

## TURKEY TO EUROPE'S AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



Turkey is the EU's 5<sup>th</sup> supplier.

- Turkey is one of the foremost sources of plants cultivated for food in the world. 3 of the 8 gene centres and the 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest seed gene bank in the world are in Turkey.
- Turkey is one of the richest countries of the world in biodiversity, hosting 75% of all plant species in Europe. There are 12,400 plant species in Turkey, out of which 3,900 are endemic. These figures are 2,400 and 12,000 in Europe respectively.
- Anatolian fauna possesses over 80,000 different animal species, while Europe as a whole holds around 60,000. Turkey has 3 distinct bio-geographic regions and is part of a major flyway for millions of migratory birds. It has over 500 habitats. Natural old forests constitute 83% of the forests in Turkey, but only 1% in Europe.
- Turkey's accession will double its biodiversity and significantly contribute to Europe's agricultural and environmental sustainability.

## TURKEY TO EUROPE'S SOCIAL DYNAMISM



Among 33 European countries, Turkey ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in terms of number of applications and the amount of financial assistance through lifelong learning and youth programmes. Through the aforementioned programmes, over 100,000 students and educators have visited Turkey between the years 2004 and 2010.

- Turkey has a young and dynamic population of over 73 million people with an average age of 29.2. This means 67.2% of the total population is of working age.
- With its active labour force of 25.7 million people, Turkey is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest labour market in Europe. Every year, 762,900 students graduate from high schools, one third of them from vocational and technical schools, and nearly 450,000 graduates from 165 universities join the labour market.
- The EU population currently has an average age of over 40 and is predicted to be much older, but only slightly larger in the future. About 21.7% of the population is expected to be over 65 by 2025. Life expectancy of Europeans rises while average fertility rate falls down. As a result, the EU will lose 32 million people of working age by 2050.
- Possessing the youngest population in Europe, with a good level of education, Turkey will contribute to labour markets and social welfare systems in the member states and increase the social dynamism of the EU.
- During 2004-2009, 23,361 Turkish students have studied for a semester abroad in a European university, while 7091 European students have studied in Turkish universities under the Erasmus programme.



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## TURKEY TO EUROPE'S FUTURE



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The willingness of the EU and Turkey to share a common future dates back over 50 years. After its application in 1959, Turkey signed an association agreement with the European Economic Community in 1963 which explicitly envisaged membership. This reflects Turkey's major strategic role since the EU's formative early years.

The completion of the Customs Union in 1996 enhanced Turkey's economic integration with the EU, while the acknowledgement of its candidate status in 1999 initiated a comprehensive reform process in the country. After the unanimous decision of EU member states that Turkey had sufficiently complied with the political criteria for membership, accession negotiations

started in 2005. Since then, the political, economic and social transformation accelerated by the accession process is bringing Turkey closer to the EU every day.

Today, rapidly changing global dynamics and common interests make Turkey-EU integration increasingly critical and indispensable for both sides. The EU plays a key role in the modernization of Turkey. Turkey plays a key role in the achievement of EU goals of a more powerful, secure and stable future.

## TURKEY 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, Turks, Ottomans, as well as peoples from the Balkans, Caucasus, Black Sea and Central Asian regions, all form Turkey's historical and cultural heritage.

Since the 11<sup>th</sup> century Turks have been heirs to the rich Greco-Latin culture of the Roman and Byzantine Empires, as well as Judeo-Christian culture in Anatolia. Turkey is the birthplace of men and cities that are major symbols of European civilisation like Thales, Herodotus, Democritus, Homer, Saint Nicholas, Saint Paul, Troy, Pergamon and Ephesus. Nicæa, the third "holy city" of the Christian world after Jerusalem and Vatican, is also in Turkey. The very name of Europe originates from the Phoeni-

cian princess "Europa", meaning "where the sun sets" and referring to the lands of Turkey.

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

Various ethnic and religious communities have been living side by side for centuries on the territory of modern Turkey. Today, Turkey is still home to many different ethnicities and religions namely Kurds, Alevis, Assyrians, Arabs, Armenians, Circassians, Laz, Greeks, Roma, Jews, Christians, Muslims and others, making Turkish society a mosaic of diverse cultures.

