



SOFIMUN
Sofia International Model United Nations

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"Search Of Future Ideas, Models Us Now"

COMMITTEE:
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION –
FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON:
MARIA HAFERKORN & DESISLAVA
KRALEVA

TOPIC: (A)
ACCESSION OF REPUBLIC OF TURKEY TO
THE EUROPEAN UNION – SECURITY
IMPLICATIONS

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (CEU)

Foreign Affairs Committee



The Council is the main decision-making body of the European Union. At the same time, it is one of the two legislative bodies of the EU, alongside the European Parliament. The Council comprises of ministers from all 27 member-states and its exact composition depends on the topic discussed. We will be discussing in the format including the Foreign ministers of the member-states, the High representative of the European Union as well as two observers (Turkey and African union).

The Council is presided over for six months by member states on rotational principle. The Presidency of the Council plays an essential role in organising the work of the institution, particularly in promoting legislative and political decisions. It is responsible for organising and chairing all meetings, including the many working groups, and for brokering compromises. For the year 2010 the presiding countries are Spain (January-June) and Belgium (July-December).

The Council of the EU has the responsibility to pass laws, usually jointly with the European Parliament; to coordinate the economic policy of member states, to define and implement the Common Foreign and Security policy, etc.

The Council can adopt several types of acts: regulations, directives, common actions or common positions, recommendations or opinions. It can likewise adopt conclusions, declarations or resolutions.

More information on the organization, functions and powers of the Council of the EU you could find at the official page of the Council as well as several European portals.

More at: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showPage.aspx?id=1848&lang=en>



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Topic A: Accession of Republic of Turkey to the European Union – Security implications –

1. INTRODUCTION



The accession of Turkey to the EU has been on the agenda for more than 60 years, since 1953. For this time, the country has undergone multiple reforms in order to comply with the criteria for EU accession. A lot has been achieved and there is a lot to be achieved in the future. During the negotiation process (which began on 3 October 2004) the social, political and economic conditions in the country were a subject of discussion. The Council of the European Union at SOFIMUN 2010 will discuss the security implications of the prospective EU membership of Turkey. This is why we would like the delegates to have an insight into the country's domestic and international policy, its relations with the neighbouring countries, the development of the relations between the EU and Turkey and, most importantly, the security issues which the possible accession of Turkey would cause.

2. RELEVANCE OF THE ISSUE AND HISTORY OF THE PROBLEM

The security implications of the accession of Turkey have been a major concern throughout the process of its accession. However, these have not always been explicitly stated and have more often been referred to indirectly. It is therefore vital to outline the exact security hazards and concerns and to analyse how they influence the negotiation process. As Turkey will become the EU's vast South-East border, border security, terrorism and neighbourly relations play a vital part in the discussion whether Turkey should or should not be accepted for EU member.



Turkey has walked a long way before reaching the current state of negotiations:

- 1953 – Turkey applies for associate member of the European Economic Community
- 1963 – The Ankara agreement, which provides full membership in the European Economic Community to the country, is signed
- 1987 – Application for full membership in the European Community based on Article 237 of the Rome Treaty, Article 98 of the European Coal and Steel Community and Article 205 of the EURATOM
- 1989 – The European Commission refuses to immediately start of the accession negotiations. The reasons which are stated include Turkey's economic, social and political situation
- 1995 – a EU-Turkey Customs Union is formed
- 1996 – Turkey enters the Final Period towards the integration in the EU by completing the "Transition Period"
- 1997 - The Luxembourg European Council of 1997 starts accession talks with Central and Eastern European states and Cyprus, but not with Turkey



