



March 2015

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Foreign Policy

Turkey assessing 'further contribution' to military operation in Mosul: Minister

Turkey will continue to assess its "further contribution" to an international military operation to retake Mosul from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Defense Minister İsmet Yılmaz stated on March 2.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 2, 2015, Turkey assessing 'further contribution' to military operation in Mosul: Minister, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-could-join-iraqs-mosul-offensive-against-isil.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79051&NewsCatID=510>

#### **Turkish-US ties constantly sinking, says top academic**

Relations between Ankara and Washington have been consistently strained in recent years, according to Professor Kemal Kirişçi of the Brookings Institute. However, despite a loss of trust between Ankara and Washington, Turkey's relative stability amid chaos remains important for the US.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 9, 2015, Turkish-US ties constantly sinking, says top academic, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-us-ties-constantly-sinking-says-top-academic.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79355&NewsCatID=510>

Turkish PM criticizes UN over 'no Plan A' to end Syria war

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu took a swipe at the United Nations and world powers on March 5 over their failed efforts to end the war in Syria, saying they lacked a clear strategy.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 6, 2015, Turkish PM criticizes UN over 'no Plan A' to end Syria war, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-pm-criticizes-un-over-no-plan-a-to-end-syria-war-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79283&NewsCatID=510>

#### **Turkish defense minister pledges support to Iraq, Peshmerga**

During his visit to Iraq on March 4, Turkish Defense Minister İsmet Yılmaz said Turkey is ready to give all kinds of "intelligence and logistical support" to the neighboring country's government in the fight against terrorism.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 4, 2015, Turkish defense minister pledges support to Iraq, Peshmerga, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-defense-minister-pledges-support-to-iraq-peshmerga.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79197&NewsCatID=510>

Turkey furious over US stance on Assad, Syria

Recent remarks by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry regarding possible negotiations with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad have prompted strong reactions from Ankara.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 16, 2015, Turkey furious over US stance on Assad, Syria, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-furious-over-us-stance-on-assad-syria.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79733&NewsCatID=510>

### **NATO official sees vital need for rebuilding of trust between Turkey, allies**

Veteran French politician Pierre Lellouche left no room for doubt in expressing his view that there is a strong need for a rebuilding of trust between Turkey and its allies in the fight against jihadists in Syria and Iraq.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 14, 2015, NATO official sees vital need for rebuilding of trust between Turkey, allies, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/nato-official-sees-vital-need-for-rebuilding-of-trust-between-turkey-allies.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79670&NewsCatID=510>

Turkey to support Mosul operation from sidelines

The recent visit to Ankara by US CENTCOM Cmdr. Lloyd Austin shifted focus to Turkey's role in the upcoming operation to liberate Mosul from the Islamic State (IS). Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu had previously gone on record as saying, "Turkey will not be a direct party to the heated conflict in Iraq or Syria. We will provide support for Mosul but will not become a party to clashes."

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Al Monitor, March 13, 2015, Turkey to support Mosul operation from sidelines, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/03/turkey-iraq-syria-mosul-isis.html>

### **Qatar Emir Meets Erdogan in Surprise Turkey Visit**

The emir of Qatar on March 12 met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for surprise talks in the capital Ankara, a Turkish presidential official said.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 12, 2015, Qatar Emir Meets Erdogan in Surprise Turkey Visit,
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/qatar-emir-meets-erdogan-in-surprise-turkey-visit-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79570&NewsCatID=510>

Turks Stop Three British Teenagers at Istanbul Airport, Deport Them to UK

Three British teenagers suspected by British police to be en route to join militants fighting in Syria were stopped by Turkish authorities at an Istanbul airport and deported.

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Wall Street Journal, March 15, 2015, Turks Stop Three British Teenagers at Istanbul Airport, Deport Them to UK, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/three-british-teenagers-stopped-at-istanbul-airport-deported-back-to-u-k-1426454429>

### **Turkey's Drift From NATO**

The website of Turkey's Ministry of Foreign Affairs acknowledges that NATO has played a "central role" in the country's security and insists that Turkey, which became a member in 1952, "attaches utmost importance" to it. Yet Turkey's commitment to the alliance has never seemed more ambivalent than it does now.

