

## TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION FOR EUROPE TO BECOME A GLOBAL ACTOR

•As the easternmost part of the West and the westernmost part of the East, Turkey enjoys a unique strategic position in its region due to geographical, cultural and historical aspects. Turkey is an active player and a credible mediator/facilitator in critical areas such as the Middle East, South Caucasus, Central Asia, the Black Sea basin, Mediterranean and the Balkans.

•Turkey is the only country where secular democracy has taken hold within a predominantly Muslim population. This particular characteristic of Turkey underlines the compatibility of Islam and democratic values.

•Turkey is one of the exceptional countries which are members of both Western and Islamic organisations at the same time.

•Turkey's EU accession will strengthen the influence of the EU as a global actor, increase the EU's credibility in the Muslim world by confirming that it is not an exclusive "Christian Club" but rather a union of democratic values, and send a powerful message to the world that the "Clash of Civilisations" can be prevented.



## TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO DEFENCE AND SECURITY OF EUROPE

•With the second largest army in NATO after the US, Turkey has a crucial role in the success of the Common Security and Defence Policy of the EU. Turkey has proven its key role through its contributions to the operations of NATO and EU civilian and military missions to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Congo, Kinshasa, Kosovo, Ukraine and Palestine.

•As a pillar of stability and a hub of peace, Turkey contributes to conflict resolution in both its own neighbourhood and other critical regions, such as the Middle East. Furthermore, Turkey plays a facilitating role in many bilateral disputes, including those between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Russia and Georgia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia, among others.

•Turkey has a significant potential to further help the EU in the fight against international terrorism, irregular migration, trafficking in drugs, arms, and human beings, and criminal activities of all kinds.

•Turkey's comprehensive and decisive fight against terrorist organisations makes Turkey a reliable partner which substantially contributes to the security of Europe. Turkey's security means the security of Europe. The active fight against Da'esh is the most concrete example of this. With the membership of Turkey, the EU will be more successful in dealing with both external and internal threats to the security of Europe.



## TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE MANAGEMENT OF MIGRATION TOWARDS EUROPE

•Turkey is currently hosting approximately 3 million refugees, 2.7 million of whom are Syrians, and a country which is providing protection to the largest refugee population in the world. With its experience in the field of migration management and international protection, Turkey has a key role in the management of refugee crisis faced by the EU today.

•Turkey makes a tremendous effort to prevent irregular migration while hosting people fleeing war and in need of protection. During the recent period, Turkey has prevented over 100,000 irregular migrants from arriving in Europe every year. Turkey's fight against irregular migration and migrant smuggling ensures the success of the EU in this field.

•Turkey-EU Deal of 18 March 2016 is a clear example of Turkey's contribution to the settlement of irregular migration crisis. While there were 7,000 average daily crossings in October 2015, this figure fell to 122 and 52 in April and summer 2016, respectively. The number of daily crossings is 57 as of November 2016, and fixing this figure to two-digit numbers evidently indicates that the cooperation of Turkey in this area has produced effective results and made the migration issue manageable.

•The EU-Turkey Deal of 18 March also decreased significantly the number of deaths and losses at the sea resulting from irregular migration. As opposed to 799 deaths and losses in the Aegean Sea in 2015, there were only 46 deaths and losses from April, when the Deal came into effect, to November 2016. Turkey's efforts on the curbing the irregular migration crisis have put an end to the dramatic events on the borders of Europe, particularly the loss of lives.

•Considering the fact that the number of deaths exceeded 4,000 on the Mediterranean and West Mediterranean routes of migration in 2016, it is apparent that Turkey's efforts in the Aegean Sea is of critical importance.

•Turkey's EU membership will make a major contribution to the EU in the management of regular and irregular migration to the EU so as to ensure that these flows are balanced and in the economic interest of the whole region.