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- 1999 - The candidacy status of Turkey is recognized at European Council Summit in Helsinki
- 2002 - The European Council of Copenhagen states that "the EU would open negotiations with Turkey "without delay" if Turkey fulfils the Copenhagen Criteria¹
- 2004 - In the summit meeting of EU Head of State or Government is stated that Turkey has sufficiently implemented the political criteria and it could open the negotiations for EU accession on 3 October 2004
- 2005 - The European Union starts full membership negotiations with Turkey
- 2006 - Taking into account the Greek Cypriot refusal of the Annan's Plan, Turkey refuses to recognize Cyprus and to open its ports and airports to Cyprus. EU freezes 8 chapters of the negotiations
- 2007 - Negotiations are opened on four chapters
- 2008 - Chapters on Company Law, Intellectual Property Law, Free Movement of Capital and Information Society, Media are opened
 - Decision of 10 November 2008 on National Programme in order to accept the European Union Acquis
- 2009 - Negotiations are opened on the chapter of Taxation

The year 2010 has brought about new challenges and their impact on the security implications of the issue should be taken into consideration.

3. DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE



Addressing the security implications of Turkey's accession to the EU, there are two vital issues which need to be analysed – the relations of the country with its neighbours and the internal stability of the country itself. These are both crucial as they have a huge impact on determining the stability of the EU as a whole.

2. 1. Turkey and its neighbourly relations

To start with, the Council should examine the international situation in which Turkey is with regard to the relations with its neighbours. There are a few issues in which the country is involved, i.e. Turkey – Cyprus; Turkey – Armenia and its role in the conflict of Nagorno-Karabakh; Turkey-Iran. These conflicts are very important as, on the one hand, if the country enters the EU, it will become its Eastern border and on the other the relations of those respective countries with Turkey will affect their relations with the EU.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/enlargement_process/accesion_process/criteria/index_en.htm



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The conflict between Turkey and Cyprus over the Mediterranean island dates back to 1974, when the northern part of the island was occupied by Turkish troops and the Republic of Northern Cyprus was proclaimed. Thus far, it is recognized solely by Turkey. After the interference of the UN, the Greek and the Turkish part of the island are divided by a 'green line' and this has been a hot issue ever since. Cyprus became an EU member-state (as a whole) in 2004 and this has exacerbated the negotiation process for Turkey's accession, as it is actually occupying a state of the Union². In 2004, the Greek Cypriots rejected at a referendum a plan by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan aimed at overcoming the issue by creating a United Cyprus Republic. As a member of the EU, Cyprus has used its right to block some chapters from the negotiations of Turkey with the EU. Therefore, one of the basic criteria which have been set to Turkey in order to access the EU is exactly the Cyprus issue – its resolution is often viewed as a path towards membership. The April 2010 presidential elections in Northern Cyprus put at stake the achieved thus far, as the new president of NCR is a firm supporter of the independence of the NCR instead of the creation of a Cyprus federation which has been negotiated so far³.

Secondly, the delegates need to analyze the Turkey-Armenia relations. The dispute over the recognition of Armenian genocide by Turkey (1915) is a pivotal part of the relations between the countries. However, the actual issue is the participation of Turkey in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and its support for Azerbaijan. The successful completion of the Minsk project⁴ (Turkey is a part of the Minsk group⁵) is seen as an important prerequisite for the admission of the country to the EU.

Last but not least, the good relations of the state with Iran also pose a few questions related to the security of the EU. First of all, it remains unclear whether Iran possesses the technological abilities to produce nuclear weapons. It has conflicted the West on this issue, refusing to allow experts to examine its facilities. This fact, in addition to the possibility that such weapons can be produced, constitutes a serious security issue. Therefore the good relations of Turkey with Iran, including tolerance towards the country's domestic and foreign policy, would contradict the overall policy in this respect of the EU. How is this controversy to be overcome? It can prove a significant difficulty to the common policy of the EU towards Iran. For instance, earlier this year, Turkey refused to support American sanctions to Iran stating it would like to have a more diplomatic solution of the issue⁶.



2.2. Internal stability

This brings us to the second part of the security issue, the internal security and stability of the state. What should be noted here are the problems which Turkey has with the Kurdish minority

² http://www.cyprus.gov.cy/portal/portal.nsf/dmlgovernment_en/dmlgovernment_en?OpenDocument

³ <http://www.ansamed.info/en/top/ME12.XAM20593.html>

⁴ <http://www.osce.org/item/21979.html>

⁵ <http://www.osce.org/item/21979.html>

⁶ <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/meast/04/12/turkey.iran/index.html>



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as well as the military opposition and the suspected attempts for coup-d-etat. The Kurdish minority raises two issues – the violation of human rights and the terrorist threat which parts of it pose. Within the competences of the Council is only the terrorism threat.