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New York Times, March 13, 2015, Turkey's Drift From NATO,
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/14/opinion/turkeys-drift-from-nato.html>

Top business group hopes to 'energize' Turkey's EU bid

"We want to energize the EU process, which is currently in deep freeze partly due to the global economic crisis," Turkish Industry and Business Association (TÜSİAD) head Cansen Başaran Symes said during her first foreign trip with the group's top officials.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 21, 2015, Top business group hopes to 'energize' Turkey's EU bid,  
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/top-business-group-hopes-to-energize-turkeys-eu-bid.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79970&NewsCatID=338>

### **Turkey and EU agree to update Customs Union**

Turkey's Justice and Development Party (AKP) government and the European Union have quietly decided to upgrade the Customs Union which, in the long run, might serve to stop "corruption allegations" and also boost the country's competitiveness.



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Hurriyet Daily News, March 19, 2015, Turkey and EU agree to update Customs Union,

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-and-eu-agree-to-update-customs-union.aspx?PageID=238&NID=79863&NewsCatID=412>

74 US senators urge Kerry to address press freedom in Turkey

U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer, along with 73 other United States senators, wrote a letter on March 18 to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry to urge the State Department to immediately address issues “stemming from of the intimidation of journalists and censorship of the media” in Turkey.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 19, 2015, 74 US senators urge Kerry to address press freedom in Turkey,

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/74-us-senators-urge-kerry-to-address-press-freedom-in-turkey.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79884&NewsCatID=510>

### **Turkish PM: Shaking Hands with al-Assad, Hitler is the Same**

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said in a weekend interview that Washington would have to talk with al-Assad eventually if peace was to be forged, in comments that drew a strong rebuke from Ankara, which said there was nothing to negotiate with al-Assad.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 17, 2015, Turkish PM: Shaking Hands with al-Assad, Hitler is the Same,

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-pm-shaking-hands-with-al-assad-hitler-is-the-same-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79789&NewsCatID=338>

Turkey and EU Drifting Apart, says Independent Turkey Commission

Rather than drawing closer together, the EU and Turkey are drifting apart due to growing authoritarianism in the latter, stuttering growth, and a faltering Kurdish peace process, non-governmental organization the Independent Turkish Commission warned on March 17.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 17, 2015, Turkey and EU Drifting Apart, says Independent Turkey Commission, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-and-eu-drifting-apart-says-independent-turkish-commission.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79809&NewsCatID=351>

**Erdoğan, Obama discuss pressing issues**





U.S. President Barack Obama spoke with Turkish President Tayyip Erdoğan on March 26 about pressing issues in the Middle East, including the crisis in Yemen, the White House said.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 26, 2015, Erdoğan, Obama discuss pressing issues,

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/erdogan-obama-discuss-pressing-issues.aspx?pageID=238&nID=80249&NewsCatID=510>

White House, March 26, 2015, Readout of the President's Call with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/03/26/readout-president-s-call-president-recep-tayyip-erdogan-turkey>

Turkish politicians head to Washington over worries about Armenian resolution

Worried about a draft resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives that recognizes the 1915 killings of Ottoman Armenians as genocide, Turkish Parliament Speaker Cemil Cicek met with his U.S. counterpart John Boehner.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 24, 2015, Turkish politicians head to Washington over worries about Armenian resolution, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-politicians-head-to-washington-over-worries-about-armenian-resolution.aspx?pageID=238&nID=80127&NewsCatID=510>

Hurriyet Daily News, March 25, 2015, Armenia focused on hampering bilateral relations, says Turkish parliament speaker, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/armenia-focused-on-hampering-bilateral-relations-says-turkish-parliament-speaker-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=80172&NewsCatID=510>

Today's Zaman, March 27, 2015, Speaker Çiçek meets with US counterpart, discusses Syria, [http://www.todayszaman.com/diplomacy\\_speaker-cicek-meets-with-us-counterpart-discusses-syria\\_376403.html](http://www.todayszaman.com/diplomacy_speaker-cicek-meets-with-us-counterpart-discusses-syria_376403.html)

### **Turkey Moves to Close All Gates at Border With Syria**

After maintaining an open-door policy throughout the four-year conflict in neighboring Syria, Turkey has moved this month to close the two remaining border gates between the countries, shutting out displaced Syrian refugees amid fears of a potential terrorist attack.

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New York Times, March 29, 2015, Turkey Moves to Close All Gates at Border With Syria,

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/30/world/europe/turkey-moves-to-close-all-gates-at-border-with-syria.html?ref=todayspaper&r=1>



Turkey supports Saudi mission in Yemen, says Iran must withdraw

In an interview with FRANCE 24 on Thursday, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey supports the Saudi-led mission to rout Shiite rebels from Yemen and criticised Iran's regional ambitions in both Yemen and Iraq.

