

SEPTEMBER 2013**THIS MONTH:****FOREIGN POLICY**

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- President Abdullah Gül addresses the 68th United Nations General Assembly at U.N.
- Joint group to work on Turkey-US trade
- Turkish deputy PM Bulent Arinc says Syrian helicopter shot down over Turkey
- Obama Speaks With Erdogan on Sidelines of G20 Dinner
- Turkish Diplomatic convoy attacked in Northern Iraq

DOMESTIC POLITICS

- Turkish Government reveals details of much anticipated democracy package
- Turkey's Government Forms 6,000-Member Social Media Team
- Lazuri classes to begin in secondary schools in Turkey
- Turkey's Peace Process with Kurds Falter
- Turkey's top judge warns against creeping authoritarianism
- Turkey opens trial over 1997 'post-modern' coup

ECONOMY/ENERGY

- Turkish authority cancels Koç Holding's national warship contract
- Turkey seeks Canada, US aid on shale gas reserves
- Turkish business dynasties accused of backing 'post-modern coup'
- Turkey to cut 2014 growth target to 4 pct on Fed, Syria
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FOREIGN POLICY**U.S. concerned about Turkey's choice of Chinese missile system**

The United States said on Saturday it had expressed serious concerns to Turkey over its decision to co-produce a long-range air and missile defense system with a Chinese firm under U.S. sanctions.

Turkey, a member of the NATO military alliance, announced this week that it had chosen the FD-2000 missile defense system from China Precision Machinery Import and Export Corp, or CPMIEC, over rival systems from Russian, U.S. and European firms.

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Reuters, 28 September 2013, U.S. concerned about Turkey's choice of Chinese missile system  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/29/us-turkey-china-defence-usa-idUSBRE98S01220130929>

### **President Abdullah Gül addresses the 68th United Nations General Assembly at U.N.**

Taking the floor after U.S. President Barack Obama urged the world to enforce a ban on Syria's chemical weapons, Gül lamented the U.N.'s inertia.

"We all need a strong, efficient, and credible U.N. We need a U.N. fit for purpose in the face of current global realities. The U.N. of which I speak should be a body capable of taking action to maintain international peace and security. It should be able to safeguard security, justice, and people's fundamental rights and freedom," the president added.

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Hürriyet Daily News, 24 September 2013, UN's failure on Syria a disgrace, says Turkish President Gül
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/uns-failure-on-syria-a-disgrace-says-turkish-president-gul.aspx?pageID=238&nID=55095&NewsCatID=359>

Joint group to work on Turkey-US trade

Turkish Economy Minister Zafer Çağlayan has said Turkey and the United States have agreed on the creation of a High Level Business Committee that would work on a Turkey-U.S. free trade formula that wouldn't exclude Turkey from the EU-U.S. alliance, during his visit to Washington.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 18 September 2013, Joint group to work on Turkey-US Trade  
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/joint-group-to-work-on-turkey-us-trade.aspx?pageID=238&nID=54618&NewsCatID=344>

### **Turkish deputy PM Bulent Arinc says Syrian helicopter shot down over Turkey**

The Turkish Air Force shot down a Syrian helicopter 16 September at the border after the helicopter violated Turkish airspace, Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arınç said.

Turkish military aircraft taking off from a base in Malatya shot the M-17 helicopter after it allegedly continued to violate Turkish airspace despite repeated warnings, after which the chopper fell onto Syrian soil, Arınç said.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 16 September 2013, Turkey shot down Syrian helicopter at border, Deputy PM says

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-shot-down-syrian-helicopter-at-border-deputy-pm-says.aspx?pageID=238&nID=54538&NewsCatID=352>

Obama Speaks With Erdogan on Sidelines of G20 Dinner

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan discussed the Syrian crisis with U.S. President Barack Obama on the sidelines of a G-20 Summit in St Petersburg on Sept. 5.

The short meeting came after a working dinner on the latest developments in Syria between the leaders attending the summit.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 5 September 2013, Erdoğan meets Obama after G-20 working dinner focusing on Syrian crisis

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/erdogan-meets-obama-after-g-20-working-dinner-focusing-on-syrian-crisis.aspx?pageID=238&nID=53945&NewsCatID=338>

### **Turkish Diplomatic convoy attacked in Northern Iraq**

A bomb attack hit the convoy of the Turkish consul general in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul early on Monday but there were no casualties, an official said. The diplomatic convoy of a few vehicles was attacked on its way to another northern Iraqi city, Arbil, at 10 a.m. when bombs on the roadside were reportedly set off as the cars passed by. Following the attack, Iraqi authorities investigated the scene of the explosion. No one has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, which left no one dead or injured but caused significant material damage.

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Turkish Press Review, 3 September 2013, Turkish Diplomatic Convoy Attacked in Northern Iraq

<http://www.byegm.gov.tr/yabanci-bultenler.aspx?d=03.09.2013&pg=2&ahid=143198&act=3#3>

DOMESTIC POLITICS

Turkish Government reveals details of much anticipated democracy package

The Turkish government will lift its much-debated ban on wearing headscarves in public offices, permit education in mother tongues in private schools and commence a debate on the country's much-criticized election system with a long-anticipated democratization package.