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

## TURKEY TO EUROPE'S ROLE AS A GLOBAL ACTOR



Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Member of European Parliament and Chief Negotiator Egemen Bağış with European Commissioner for Enlargement and Foreign Neighbourhood Policy David Souter

As the most eastern part of the West and the most western part of the East, Turkey enjoys a unique strategic position in its region for geographical, cultural and historical reasons. It 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 a unique country where a secular democracy has taken hold within a predominantly Muslim population. This particularity of Turkey underlines the compatibility of Islam and democratic values.

As a country which is a member of Western and Islamic organizations at the same time, Turkey leads "The Alliance of Civilisations" initiative with Spain, under the auspices of the UN.

Turkey's EU accession will strengthen the influence of the EU as a global actor, increase its credibility within 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 avoided.

## TURKEY TO EUROPE'S DEFENCE AND SECURITY



Being 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. It has also facilitated talks between, among others, Afghanistan and Pakistan, Russia and Georgia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia.

Turkey has significant potential to help the EU in the fight against international terrorism, illegal immigration, trafficking in drugs, arms, human beings, and criminal activities of all kinds.

An EU including Turkey will be more successful in dealing with both external and internal threats jeopardizing Europe's security.

## TURKEY TO EUROPE'S SUCCESS IN GLOBAL ECONOMY



The EU is Turkey's 1<sup>st</sup> trade partner, Turkey is the EU's 7<sup>th</sup>. The EU's share in Turkey's exports and imports is 46% and 39% respectively.

In terms of share of GDP spent on R&D between 2002-2007, Turkey ranks ahead of 23 EU nations as the 5<sup>th</sup> country. In the same time period, Turkey has also raised its number of researchers by 107%, securing the fastest increase rate in Europe.

Turkey is the 16<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world and the 6<sup>th</sup> largest in Europe. Turkey is one of the fastest growing economies in the world, and the fastest growing economy in Europe. As one of the top 10 emerging markets, it is also a member of G-20.

The GDP growth rate in the 2004-2008 period averaged 6.06%. According to the OECD, Turkey will have the third highest growth rate after China and India by 2017. After 2017, it will rise to second place surpassing India.

As from 2010, the services, industrial and agricultural sectors account for 69%, 21.5% and 9.5% of the GDP respectively. Turkey's manufacturing industry has a 93% share in total exports. The country is among the world's leading exporters in many sectors. Turkey is Europe's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest supplier of textiles and garments and 2<sup>nd</sup> largest source of automotive goods. One out of every two household appliances in Europe is made in Turkey. Besides, Turkey is world's leading producer of boron, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest exporter of jewellery, 3<sup>rd</sup> largest producer of ceramic tiles in the world, and 3<sup>rd</sup> largest producer of steel in Europe.

Turkey, with its strong and institutionalised economy which has attracted more than 94 billion dollars worth of foreign direct investment in the last 8 years, has become the 15<sup>th</sup> most attractive country in the world in terms of foreign direct investment between 2008-2010. As from 2010, foreign direct investment made by Turkish investors abroad has reached 22.5 billion dollars.

Turkey is the 7<sup>th</sup> most popular tourist destination in the world, while Istanbul, the "European Capital of Culture 2010", "European Capital of Sports 2012" is the 7<sup>th</sup> most visited city in the world.

Foreign direct investment inflows to Turkey amounted to €10 billion in 2008, while Turkish direct investments in more than 50 countries amounted to €1.7 billion.

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 TO EUROPE'S ENERGY SECURITY

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 Middle East regions surrounding Turkey.

The EU's current energy dependency rate exceeds 50% and is expected to reach 70% by 2030. As a part of big scale energy projects (Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan; Nabucco pipelines, etc.) already operating

and in progress in its region, Turkey will significantly strengthen EU's energy security by diversifying its energy supplies.

Being the 7<sup>th</sup> largest country in terms of geothermal potential, and the 6<sup>th</sup> largest in terms of hydroelectricity, Turkey is one of the richest countries in the world in renewable energy resources. Turkey's accession will considerably help the EU to increase the share of renewable sources in its energy consumption.