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France 24, March 27, 2015, Turkey supports Saudi mission in Yemen, says Iran must withdraw,  
<http://www.france24.com/en/20150326-turkey-support-saudi-yemen-erdogan-interview-france-24/>

## **Domestic Politics**

### **Kurdish Rebels in Turkey Demand Democratic Reforms to Disarm**

Turkey's push to end a three-decade Kurdish insurgency got a significant boost from a call by the group's jailed leader for his rebels to disarm if the government delivers democratic reforms.

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Wall Street Journal, March 1, 2015, Kurdish Rebels in Turkey Demand Democratic Reforms to Disarm,
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/kurdish-rebels-in-turkey-demand-democratic-reforms-to-disarm-1425252671>

Security draft will help Kurdish peace, says Turkish PM Davutoğlu

According to Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, the controversial domestic security bill, opposed by both of the two main stakeholders of the peace process - the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and the Kurdistan Communities' Union (KCK), a supra-organization that includes the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) – is actually a measure which will facilitate progress in the peace bid.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 2, 2015, Security draft will help Kurdish peace, says Turkish PM Davutoğlu,  
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/security-draft-will-help-kurdish-peace-says-turkish-pm-davutoglu.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79093&NewsCatID=338>

### **Turkey's former intel chief withdraws decision to run for Parliament**

Turkey's former intelligence chief, Hakan Fidan, has withdrawn his application to the ruling party to run for parliament after President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's strong opposition to his decision to quit the strategic position.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 9, 2015, Turkey's former intel chief withdraws decision to run for Parliament, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-former-intel-chief-withdraws-decision-to-run-for-parliament-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79430&NewsCatID=338>

AKP 'home' for former president Gül, Turkish PM says

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu has supported President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's endorsement for the return of former President Abdullah Gül to the ruling party.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 9, 2015, AKP 'home' for former president Gül, Turkish PM says, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/akp-home-for-former-president-gul-turkish-pm-says.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79389&NewsCatID=338>

### **What more do Kurds want, Erdoğan asks**

Anticipation is growing about a breakthrough on the Kurdish issue this Nevruz amid intense talks between the government and militants, but President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan turned back the clock several years on March 15 to claim that Turkey does not have any "Kurdish problem," arguing that Kurds have equal rights with the rest of the country.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 15, 2015, What more do Kurds want, Erdoğan asks, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/what-more-do-kurds-want-erdogan-asks.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79720&NewsCatID=338>

Structural reforms to play big role in reaching functioning democracy: Babacan

Turkey needs to continue to make reforms to achieve a functioning democracy at internationally high standards while maintaining sustainable economic growth, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan said March 13 at the Uludağ Economy Summit.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 13, 2015, Structural reforms to play big role in reaching functioning democracy: Babacan, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/structural-reforms-to-play-big-role-in-reaching-functioning-democracy-babacan-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79624&NewsCatID=344>

### **Islamist Websites in Turkey Manage to Evade Strict Internet Censorship**



The websites of an atheist association, the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo and a Kurdish separatist organization are blocked to Turkish Internet users. But many sites that promote extreme Islamist messages escape Turkey's censors.

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New York Times, March 13, 2015, Islamist Websites in Turkey Manage to Evade Strict Internet Censorship, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/14/world/europe/islamist-websites-in-turkey-manage-to-evade-strict-internet-censorship.html?ref=todayspaper>

President Erdoğan describes MIT head Fidan's reappointment as 'felicitous'

Hakan Fidan's decision to return to his former position as head of Turkey's National Intelligence Agency (MIT) is "felicitous," President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has said. Erdoğan also strictly refuted opposition claims that the reappointment of Fidan, after he had resigned to stand for the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) in the upcoming June elections, was unlawful.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 13, 2015, President Erdoğan describes MIT head Fidan's reappointment as 'felicitous', <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/president-erdogan-describes-mit-head-fidans-reappointment-as-felicitous.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79649&NewsCatID=338>

### **Renewing Call to End Turkey Conflict, Kurdish Rebel Leader Hails 'New Era'**

The jailed Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan on Saturday renewed a call for his fighters to disarm and end a long conflict with Turkey, hailing a "new era" in relations between Turks and Kurds.

