

SPECIAL EDITION OF FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG:

“WHY TURKEY BELONGS TO EUROPE”



Walter Scheel

Turkey’s membership is the consequential continuation of a success story

In my position as Foreign Minister and later as Federal President, I have been observing and co-designing the growing together of Europe and its connection to Turkey. Considering the overall development since the beginning of the 60s, one has to call it a unique success story. Turkey’s constant development has turned the country into a reliable political partner; the degree of successfully implemented reforms and the role Turkey plays for the economic stability in Europe can hardly be appreciated enough. In my opinion, it is beyond question that these successes have to be continued, irrespective of all minor disputes. Concertedly, we accomplished a lot and we have the potential to achieve even more in the future – economically and politically.



Edzard Reuter

Turkey is my second home country

I grew up in Turkey because my parents were forced to leave Germany. The Turkey I got to know as a child had decided to be European – at a time when culture in the rest of Europe seemed in danger of being lost. Up to this day, Turkey has continued to progress. The country’s political liberalization, cultural exchange and the opening-up of its markets were just as much profitable to Europe as it was to Turkey. That is why, as a German, a European and a friend of Turkey, I support Turkey’s accession to the European Union.



Emine Demirbüken-Wegner, Dr. Lale Akgün, Bilkay Öney

We steer the right course

Since the Turkish Republic was declared in 1923, Turkey has been on its way to Europe. Turkey's constitution, economic system and legal system are modeled according to the role model of European democracies. In recent years, Turkey has seen an accelerated development in anticipation of the country's forthcoming European accession. Currently 350 new, pro-European laws that have been adopted by Parliament are being implemented. These make Turkey ready for EU membership. As German politicians with Turkish roots, a shared Europe is something particularly close to our heart. After all, not only Turkey will benefit from the accession, but Germany and Europe will also see further cultural and economic development.



Dr. Arend Oetker

I don't focus on labels, but on content

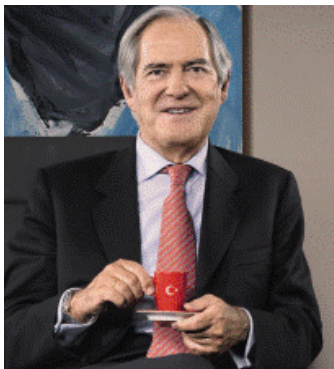
In order to be able to judge a thing, you first have to take a close look – setting all prejudices and clichés aside. I have been producing in Turkey for many years and on each of my trips I have been met not only with impressive hospitality, but also witnessed tremendous motivation and a strong desire for progress. In all these years, my experiences both with Turkish employees in Germany and with my partners in Turkey have been positive. Turkey is set to play an even bigger economic and political role in the future. We should decide whether we wish to share in that dynamism without prejudice.



Prof. Dr. Norbert Walter

Turkey is Europe's next economic miracle

In no other euro-zone country is the economy growing faster than in Turkey. The gross domestic product increased by 7.6% in 2005, in Germany barely half of that could be reached. Already, the whole of Europe is benefiting from growth engine Turkey. Last year, Turkey imported goods to the tune of more than 15 billion euros from Germany alone. At the same time, with its pipelines, Turkey ensures a steady supply of energy to Europe, thus making us less dependent on Russia. Today, we already work successfully together in a number of areas, but there is still plenty of potential for further co-operation. Only when Turkey has become a member of the EU, will we truly have a single market operating under a single set of regulations and norms. That is why, I support the accession negotiations and hope they will soon lead to success.



Prof. Roland Berger

Turkey is full of energy

In 1520 Turkey taught us how to make good coffee – until today Europe's most popular energy resource. Today, Turkey is one of the continent's most important energy suppliers in every respect. Through Turkish pipelines flows fuel that makes us independent from other providers. As hub between Europe and Asia, Turkey is of strategic importance, especially when one gets to the issue of secure energy supply in the future. But Turkey is more than a provider of energy. Turkey is also a strong partner, because we have a close cultural bond. Turkey's accession to the EU will deepen those connections, strengthen the exchange between cultures and make sure that Europe has adequate energy in the following decades.



Franz Müntefering

For a strong Europe friends have to become Partners.

The treaty of association between Turkey and the European Community was signed in Ankara in 1963. This agreement laid the foundation for an impressive economic and cultural development. For more than 40 years, Turkey, Germany and Europe have been benefiting from this rapprochement. Turkey has become a reliable partner to the EU. Because of globalization this relationship becomes even more important – economically, strategically and culturally. For this reason, we should consistently follow the road, make the accession of Turkey to the EU a political success and legitimate it democratically. This will demand the good will and efforts of all parties involved. However all parties will benefit.



