



5TH TURKEY EUROPE FORUM

**“Turkey-EU Civil Diplomacy Building:
Management of Capacity Building and
Multidimensional Cooperation”**



TASAM
TÜRK ASYA STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ
TURKISH ASIAN CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES



VISION DOCUMENT(DRAFT)

5TH TURKEY-EUROPE FORUM

“Turkey-EU Civil Diplomacy Building: Management of Capacity Building and Multidimensional Cooperation”

(20-22 April 2016, Pullman Istanbul Hotel, Istanbul)

In terms of language developed in the framework of the European Union, "Europeanises"; covers the entire geographical, historical and cultural elements. Therefore, "**European Country**" concept that is in the Article 49 of Maastricht Treaty which regulates expansion, contains issues about "**European Identity**" that is above the geographical limits of the EU. European Identity is a result of efforts to end the debate about "being European". This debate has quite a dynamic restructuring process, basically refers to the existence of a common system of values shared between the member states of the European Union citizens.

It is obvious that **the last wave of enlargement** that is completed with inclusion of Bulgaria and Romania in January 2007 and Croatia in 2013 **has dramatically changed balances in the union**. However, it is possible to argue that EU's "**deepening**" experiences until the last wave also was not a total success story. Therefore, "deepening" is generally a painful process for EU and it is normal that this difficulty will increase parallel with the rise of member country. However, it cannot be claimed that this difficulty will end the "deepening" efforts of the EU.

There are several reasons of **economic crisis that Euro zone faces**. An important reason is that global crisis reached to EU countries and **specified conditions leaved completely** that is determined in **Maastricht** convergence conditions (entry requirement to economic and monetary union) in order to seeking an internal solution efforts within the EU countries Other than this, it can be said that internal dynamics of the Eurozone and the U.S.' and China's effort to maintain their current value at low levels are other reasons of the Eurozone crisis.

It is important that **Turkey is a country that pertaining to Maastricht convergence conditions** (Although she is not in the Eurozone) while EU is seeking a solution to crisis in Eurozone. However, what is really important for Turkey at this point is, **how EU's future will be shaped after search for solutions**.



There are certain barriers on Turkey's EU membership. First of all, barriers that are shaped around Copenhagen conditions which **can be considered as formal barriers** (internal politics and economic factors, Cyprus and etc.) second, barriers that are discussed about but **not as formal as Copenhagen conditions** (geography, demography etc.) and finally, **barriers that are implicit, not mentioned as much as other but highly important religious and cultural barriers.** Also, Turkey and EU relations discussed around these topics. At current situation, there is an uncertainty on Turkey-EU relations while interest to each other is having an important decrease on both sides' public opinions. First of all, this situation should be **normalized.** On the other hand, **how Turkey's membership will affect EU's future** is dependent on **what kind of and EU Turkey will find** when she became a member. Therefore, what is important is Turkey, as a country that doing accession negotiations, could create a mechanism to participate to EU's future during the membership process, not after full membership.

As it known, 8 out 35 chapter that is in Turkey-EU vetoed by EU because of refusing the expansion of Customs Union to Cyprus Greek Side, 4 vetoed by France because of they "open a way to full membership" and 6 vetoed by Cyprus Greek Side. Topics that are not vetoed to open are also requires to finish expansion of Cyprus Greek Side to Custom Union under the additional protocol. Therefore, political barriers and **conditions that are not mostly technical blocked the process,** contrary to what is claimed in negotiation framework. At this point, firstly political barriers should be overcome and it is directly connected with political volition of the countries that is mentioned. A positive step towards these issues has not taken yet.

Turkish people are in a mood about relations with European Union which can be described as disappointment, distrust, loose of faith and motivation, intimidation, weariness and impassivity. There are several historical and periodic reasons for that situation. **Uncertainty about relations and insecurity feelings of both sides about other side's future perspectives** are also one of these reasons. Most importantly **Turkish people did not have any return for their "emotional investment" to Turkey-EU relations.** Therefore, Turkish people are key to open a way to a new increasing momentum on Turkey-EU relations. The parties concerned firstly should effort to make possible include Turkish people to process in several topics such as visa exemption.

Relations with EU is important for Turkey. Furthermore, as a country which started to negotiations, EU is not an area for foreign policy, it became a unique plane for Turkey.



Traditional diplomacy has an effect and yield loss because of not being able to break some certain behaviour concepts and law restrictions. In order to recover this, countries use **civil diplomacy** (second-track diplomacy) channels. Communication among business world, academic world and think tanks are important parts of civil diplomacy.

In that way, countries able to exchange opinions in a wider context, develop perspective, suggest different decision options for politics without feeling under pressure of hard rules of the diplomacy.

From Turkey's perspective, it can be said that official diplomacy part of the Turkey-EU relations, which has a history of more than a half-century, are in a positive shape. Deepening of the Turkey-EU relations and experience of Turkish diplomacy's have a prominent role on it. However, EU is a fairly extensive project that has political, economic and cultural aspects which cannot be brought to the desired level with the activities carried out only in official diplomacy lane. An important reason of this lack is insufficiency of civil culture concept in Turkey, which started to develop during the 1990's. Occurrence of institutionally efficient civil think tanks at this period emphasises this truth. Another reason for this belatedness is the opening up of the Turkish economy to overseas started only after 1980s.

As a result of this and such other reasons, **Turkey, while developing her relations with the EU, felt heavy burden of remaining within the framework of the official diplomatic context and experienced several major difficulties on overcoming some problems. It is important that Turkey-EU relations should be discussed among think tanks from both side** in order to overcome these difficulties more easily in the future. Opinions and suggestions that developed in that context will be helpful for **Turkey to display an effective position on her relations with the EU.**

When historical and geopolitics contexts analysed, Turkey and Europe might produce value if they collaborate on economics, political and cultural areas or might damage to each other if they separate their ways. When it analysed from cooperation opportunities perspective, Turkey, EU (in particular) and all European (in general) can develop multilateral regional (Africa, Balkans, Black Sea, Caucasus, Middle East, Middle Asia) policies or carry out joint projects.

In that context, a discussion platform will occur which brings together academy and business world represents in Turkey who are interested with EU, European countries' foundations that is



active in Turkey and foundations and associations that works on Turkey's and Europe's joint future in Europe.

5th Turkey-Europe Forum aims re-evaluation, establishing a network that brings together proficient academics and think tanks and giving an intellectual contribution on the development of Turkey-EU relations in the context of Turkey-EU Civil Diplomacy Building and Management of Capacity Building and Multidimensional Cooperation.

Main Theme

Turkey-EU Civil Diplomacy Building: Management of Capacity Building and Multidimensional Cooperation

Sub Themes

Civil Diplomacy in Turkey-EU Relations

Future of the EU: Potential of Capacity Building

Multidimensional Cooperation: Aims and Difficulties

Turkey-EU Countries Dual and Triple Projects and Events

(Germany, France, Holland, the UK, Italy, Poland and Ukraine Expansion)

Turkey-EU Mutual Expectations and Foresights

(Priority Areas in the Perspective of EU's Future)

Turkey-EU Multilateral Projects and Affects to Multidimensional Relations

(Africa, Balkans, Black Sea, Caucasus, Middle East, Middle Asia, Latin America)