

TURKEY UNITED KINGDOM STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

**“Thinking Diplomacy:
New World New Horizons”**

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VISION DOCUMENT (DRAFT)

TURKEY - UNITED KINGDOM STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

“Thinking Diplomacy: New World New Horizons”

(Turkey - United Kingdom)

Turkey distinguishes itself with a 80-million inhabitants, growing economy and geo-strategic status in the center of Afro-Eurasia main land. Depending on its historical and cultural ties between Europe, Black Sea, Caucasus, Asia, Middle East and Africa, and rising activities in international organizational areas particularly in the United Nations, and leading membership of the international organizations such as NATO, AGIT, and CICA, and recent efficiently developed foreign policy, Turkey has become an actor, which has been gaining importance in global scene.

The United Kingdom played a pioneering role in Europe and the rest of the world with its concept of financial accumulation, which is unique to the Modern Era, the Industrial Revolution, the development of new approaches to domestic and foreign policies and advancements in art, science and technology. Having been a global power from the 17th century onwards, the UK lost some of its influence in the global arena after the Second World War. However, with a population of 66 million and a GDP of 2.716 trillion dollars, the UK still maintains its position as a significant global actor thanks to its rich financial, industrial, historical, cultural and political heritage and expertise.

The UK was one of the first countries the Ottoman Empire established regular diplomatic relations with. The two countries have a history marked with periods of extended friendly relations as well as periods of war and confrontation in various alliances, prior to the foundation of the Republic of Turkey in 1923.. The deep-rooted ties between Turkey and the UK are based on shared values and have continuously been improving through high-profile state visits. Both governments share the political will to enhance cooperation in every field. United Kingdom is one of the strongest supporters of Turkey’s EU accession process. Turkey and the UK share similar views on and consult each other for the resolution of regional and international issues. For example, both countries work closely together on issues such as the Syrian conflict, Iran’s nuclear capabilities and intentions, Somalia, Afghanistan and the West Balkans.

The “2010 Strategic Partnership Document”, which was signed during Prime Minister Cameron’s visit to Turkey in July 2010, constitutes a road map of a wide range of concrete areas of cooperation to strengthen their partnership. The “Turkish-British Sweet Tongue (Tatlı Dil) Forum” was founded consisting of various politicians, academics, media representatives and artists from both sides with the aim of strengthening and institutionalizing the dialogue between both countries. The first meeting of this forum was held in 2011 and the seventh and latest meeting was held in 2018. By taking into account the developments regarding the epidemic, efforts to held the eighth meeting that could not be held in 2019 due to the "Brexit" process and in 2020 due to the Covid-19 outbreak, hosted by Turkey are underway. . In 2019, Turkey was visited by over 2.5 million tourists from the UK.

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The bilateral trade volume between Turkey and UK stood at 16.297 billion dollars in 2019 and trade gap weigh against UK was approximately 5.444 billion dollars. In 2019, UK took the 2nd place among Turkey's exporting countries and the 9th place among its imports. The main products exported by Turkey to UK are gold, textile and apparel products, electrical and non-electrical machinery, motor vehicles and parts, iron and steel products, insulated wires, cables and other electrical conductors. The main products exported by UK to Turkey are diesel, semi-diesel engines, automobiles, iron/steel waste and scraps and their ingots, medicines for use in treatment and protection. Between 2002-2019; Turkish investments in the UK was 2,969 billion dollars and UK investment realized in Turkey was 11.120 billion dollars.

The main elements of Turkish-British relations are trade volumes exceeding 16 billion dollars, shared vision and interests in international affairs, Turkey's EU membership bid and tourism. In addition to bilateral and institutional relations between the two countries, Turkey is also an important partner of the UK in many security and political organizations such as NATO, the OSCE and European Council. Both countries have strong commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and are both members of the G20 and the World Trade Organization.

The basis tendency coming with globalization and multidimensionality which gained momentum after the end of the Cold War, aims to strengthen the countries not by themselves but through certain regional cooperation and trans-regional partnerships. Countries are now moving towards an open structure based on dialogue and cooperation in economic, political and cultural terms, while those who cannot adapt are experiencing serious instability.

It is being deeply felt that there is an urgent necessity for collaborative works of the two countries so that the solutions for the regional issues can be found. Now it is required that the two countries head towards a future structure, in order to uplift the Turkey - United Kingdom relations an ideal point within a world power schema which takes its form in a multi-dimensional way, by creating a mutual deepening not only in political and strategic basis but also in its each parameters. History offers both the two countries opportunities for deepening their interdependency. In this regard, the **Turkey - United Kingdom Strategic Dialogue**, which will bring together the representatives of the related sectors in a comprehensive way that includes the strategic dimension of the relations, will play a significant role.

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Main Theme

Thinking Diplomacy: New World New Horizons

Sub Themes

New Balances New Economy

Turkey - United Kingdom Economic Relations: Opportunities and Threats

Energy Policies: Geopolitics and Security

Cooperation in Technology, Academia and Culture

Social, Political and Economic Developments

Turkey's EU Accession Process and Turkey-United Kingdom Relations

Cooperation Opportunities in the Middle East, Africa, Central Asia and South Asian

Relations with the USA and New Partners: Regional Strategies

Primary Sectors

Public Diplomacy, Education and Language

Culture and Tourism

Construction, Construction Business and Infrastructure

Health and Health Tourism

Energy, Petro-chemistry and Investments

Logistics, Transportation and Communication

Banking and Finance (Strategic Investment Fund)

Economy and Trade

Media and Communication

Science and Technology

Brand Cities and Environment

Defence and Space Industry

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STUDIES AND ACTIVITIES (DRAFT)

Method

Inductive Reasoning, Participation and Economic Deepening

Turkey - UK Committee of Wise Persons Meetings Workshop

Building Capacity and Ecosystem Inventory

Preparation of Research Projects and their Reports

Development of Pro-active Policy Recommendations

Round-Table Meetings/Workshops

Multilateral Workshops/Studies

Sector Workshops/Activities

Applied Interactive Modelings

Strategic Reports

Publication of sector studies as strategic reports for decision makers, private sector, media and public opinion of the two countries. Providing literature and memory support.

Media Conferences

Other Academic Studies

Strategic Reports, Books, Articles, Thesis and so on Academic Studies

Event Page

Event details and the vision document can be reached via the link below:

<https://tasam.org/en/Etkinlik/16257/turkey - united kingdom strategic dialogue>