Terrorism has been a major concern ever since 11 September 2001. It is usually related to Islamic radicals and this brings about another – equally important – fear. Namely, this is that even though Turkey is a secular country, 99% of its population is Muslim. Could the country be a safe and reliable guard of the terrorist threat? Could it provide sufficient control over its extensive borders so that it prevents terrorist infiltration within the EU? Does a Muslim country necessarily increase the risk of terrorist attacks? A problematic Kurdish minority with frequent terrorist attacks does not provide much comfort in this direction. Terrorism and the relation between a possibly increased risk of terrorist attacks and the security

of the EU is a pivotal issue in the discussion.

Last but not least, there is need to mention the internal support the country receives for its aspirations towards the EU. The relevance of this matter is again linked to the security of possibly one of the biggest countries in the EU, which will be of utmost importance for the stability of the Union as a whole.

Public opinion polls indicate that the support for Turkey's aspirations to the EU is decreasing within the country. People are becoming discouraged by the protracted negotiation process. This is certainly reflecting the policy of the state itself. In February 2010, 49 Turkish military leaders were arrested and accused of trying to oust the government⁷. Turkey is famous for its strong army whose role in the country is very important. Whenever the secular foundations of the state have been threatened, the army has taken control of the situation. It has ousted a number of governments putting at stake the foundations of the republic due to over-strengthened Islamist governance. This creates prerequisites for inner instability of the country and logically poses the question whether an internally unstable country is able to provide sufficient levels of border security as the vast Eastern border of the EU.

4. EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE

There have been various initiatives to deal with different aspects of the negotiation process of Turkey. As far as the security implications are concerned, special attention should be paid to documents concerning the negotiation process of Turkey, i.e. European Union Strategy for Turkey's Accession Process; Council Decision of 12 February 2008⁸; Negotiating Framework⁹; Paper on

⁷ <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/asiapcf/02/24/turkey.sledgehammer.arrest/index.html?iref=allsearch>

⁸ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:051:0004:01:EN:HTML>

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/turkey/st20002_05_tr_framedoc_en.pdf



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issues arising from Turkey's membership perspective¹⁰; Screening reports¹¹; the Annan plan; all other documents relevant to the topic.

5. QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION SHOULD ANSWER

Delegates are expected to discuss how they view the impact of possible accession of Turkey to the EU on the security of the union as a whole. Delegates should therefore analyse the relations of the state with its neighbours and its internal stability. The main issue which needs to be addressed in the final document is the overall estimation of Turkey's accession to the security of the EU as a whole.

Suggested Reading and Additional Sources

Topic A: Accession of Republic of Turkey to the European Union – Security implications

For a better understanding of the issue, the following sources should be consulted, but they are not exhaustive, therefore it is recommended that the delegates research the topic on their own, both through academic sources, as well as informal channels.

Mandatory

The following materials should be read by the participants in order to gain an in-depth view on the issue.

1. [Official site of the Council of the European Union](#)

Ministry of the Foreign Affairs, Republic of Turkey

2. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/default.en.mfa>
3. <http://www.abgs.gov.tr/index.php?p=112&l=2>
4. <http://www.abgs.gov.tr/index.php?p=123&l=2>
5. [European Union Strategy for Turkey's Accession Process](#)
6. [European Commission – Conditions for Enlargement](#)
7. [European Council in Copenhagen](#)
8. [Key Documents on Turkey's Accession Negotiations](#)
9. [Turkey – Country profile](#)
10. [Centre for European Reform - Can Turkey combine EU accession and regional leadership?](#)
11. [BBC News](#)
12. [EU Observer](#)
13. [CNN – Europe News](#)

¹⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/archives/pdf/key_documents/2004/issues_paper_en.pdf

¹¹ http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/candidate-countries/turkey/screening_reports_en.htm