### ANKARA

Mustafa Kemal Mah.  
2082 Cad. No:4 06530  
100. YIL ÇANKAYA/ANKARA  
Telefon: +90 312 218 13 00

### İSTANBUL

Muallim Naci Cad. Posta K.34347 No:18  
Ortaköy / İSTANBUL  
Telefon: +90 212 259 1321

### BRUSSELS

Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the EU  
36-38, Avenue des Arts  
B-1040, Brussels, Belgium  
Telefon : +32 2 274 55 20

[www.ab.gov.tr](http://www.ab.gov.tr)

[f](#) | [t](#) | [YouTube](#) @ ABBakanligi

# TURKEY AND THE EU: TOGETHER TOWARDS A MORE POWERFUL, MORE SECURE AND MORE PROSPEROUS COMMON FUTURE

TÜRKİYE CUMHURİYETİ  
AVRUPA BİRLİĞİ BAKANLIĞI



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
MINISTRY FOR EU AFFAIRS

## TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO EUROPE'S FUTURE

Turkey and the EU share a vision of common future for more than 50 years. After its application in 1959, Turkey signed an association agreement with the European Economic Community in 1963 which explicitly envisaged membership as the final objective. This demonstrates that Turkey has had a major strategic role since the EU's early formative years.

The establishment of the Customs Union in 1996 enhanced Turkey's economic integration with the EU, with the acknowledgement of its candidate status in 1999, a comprehensive reform process in the country has been initiated. After the unanimous decision of EU member states that Turkey had sufficiently fulfilled the political criteria for membership, accession negotiations started in 2005. Since then, the political, economic and social transformation accelerated by the accession process has brought Turkey ever closer to the EU.

Turkish people, acting in unity and solidarity, defended the democracy against the coup attempt of 15 July which targeted the national will and sovereignty. Turkey and Turkish people have demonstrated to the whole world, and to the EU in particular, that democratic values had been embraced by all segments of society. This has further underlined that the existence of a stabilized and institutionalized democracy, a crucial element of the Copenhagen political criteria, is indispensable to the Turkish Republic.

Today, rapidly changing global and regional dynamics and shared interests make Turkey-EU integration increasingly vital and indispensable for both sides. The EU is one of the driving forces behind Turkey's political, economic and social reforms and plays a key role in the future of Turkey. In return, Turkey has a crucial role for the EU in becoming a more powerful, secure and prosperous global actor.



## TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE EUROPEAN ECONOMY

•According to the 2016 World Bank data, Turkey is the 17th largest economy in the world and the 6th largest economy in Europe in terms of purchasing power parity. With an annual growth rate of 5.2% on average after 2009, Turkey has been one of the fastest growing economies in the world and Europe. Turkey is also a member of G-20, which consists of the largest economies of the world.

•With the growth rate of 4% in 2015, the Turkish economy overtook the average growth rate of the EU and the Eurozone countries. Turkish economy is expected to grow by 3% in 2016, leaving many EU countries behind.

•In 2015, the services, industrial and agricultural sectors account for 57.7%, 24.1% and 7.6% of the GDP, respectively. Turkey's manufacturing industry has a 93.4% share in total exports. Turkey is also a leading supplier of Europe in terms of ready to wear clothing-textiles, machinery and household appliances in addition to being the 5th biggest automotive producer in Europe. As of 2015, the EU is Turkey's largest trade partner and Turkey is the 5th largest trade partner of the EU. In 2015, the EU's share in Turkey's exports and imports was 44.5% and 38%, respectively.

•In the last decade, Turkey ranked the second in the world, after China, in terms of the rate of increasing R&D investments. The share of GDP spent on R&D increased from 0.52% in 2013 to 1.01% in 2014. Furthermore, the number of full-time researchers tripled.

•The amount of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Turkey totalled 14.6 billion dollars for the period 1984-2002, this has increased by more than ten times for the period 2003-2015 and amounted to 165.6 billion dollars. According to 2016 World Investment Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Turkey, with its institutionalized economy, ranked 20th in the world in terms of FDI attractiveness in 2015. Turkey saw the highest FDI inflow in 2015 with 16.9 billion dollars in total, since the 2008 global crisis. Outward FDI stock of Turkish investors has reached 36.5 billion dollars as of the end of 2015.