Günter Verheugen

Turkey's strong economic potential will strengthen Europe

The discussion about Turkey's possible accession to the European Union is dominated by political arguments. Unfortunately, the economic aspects are totally underestimated. Turkey is going through an impressive economic catching-up process. Its enormous, not yet fully exploited potential will render the European economy more competitive –internally and externally. Turkey's accession will create an economic win-win situation, which will lead to more growth and provide more jobs, also in Germany.

TURKEY IS OF GREAT BENEFIT TO EUROPE.

Economy will benefit from Turkey

In the past five years, the Turkish economy had an average growth of 7,3% which outperforms the European average. The EU countries stand to benefit on Turkey's drive. However, only the accession to the EU will enable this expanding market to become a free trade area that displays its own potential. This partnership is not only a gain for the German exports and labor market, but also it enables prosperity for all Europe.

An increase of security

For decades Turkey has been engaged with other European states for peace and security in Europe – and on the borders of Europe. Since 1952 Turkey has been a member of NATO. Right now 60.000 Turkish soldiers are part of the EU military work groups. But Turkey is not only an active and reliable partner. It also forms a bridge to the countries of the Middle East and will also in the future bring forward the dialogue between the cultures in this region on the basis of the European value system.

Turkey supplies energy

The EU is faced with the challenge to develop a sustainable energy concept for the future. In doing so a diversification of energy sources is as much of importance as the assurance of different ways of transport. Today Turkey is already an important partner of the European energy supply powers in the conventional area. Turkish pipelines care for assured supply. And as the future will count less on gas and oil, Turkish scientists and engineers develop already today perspectives for a supply with regenerative energies. No matter if conventional or green: as soon as energy comes on the agenda, Turkey is an important brick for European sustainability.

As the world gets smaller, Europe needs to grow bigger

Turkey will increase Europe's economical and political power. The EU member states already achieve a quarter of the worldwide gross national product. With Turkey as a full member state, the EU will also be able to secure its position as one of the most important economic areas of the world in the future. Especially in the face of competition, that grows up in India and China that is of strategic importance. Also in foreign affairs and politics concerning security Turkey will strengthen the European influence on global level.

Cultural Interpenetration for the East and the West

For centuries there have been close connections between Turkey and Europe. Goethe already dealt with the Culture of the Middle East in the beginning of the 19th century in his work „West-Östlicher Diwan“. Also winner of the Nobel Prize of Literature Orhan Pamuk created in his work new symbols for the mergence of cultures. That exchange does not only have a tradition, but it also has a future. The young artistic culture of the metropolis Istanbul glares even to Berlin and New York. On the cutting points, where Eastern and Western influences melt, lies the seed of a new, exciting cultural experiment.

Turkey is moving ahead

Turkey has progressed successfully on the long way of the accession negotiations. The adaptations to the legal system are almost done. Moreover, technologies in the area of communication systems have been raised to the European standards. Those positive developments mean for Turkey already today a great step towards the future. Its real potential for the Europe and its reforms will only evolve after the EU accession. Together we have achieved a lot, so now we should together gather the fruits of that work.

TUSIAD

Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association



Welcome to Europe

In the history of our continent, the question of where Europe begins and ends has continually been posed and answered. The process involving Turkey's accession to the European Union touches upon Europe's own perception. For Turkish citizens, the question has a simple answer: we are Europeans and now we want to be part of the European Union. The Turkish people feel European, Turkey is already a member of every European organization and NATO, and the European Union and Germany are our most important trade partners.

People in European Union countries and Turkey share many passions, ranging from football to good cuisine. But there are also economic and strategic advantages to accession: with a young, dynamic population, an export-oriented economy and a rapidly developing information society, Turkey will expand the size of Europe's domestic market and increase Europe's global competitiveness. Furthermore, Turkey already ensures an important supply of energy to the EU.

There is a lot of work to do before Turkey becomes a part of the European Union, both in Turkey itself as well as within the EU. But negotiations have greatly accelerated the reform process in our country; for example, all legal conditions proscribed by the European Union have almost been fulfilled. We will continue to follow this path.

The Initiative Modern Turkey calls for the accession of Turkey to the EU because this makes economic sense for both sides, it is politically sound and it would enrich both Europe and Turkey. We have asked several Germans why they believe that Turkey belongs to Europe. The answers have made it clear that beyond the prejudices, there are only advantages.

Yours Sincerely,

Arzuhan Doğan Yalçındağ

President of TÜSİAD