

Programme for the
5th Annual EU-Turkey
Conference
18th-19th May 2005
Madrid

In the prelude to
accession negotiations
EU-Turkey relations,
where to next?

Organised by:

European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)
Istanbul Policy Center, Sabanci University (IPC)
Mediterranean Programme, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies,
European University Institute (EUI)

With the collaboration of:

Instituto de Cuestiones Internacionales y Política Exterior (INCIPE)
Técnicas Reunidas
Embassy of Turkey, Spain

Description and objectives:

**“In the prelude to accession negotiations –
EU-Turkey relations, where to next?”**

The 5th Annual EU-Turkey Conference is the fifth edition of a regularly held meeting –organised by the Istanbul Policy Center at Sabanci University, the Mediterranean Programme, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute and, since 2004, the European Institute of the Mediterranean– that aims to bring together decision and opinion makers, business community leaders, experts and civil society actors from the European Union, Turkey and elsewhere, for a free and frank debate on Turkey’s EU candidacy.

This year’s edition will take place in the interlude between the decision by the European Council on 16th December 2004 to open accession negotiations with Turkey, and the actual opening date of the 3rd October 2005. The 5th Annual EU-Turkey Conference will hence focus on two current parallel developments which will affect EU-Turkey relations in this period: the Turkish preparation for the run-up to the October opening of negotiations, as well as the outcomes of the string of national EU Constitutional referenda during 2005 that promises to revive the public debates on the European identity and how Turkey will fit into determined European policies. The conference will thus aim to take the pulse of the changing relationship between the European Union and Turkey and evaluate its possible resulting consequences.

Structure and contents:

The conference will be structured into four sessions, which in total will last one day, providing ample opportunity to survey a host of EU-Turkish related issues. The conference will serve a dual purpose of both presenting in-depth analysis on a determined set of topics and allowing for public debate on the same. English will be the working language of the sessions.

The conference aims to bring together some 100 participants in total from a wide range of fields to debate the issues connected with the Turkish accession to the European Union.

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Wednesday, 18th May 2005

21.00 Welcome dinner

Hosted by the President of Técnicas Reunidas and INCIPE, José Lladó Fernández-Urrutia, and the President of the Delegate Committee of IEMed, Ricard Pérez Casado, at the Casino de Madrid.

Keynote speeches by Bernardino León (Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Iberoamerica, Spain) and Mehmet Dulger (Chairman, Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, Turkey)

Thursday, 19th May 2005

9.30 – 10.00 Opening session

President:

Alberto Navarro (Secretary of State for the European Union, Spain)

Welcome remarks of the organisers:

Andreu Claret (Director, IEMed, Spain)

Ahmet Aykac (Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees of Sabanci University, Turkey)

José Lladó Fernández-Urrutia (President, Técnicas Reunidas/INCIPE, Spain)

10.00 – 10.30

Keynote Speech:

Ali Babacan (Minister of State in charge of Economy, Turkey)

Session 1 – The political and economic challenges of the Turkish EU accession

10.30 – 12.00

Session 1(a)

What economic 'roadmap' for Turkey lies ahead?

Chair: Ahmet Evin (Founding Dean, Istanbul Policy Center, Sabanci University, Turkey)

The EU-Turkey customs union has provided useful preparation ground for the Turkish economy in adapting itself to the Internal Market. However, the customs union has been limited to industrial products and as a part of the pre-accession period there will need to be a gradual opening up of European markets in terms of other sectors, such as services and agriculture. How should the phasing-in best be handled, both from a European and a Turkish point of view? What are the potential problems or obstacles lying ahead in the economic and financial preparation for the EU accession? How should EU pre-accession financial assistance best be designed to facilitate the Turkish transition process?

Speaker 1 – Alberto Navarro (Secretary of State for the European Union, Spain)

Speaker 2 – Mehmet Dulger (Chairman, Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, Turkey)

Debate

12.00 – 12.30 Coffee break

12.30 – 14.00

Session 1(b)

Taking note from the Spanish enlargement experience

Chair: Andreu Claret (Director, IEMed, Spain)

What was the Spanish experience in negotiating its entry into the European Community in the period 1979-1986? What were the challenges? What were the problems? What was the impact on the Spanish society of the required socioeconomic reforms demanded as an accession requisite? How did Spain overcome European prejudice against its candidature? Can the Spanish experience be useful for Turkish public and private actors as they now enter into their own negotiations with the European Union?

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Speaker 1 – Enrique Barón (ex-President of the European Parliament)
Speaker 2 – Raimundo Bassols (Spanish Ambassador to the European Communities and former Secretary of State for Relations with the EC)
Speaker 3 – Luís Felipe de la Peña (Ambassador of Spain, Turkey)

Debate

14.00 – 15.30 Lunch

Session 2 – Imagining Turkey in Europe

15.30 – 17.00

Session 2(a)
Migration, tolerance and
the debate on Europeanness

Chair: Vicente Garrido (Director, INCIPE, Spain)

What are the perspectives for Turkish migration towards the EU in the run-up to accession? What are the European attitudes towards Turkish migration? What have EU countries done in order to try to better integrate their respective Turkish residents? Has this policy been successful? Is an emerging Europeanness being forged against the backdrop of migration from Turkey, or is there a possibility for forging integration in a multicultural Europe, without compromising on the distinct "European values" considered at the core of the European Union? What possible implications will the incorporation into the European Union of a country where 90 percent of the citizens proclaim themselves as Muslims have for European identity? Is Europeanness a concept in increasing flux at the beginning of the 21st century?

Speaker 1 – Refik Erzan (Professor, Department of Economics, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey)

Speaker 2 – Jean-François Polo (Lecturer, Political Science and Director, International Relations Office, Institute of Political Studies (IEP) of Rennes, France)

Debate

17.00 – 17.30 Coffee break

17.30 – 19.00

Session 2(b)
The New Neighbourhood:
Turkey and its neighbours in
the 'Wider Europe' and
the 'Broader Middle East'

Chair: Giacomo Luciani (Professor, Political Economy and Co-director, Mediterranean Programme, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute (EU), Italy)

The Conclusions of the 16th December 2004 European Council stipulated that Turkey maintain 'good neighbourly relations' with all its neighbours. Turkey, for its geopolitical situation, might right from the outset of the negotiations become a centrepiece in the EU's relations with Turkey's neighbours (Syria, Iraq, Caucasus and Middle East). Moreover, Turkey borders several of the countries included in the EU's new European Neighbourhood Policy, with all its implicit opportunities and challenges. How will Turkey's foreign policy towards these areas converge with that of the EU? What role will Turkey forge inside the EU foreign policy? What adjustments will be made to the latter? How will the closer relations with the European Union affect Turkey's hitherto close relationship with the US? Is there a potential for synergy or will it inevitably lead to a clash of interests?

Speaker 1 – Soli Özel (Professor, International Relations, Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkey)

Speaker 2 – Erwan Lannon (Professor, University of Ghent, European Institute, Belgium, and at the College of Europe, Natolin, Poland)

Speaker 3 – Ian O. Lesser (President, Mediterranean Advisors and Senior Scholar, Woodrow Wilson Center, United States)

Debate

19.00 – 19.30 Closing remarks

Zeynep Damla Güler (MP, Turkish Parliament)
Ahmet Evin (Founding Dean, Istanbul Policy Center, Sabanci University, Turkey)
Santiago de Torres (Delegate of the Catalan Government in Madrid)