•EU Member States have the biggest share in the FDI inflows to Turkey. In 2015, the share of the EU in the foreign direct investments, excluding real estate acquisitions by foreigners, stood at around 58%. Approximately three quarters of the FDI stock in Turkey originates in the EU.

•Turkish financial sector proved its resilience during the global financial crisis. While there were bank bankruptcies in many countries during the crisis, there wasn't any single bank that went bankrupt in Turkey. The Turkish banking sector, with its sound structure, has a capital adequacy ratio at a level of 16% as of September 2016, which is twice as much as the international standard of 8%.

•According to United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), as of 2015, Turkey is the 6th most popular tourist destination in the world. A total of 39.5 million tourists visited Turkey in 2015. Istanbul became the European Capital of Culture in 2010 and the European Capital of Sports in 2012.

•Turkey is situated on the east-west axis among the production, raw material and consumption centres in the world. Considering the rapid increase in its transport services together with its strategic location, Turkey aims to become a regional logistics base.

•By means of the transport infrastructure of Turkey, designed in compliance and in connection with the Trans-European Networks, European countries will be able to reach the production and consumption centres in the Middle East and Central Asia without encountering obstacles; and accordingly, products in these centres will be easily transported to Europe.

•Turkey's accession will increase the size of the European internal market, as well as the competitiveness of the EU in the global economy.



## TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO ENERGY SECURITY OF EUROPE

•Turkey is an energy corridor between Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East. Over 70% of the crude oil and natural gas reserves of the world are located in Russia, the Caspian and the Middle East regions surrounding Turkey. Currently, external dependency ratio of the EU in energy exceeds 50% and this ratio is expected to increase to 73% in natural gas and over 90% in oil by 2030. Considering the increasing energy dependency of Europe, Turkey's strategic location and its role in the projects developed in this region have gained more importance.

•As a part of large scale petroleum, natural gas and LNG projects already operating and in progress in its region, Turkey will significantly strengthen the EU's energy security by diversifying its energy supplies. In particular, through the Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline Project (TANAP), which is an important part of the Southern Gas Corridor, the natural gas from the Caspian Region will be transported via Turkey to Europe.

•Turkey is among the richest countries in the world in renewable energy resources such as geothermal, solar and wind energy. Turkey is one of the countries with the highest rate of sunshine duration in Europe. The increasing interest of investors contributes to the continuing development of Turkey's energy sector.

•Turkey's accession to the EU will contribute to the development of "green electricity" market (with developing and integrated interconnections) and it will considerably help the EU to accomplish its goal for increasing the share of renewable sources in energy consumption.

•Turkey, as a secure and stable route, with its liberalization efforts in the energy markets and its target to become an energy trade centre in its region, will contribute substantially to Europe's energy security upon accession.



## TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OF EUROPE

•About half of Turkey's territory is agricultural lands (38.5 million hectares).

•Turkey, with a capacity corresponding to nearly 40% of the EU total production, is one of the leader countries in the world in fruit and vegetable production and net exporter. It is also the major producer of hazelnuts in the world and a competitive producer of cereals, cotton, sugar, tobacco and olive oil. Turkey has been the net exporter for more than 20 years in the trade of agricultural products for the EU. In terms of agricultural products, the EU is the largest trade partner of Turkey while Turkey is the 7th largest supplier of agricultural products for the EU.

•Turkey is one of the foremost sources of plants cultivated for food in the world.

•Moreover, three of the eight different types of gene centres in the world are in Turkey, along with the third biggest seed gene bank in the world.

•Turkey is one of the richest countries in terms of biodiversity and it possesses 11,000 plant types, 3,900 of which are endemic. These figures are 12,000 and 2,400 in Europe, respectively. Turkey's accession to the EU will substantially enhance biodiversity in Europe and significantly contribute to Europe's agricultural and environmental sustainability.



## TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO EUROPE'S CULTURAL DIVERSITY

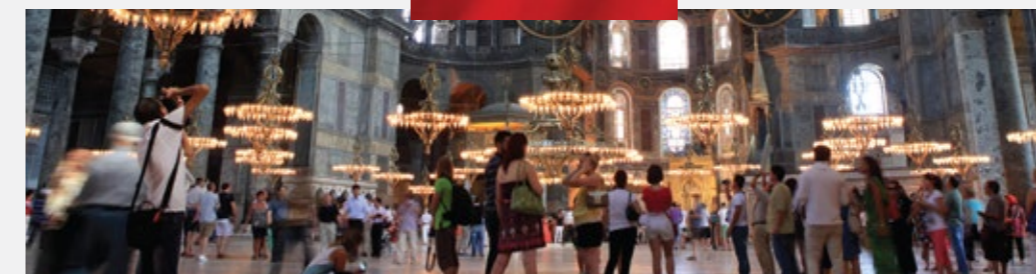
•The territory of modern Turkey has been home to major civilisations throughout history. Hittites, Lydians, Lycians, Phrygians, Romans, Byzantines, Seljuks, Ottomans, as well as peoples from the Balkans, Caucasus, Black Sea and Central Asian regions, all together form Turkey's historical and cultural heritage.

•Turkey is the birthplace of Thales, Herodotus, Diogenes, Homer, Saint Nicholas, Saint Paul as well as the site of Troy, Pergamon and Ephesus, which are major symbols of European civilization. Nicea, the third "holy city" of Christendom after Jerusalem and the Vatican is in Turkey as well. The word "Europe" was derived from the name of the Phoenician princess "Europa" which meant "the country of sunset" and referred to the territories of modern Turkey.

•Mevlana, who became extremely influential with his inspiring ideas not only in the Muslim world and Anatolia, but throughout the entire world, and Yunus Emre who called everyone to peace and brotherhood regardless of race, language or religion were both brought up on these lands and their enlightening influence has lasted beyond generations.

•Various ethnic and religious communities have been living together for centuries on the territory of modern Turkey. Today, Turkey is still home to many different ethnicities and religions, namely Kurds, Syrians, Arabs, Armenians, Circassians, Laz, Greeks, Roma, Jews, Christians and Muslims among others.

•Turkey's accession will enhance the multicultural nature of the EU and add further meaning to its motto, "unity in diversity".



## TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIAL DYNAMISM OF EUROPE

•Turkey, which has been participating in the European Union Education and Youth Programmes since 2004, is one of the highest application receiver countries among the Programme participating countries.

•Turkey has established a national policy consistent with the fundamental principles and aims of the EU education and youth policies. Turkey continues to work in line with the targets laid down within the scope of the EU Education and Training Strategic Framework 2020 and Youth Strategy. The higher education system in Turkey is highly compatible with the Bologna principles.

•Turkey has a young and dynamic population of over 78 million people with the median age of 31. This means 67.8% of the total population is of working age (ages 15 – 64).

•17.5 million students attend compulsory education. This figure is more than the total population of 21 EU Member States. More than 500,000 Syrian migrant children are being educated in public schools.

•With its labour force of 29.6 million people, Turkey has the 4th largest labour market in Europe. Every year, 762,900 students graduate from high school, one third of these from vocational and technical schools, and nearly 450,000 students graduate from universities. In Turkey, there are more than 180 universities in 81 provinces.

•The population of the EU, of which the median age is more than 42 and will grow older in the future, is not expected to increase much. About 21.7% of the population is expected to be over 65 by 2025. The life expectancy of Europeans is increasing, while average birth rate is decreasing. As a result, the EU will lose 32 million people of working age by 2050.

•Turkey, with the youngest population in Europe that has a good level of education, will contribute to labour markets and social security systems in the Member States and increase the overall social dynamism of the EU.

