consent and commitment to the EU and its goals. Climate City Contracts will set plans to achieve climate neutrality by 2030, as well as investment plans. The Mission Platform will provide the necessary technical, regulatory, and financial assistance. The EU's Horizon Europe programme will invest about 360 million euros in mobility, energy, and urban planning in research and innovation related to the mission of climate-neutral and smart cities in the period 2021-2023.

TURKISH MARCH FACTORY OUTPUT RISES 9.6% YEAR OVER YEAR



According to the Turkstat data announced on 13 May 2022, Turkish industrial production expanded 9.6% on a yearly basis in March 2022, as it rose for a 21st consecutive month, remaining buoyant against a background of surging inflation.

In April 2020, the output had dropped by more than 30% due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and the preventative measures taken to counteract it. However, it has now made a significant comeback as a result of successive measures primarily avoiding the industrial sector, with the majority of remaining limitations eased in July 2021.

Ever since lifting of measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, Turkey has maintained a solid trend in industrial economic activities. However, the COVID-19 pandemic, late-2021

currency drop, the resulting jump to nearly 70% inflation, and the fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine are expected to suppress growth in 2022.

On a monthly basis, industrial output shrank 1.8% in March on a calendar and seasonally adjusted basis, the Turkish Statistical Institute indicated. In January due to natural gas cuts stemming from a technical failure in Iran, the index on the monthly basis was shrank by 2.4% as it was followed by 4.4% expansion in February.

Economists predict that the index's growth rate will decline in the next months, reaching a neutral level around summer. After March, industrial production might be impacted by a decline in external demand, or a supply chain interruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

THE FIRST-EVER TURKEY-EU HIGH-LEVEL AGRICULTURAL DIALOGUE WAS HELD TO FURTHER COOPERATION

The main agenda items of the high-level agricultural dialogue, which was held for the first time between Turkey and the EU, were the sustainable agriculture, trade and IPARD III programme for food security.

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Turkey-EU High-Level Agricultural Dialogue was held on 11-12 May 2022 to build closer cooperation between the EU and Turkey in the agricultural sector and trade. Within the scope of the meeting, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Prof. Vaht Kirişçi came together with European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Janusz Wojciechowski to discuss food security, agricultural reforms, and rural development strategies. On the first day of European Commissioner Wojciechowski's visit to Turkey, the first meeting within the scope of the high-level dialogue was held at the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (*Devlet Su İşleri* - DSI). On the second day of the visit, Minister Kirişçi and Commissioner Wojciechowski paid a visit to a facility that had received financial support under the Pre-Accession Assistance for Rural Development (IPARD) instrument.

Topics Covered at the High-Level Agricultural Dialogue

The primary aim of the High-Level Agricultural Dialogue was to share experiences and develop cooperation between Turkey and the EU in the process of transition into a sustainable food system. It was of great importance that the relations between Turkey and the EU on agriculture and food were once again brought to the agenda, especially considering the negative consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on food security. A high-level exchange of views was required to examine the current risks and possible opportunities for Turkey to set targets within the scope of sustainable agriculture strategy for the future.



The first meeting held at the DSI revolved around three main topics: sustainable agriculture for food security, trade and, finally the IPARD III programme, which was approved by the Commission on 16 March 2022. The first session focused on food safety, productivity, innovation, economic sustainability, environment, climate, and employment in rural areas. One of the greatest threats posed by the war in Ukraine, food insecurity, was also tackled during the meeting since 4.6% of the EU's agricultural imports were supplied from Ukraine in 2020. These products were comprised of wheat, dried nuts, corn, and sunflower seeds. Therefore, the significance of ensuring the security of Ukrainian supply chain and the trade routes leads policy makers to take concrete steps.

The formation of new regional policies that are integrated into the circular economy's financing, the green transition, carbon farming to develop sustainability for agricultural production systems and resource management were the other items on the first session's agenda.

Agricultural product trade between Turkey and the EU was discussed in the second session. Accordingly, both sides exchanged

views on existing trade models, red meat and poultry trade, organic food products as well as food labeling. During his speech, Commissioner Wojciechowski highlighted the fact that the Turkey-EU Customs Union, which has been in force since 1996, has resulted in a sevenfold rise in bilateral trade volume. He also emphasised the inadequacy of the Customs Union's scope, which now only includes processed agricultural products. Although positive outcomes were achieved thanks to the concessionary regime developed in 1998, which is an alternative to the inclusion of agricultural products in the Customs Union, Wojciechowski stated that the restrictions persist.

In the last session, the IPARD programme was on the top of the agenda. The representatives from Turkey and the EU briefly exchanged views on how the IPARD programme could help with the transition period by encouraging eco-friendly and organic agriculture. On the one hand, the preparations for the financial aid to be mobilised in 2021-2027 within the scope of IPARD III were discussed, while on the other hand the management of the IPARD II programme in Turkey in the period of 2014-2020 was evaluated.

The IPARD III programme, which will be implemented between 2021 and 2027, includes a grant worth 430 million euros to be allocated by the European Commission. However, this amount would increase to approximately 555 million euros with the addition of national contributions. It is expected that the IPARD III programme will operate in 42 provinces and 1 billion euros worth of total investment will be implemented in seven tranches.

The Future of Agricultural Product Trade Between Turkey and the EU

Although Turkish agricultural products are included within the Turkey-EU Customs Union with a limited extent, they benefited from commercial concessions for the first time with the Association Council Decision No 1/98. While Turkey imported agricultural products worth 3.055 billion euros from the EU in 2021, it exported 5.03 billion euros worth of agricultural products to the EU. Same year, Turkey's main exports were vegetable, fruit, and nut products, spices, pasta variants, pastry, biscuits and bread. Turkey ranked 8th globally in 2021, in the list of countries from which the EU imports goods, with a share of 3.9%. At the joint press conference held after the meeting,

Minister Kirişçi stated that more than two thousand agricultural products were exported from Turkey to 207 countries while a foreign trade surplus of 85.3 billion dollars was obtained in 19 years, of which 17.7 billion dollars were obtained in the last three years. In order for both sides to gain maximum benefit from their trade in the agriculture-food sector, it is of great importance that the negotiations for the modernisation of the Turkey-EU Customs Union start without delay. However, Turkey should also accelerate the process of harmonising its legislation with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). When all these reasons are taken into consideration, it can be easily argued that the high-level agricultural dialogue between Turkey and the EU was initiated at the right time and should be continued to further cooperation and transfer of experience.

However, it is a fact that Turkey has not been able to realise its full potential in the field of agriculture. While we see a very successful picture in good agricultural practices, it is very difficult to say that the same success could be achieved in organic agriculture. In a sense, altering the perception of organic agriculture production as an export item, as well as achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and net-zero carbon emission targets, are critical. Secondly, the agricultural sector constitutes an important pillar of Turkey's demands for the modernisation of the Customs Union and the negotiations for its accession with the EU. Despite the rightfulness of Turkey's demands, it is expected that Turkey will take more serious and concrete steps to harmonise its legislation with the CAP. In addition, when new obligations regarding health and phytosanitary measures are taken into account within the scope of the European Green Deal, Turkey should be able to turn the challenges into opportunities by channelling the financial assistance provided under the IPARD III programme in the most proper way. It is quite possible to say that these targets can be realised if we consider the human source, energy and economic potential of Turkey.