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New York Times, March 21, 2015, Renewing Call to End Turkey Conflict, Kurdish Rebel Leader Hails 'New Era', <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/22/world/europe/renewing-call-to-end-turkey-conflict-kurdish-rebel-leader-hails-new-era.html?ref=todayspaper&r=1>

Erdoğan reiterates denial of Kurdish problem in Turkey

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has repeated his recent claim that there is no Kurdish problem in Turkey, simply stating that not recognizing identities is the problem.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 17, 2015, Erdoğan reiterates denial of Kurdish problem in Turkey, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/erdogan-reiterates-denial-of-kurdish-problem-in-turkey-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79819&NewsCatID=338>



### **Gov't to form monitoring committee for Kurdish peace process**

The government has decided to establish a monitoring committee of five to six persons to oversee the implementation of the Kurdish peace process, a senior government official has said, noting that the final decision on its composition and mandate will be given next week by the prime minister.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 18, 2015, Gov't to form monitoring committee for Kurdish peace process, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/govt-to-form-monitoring-committee-for-kurdish-peace-process.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79871&NewsCatID=338>

CHP leader highlights democracy for his decision to run internal elections

The leader of Turkey's main social democratic party, Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, has said he has decided to run internal elections in his party before finalizing his candidacy for the upcoming parliamentary elections in order to highlight the meaning of democracy, in a rare move in Turkish politics.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 19, 2015, CHP leader highlights democracy for his decision to run internal elections, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/chp-leader-highlights-democracy-for-his-decision-to-run-internal-elections.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79902&NewsCatID=338>

### **Turkey Passes Tough New Security Law**

Turkey's government passed a new security law that centralizes and expands police powers, amid widespread concern that the measure will be used to crack down on political dissent.

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Wall Street Journal, March 27, 2015, Turkey Passes Tough New Security Law, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/turkey-passes-tough-new-security-law-1427448854>

Turkey's main opposition CHP completes primaries, hopeful for June polls

Hundreds of thousands of main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) members flocked to the polling stations on March 29 to vote to elect their candidates for the June 7 parliamentary elections, making them the sole party in putting primaries in place.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 29, 2015, Turkey's main opposition CHP completes primaries, hopeful for June polls, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-main-opposition-chp-completes-primaries-hopeful-for-june-polls.aspx?pageID=238&nID=80325&NewsCatID=338>



### **Turkey launches operation against PKK hideouts**

Turkish security forces have launched an operation against hideouts and shelters of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in southeastern Anatolia, the military said on March 24.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 24, 2015, Turkey launches operation against PKK hideouts,
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-launches-operation-against-pkk-hideouts-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=80115&NewsCatID=341>

Turkish Officers Acquitted Over Coup Plot

A Turkish court acquitted scores of active and retired military officers previously convicted of plotting to overthrow the government of then-Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. It was a stunning reversal in a landmark case that had helped his Islamist-rooted government tame the once-paramount military.

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Wall Street Journal, March 31, 2015, Turkish Officers Acquitted Over Coup Plot,  
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/turkish-military-officers-acquitted-over-coup-plot-1427813996>

## **Economy and Energy**

### **Turkish PM Davutoğlu holds hasty meeting with Central Bank head on return from New York**

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu has held meetings with the chiefs of key monetary and financial institutions, including the Central Bank governor, shortly after returning from New York where he had sought to assure investors spooked by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's recent tirades against the Central Bank.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 8, 2015, Turkish PM Davutoğlu holds hasty meeting with Central Bank head on return from New York, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-pm-davutoglu-holds-hasty-meeting-with-central-bank-head-on-return-from-new-york.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79344&NewsCatID=338>

Citigroup Sells Stake in Turkish Bank for \$1.16 Billion



Citigroup said on Thursday that it had sold its 9.9 percent stake in Akbank of Turkey for about \$1.16 billion. Citigroup, a New York banking giant, said it had sold 396 million shares in Akbank for 7.45 Turkish lira, or \$2.92, apiece. It did not say who bought the stake.

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New York Times, March 5, 2015, Citigroup Sells Stake in Turkish Bank for \$1.16 Billion,  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/06/business/dealbook/citigroup-akbank.html?ref=todayspaper>

### **Turkish Central Bank cuts forex deposit rates, lira firms**

The Turkish Central Bank said on March 9 it was cutting its one-week forex deposit interest rates, triggering gains in the lira after a week of sharp declines driven partly by worries over political pressure on the bank.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 9, 2015, Turkish Central Bank cuts forex deposit rates, lira firms,
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-central-bank-cuts-forex-deposit-rates-lira-firms.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79392&NewsCatID=344>

