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of the United States  
STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

STIFTUNG  
MERCATOR

 **IAI**  
*Istituto Affari Internazionali*

**IPC**

ISTANBUL POLICY CENTER  
SABANCI UNIVERSITY  
STIFTUNG MERCATOR INITIATIVE

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## Invitation

The German Marshall Fund of the United States along with the Stiftung Mercator, Istituto Affari Internazionali, and Istanbul Policy Center are pleased to invite you to:

# Challenges to Democratic Consolidation in Turkey

Monday, January 19, 2015

12:00 - 14:00

A light lunch will be served at noon. The discussion will start promptly at 12:30.

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### Speaker

Fuat Keyman, Director, Istanbul Policy Center

Meltem Muftuler-Bac, Professor of International Relations, Sabanci University

Ozgur Unluhisarcickli, Director of the Ankara Office, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

### Moderator

Corinna Hörst, Deputy Director of the Brussels Office, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

### Location

The German Marshall Fund of the United States

Residence Palace, Rue de la loi 155, 1040 Brussels, 8th floor (please take the elevator on the left-hand side)

RSVP

If you have any questions, please contact Thanos Moysiadis at +32 2 238 5282 or [tmoysiadis@gmfus.org](mailto:tmoysiadis@gmfus.org).

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A member of NATO and an accession member to the European Union, Turkey has enjoyed a nominal multi-party system since 1946 but has always faced challenges with consolidating its democracy. After officially

gaining candidate status to the EU in 1999, Turkey launched a vigorous political reform agenda with the support of a booming civil society. The EU and member state leaders decided during the Brussels Summit in 2004 that Turkey had sufficiently fulfilled the Copenhagen political criteria to begin accession talks and the negotiations were launched in 2005. This positive atmosphere has changed significantly, particularly since the Gezi protests in June 2013. Now Turkey is facing massive international criticism regarding deficits in judicial independence, freedom of press, freedom of expression, and other aspects of a liberal democracy. How can we describe the state of democracy in Turkey today? What are some of the deeper structural reasons why Turkey is facing challenges consolidating its democracy? What are the stakes for Turkey's transatlantic partners and how can they play a positive role in all of this?