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Hürriyet Daily News, 30 September 2013, Turkish Government reveals details of much anticipated democracy package

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-to-lift-ban-on-headscarf-introduce-kurdish-education-with-democracy-package-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=55393&NewsCatID=338>

**Turkey's Government Forms 6,000-Member Social Media Team**

Turkey's ruling party, facing the threat of fresh antigovernment demonstrations, is boosting its presence in a sphere long dominated by the opposition: social media.

The Justice and Development Party, led by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is recruiting a 6,000-member social-media team to woo citizens and fight critics, party officials said.

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Wall Street Journal, 17 September 2013, Turkish government forms 6,000-member social media team

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323527004579079151479634742.html>

Lazuri classes to begin in secondary schools in Turkey

The Education Ministry has decided that the Laz language, spoken particularly in the Black Sea region, is to become an elective course in secondary schools as of the 2013 and 2014 education year.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 14 September 2013, Lazuri classes to begin in secondary schools in Turkey

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/lazuri-classes-to-begin-in-secondary-schools-in-turkey.aspx?pageID=238&nID=54429&NewsCatID=339>

**Turkey's Peace Process with Kurds Falters**

Kurdish leaders gave conflicting statements about whether the withdrawal of militants from Turkish territory under a May cease-fire agreement with Ankara would continue. Some have accused Turkey's government of failing to fulfill its pledge to boost Kurdish rights.

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Wall Street Journal, 5 September 2013, Turkey's peace process with Kurds falters

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323623304579056901968652702.html>

Turkey's top judge warns against creeping authoritarianism

The president of Supreme Court of Appeals delivered a stern democracy lesson to senior ruling party members and other leading figures at a ceremony for the opening of the new judicial year in Ankara, warning of the dangers of growing authoritarianism in Turkey

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Hurriyet Daily News, 2 September 2013, Turkey's top judge issues key democracy message

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-top-judge-issues-key-democracy-message.aspx?PageID=238&NID=53713&NewsCatID=339>

### **Turkey opens trial over 1997 'post-modern' coup**

A former Turkish army chief and more than 100 others have gone on trial accused of plotting to overthrow a pro-Islamist government in 1997.

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BBC, 2 September 2013, Turkey opens trial over 1997 'post-modern' coup

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-23925035>

ECONOMY/ENERGY

Turkish authority cancels Koç Holding's national warship contract

Turkey's top defense procurement body has announced it canceled a contract which was won by Koç Holding earlier to build a number of corvettes as part of the national warship project, or MİLGEM in its Turkish acronym, for around \$1.5 billion, in a written statement.

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Hürriyet Daily News, 27 September 2013, Turkish authority cancels Koç Holding's national warship contract

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-authority-cancels-koc-holdings-national-warship-contract-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=55244&NewsCatID=345>

### **Turkey seeks Canada, US aid on shale gas reserves**

Turkey has begun to carry out hydraulic fracturing operations to extract shale gas from the wells in the Thracian and southeastern regions, where 4.6 trillion cubic meters of reserves have been detected.

A delegation from the Ministry of Energy went to the United States and Canada to examine the existing wells there and to meet the representatives of the companies in the sector.

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Hürriyet Daily News, 23 September 2013, Turkey seeks Canada, US aid on shale gas reserves

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-seeks-canada-us-aid-on-shale-gas-reserves.aspx?pageID=238&nID=54946&NewsCatID=348>

Turkish business dynasties accused of backing 'post-modern coup'

A lawyer accused two of Turkey's corporate dynasties on Friday of backing the 1997 military overthrow of its first Islamist-led government, sending their shares tumbling on fears of a deepening vendetta against the country's secular business elite.

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Reuters, 13 September 2013, Turkish business dynasties accused of backing 'post-modern coup'  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/13/us-turkey-conglomerates-idUSBRE98C0SR20130913>

### **Turkey to cut 2014 growth target to 4 pct on Fed, Syria**

Turkey is likely to revise down its official growth target for 2014 to 4 percent from 5 due to an expected slowdown in the U.S. Fed's stimulus program, tensions in the Middle East, and the risk of higher oil prices.

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Reuters, 6 September 2013, Turkey to cut 2014 growth target to 4 pct on Fed, Syria
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/06/turkey-economy-outlook-idUSL6N0H20YN20130906>

Turkey and TTIP: Boosting the Model Partnership with the United States

The Brookings TUSIAD Senior Fellow and Director of the Turkey Project Kemal Kirisci published a comprehensive report entitled Turkey and TTIP: Boosting the Model Partnership with the United States.

In the report, Kirisci argues that Turkey's inclusion in the TTIP agreement could enrich the partnership between the United States and Turkey and revitalize Ankara's place in the transatlantic alliance. Citing economic, political and strategic arguments for Turkey's inclusion in the transatlantic economic partnership, Kirisci provides policy recommendations on how this might be achieved. Kirisci's report is the second in the recently established Turkey Project Policy Paper Series.

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Brookings, 3 September 2013, Turkey and TTIP: Boosting the Model Partnership with the United States  
<http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2013/09/turkey-transatlantic-trade-and-investment-partnership-kirisci>