Turkey's unemployment rate hit 9.9 percent in 2014

The unemployment rate was 9.9 percent in 2014, rising from 9.7 percent in the previous year, the Turkish Statistics Institute (TÜİK) announced on March 6. The number of unemployed persons aged 15 years old and over was 2.8 million people in 2014, according to the TÜİK data.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 6, 2015, Turkey's unemployment rate hit 9.9 percent in 2014,  
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-unemployment-rate-hit-99-percent-in-2014.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79275&NewsCatID=347>

### **EU Eyes Creation of Energy Partnership with Turkey**

The European Commission said on March 11 it intends to establish an energy policy partnership with Turkey. "The Commission intends to strengthen EU/Turkey energy relations by establishing a strategic energy partnership," a statement released by the European Commission to The Anadolu Agency said.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 11, 2015, EU Eyes Creation of Energy Partnership with Turkey,
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/eu-eyes-creation-of-energy-partnership-with-turkey.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79517&NewsCatID=348>



Ankara seen stalling Russian hopes on 'Turkish Stream' gas plan

Turkish concern about too much dependence on Russian energy and an upcoming election mean Russia's plans for a new gas pipeline to southeastern Europe are unlikely to advance as quickly as Moscow might like, Turkish energy officials said on Wednesday.

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Reuters, March 11, 2015, Ankara seen stalling Russian hopes on 'Turkish Stream' gas plan,  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/11/turkey-russia-gas-idUSL5N0WD2BV20150311>

### **Greece's NBG to Sell Stake in Finansbank in April**

Finansbank, 99.8 percent of which is owned by National Bank of [Greece](#) (NBG), has announced its intention to launch an offering of its ordinary shares listed on Turkey's main stock exchange, Borsa Istanbul.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 11, 2015, Greece's NBG to Sell Stake in Finansbank in April,
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/greeces-nbg-to-sell-stake-in-finansbank-in-april.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79521&NewsCatID=346>

Turkish President Erdoğan meets Central Bank governor to keep up 'trust' in economy

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on late March 11 met with the country's economy czar and Central Bank head, agreeing on a strong need to build trust in the economy as well as to ease markets after a plunge in the value of the Turkish Lira against the U.S. dollar.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 12, 2015, Turkish President Erdoğan meets Central Bank governor to keep up 'trust' in economy, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-president-erdogan-meets-central-bank-governor-to-keep-up-trust-in-economy-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79555&NewsCatID=344>

### **Foundation Laid for Pipe to Carry Azeri Gas to EU**

Turkey made the groundbreaking ceremony for the \$10 billion Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Project (TANAP) project to pipe Azeri gas to Western markets on March 17, in line with a plan which could help the EU reduce its dependence on Russian energy even as Moscow touts its own alternative.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 17, 2015, Foundation Laid for Pipe to Carry Azeri Gas to EU,
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-azerbaijan-to-start-work-on-new-mega-gas-pipeline-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79790&NewsCatID=348>



Turkish markets, lira firmer on Fed meeting

Turkish markets recovered on March 19, with the Turkish Lira at its firmest in two weeks and stocks rallying as investors back into emerging markets after the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) sounded a cautious tone on the timing of rate hikes.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 19, 2015, Turkish markets, lira firmer on Fed meeting,

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-markets-lira-firmer-on-fed-meeting.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79898&NewsCatID=344>

### **Turkey's Central Bank leaves rates unchanged amid pressure**

Turkey's Central Bank left interest rates on hold on March 17 as the lira's slide to record lows risked stoking inflation, resisting pressure from political circles to cut rates ahead of a June election.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 17, 2015, Turkey's Central Bank leaves rates unchanged amid pressure,

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-central-bank-leaves-rates-unchanged-amid-pressure.aspx?pageID=238&nID=79793&NewsCatID=344>

Turkey's foreign investment rises to \$1.8 bln in January

Turkey received foreign direct investment worth \$1.8 billion in January, Turkey's Economy Ministry said in a statement late March 23.

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Hurriyet Daily News, March 24, 2015, Turkey's foreign investment rises to \$1.8 bln in January,

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-foreign-investment-rises-to-18-bln-in-january.aspx?pageID=238&nID=80118&NewsCatID=344>

### **Turkish Cypriots halt gas search for peace talks restart**

Hopes of a restart to talks to reunify the small Mediterranean island nation of Cyprus swelled Monday after breakaway Turkish Cypriots said they will halt their own search for gas off Cyprus' coast.

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Washington Post, March 30, 2015, Turkish Cypriots halt gas search for peace talks restart,

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/turkish-cypriots-halt-gas-search-for-peace-talks-restart/2015/03/30/50924d0e-d6e1-11e4-bf0b-f648b95a6488_story.html