

GLOBAL TURKEY  IN EUROPE

Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Istanbul Policy Center (IPC),  
Stiftung Mercator and Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)  
cordially invite you to a roundtable discussion on

## Turkey-EU Relations in a Changing Era? Domestic Dynamics and International Constraints

SWP - STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK  
BOULEVARD SAINT-MICHEL 80, BRUSSELS  
6 NOVEMBER 2019 | 15:30 – 17:30

*Relations between Turkey and the European Union are currently mired in a number of pressing issues in a range of key policy areas. With the Turkish military operation in Syria and the ensuing decision by France and Germany along with three other member states to halt arms exports to Turkey, the need for a constructive dialogue and forms of engagement between the two sides seem more imminent than ever. One issue that has been lying ahead of the European Union since the introduction of presidentialism in Turkey has been whether or not the accession talks should be formally suspended, now that any justification for EU actors to claim that Turkey “sufficiently fulfils” the Copenhagen criteria is removed. In addition to the overarching question on the future of the accession negotiations, five issue areas come to the forefront. On the economic front, the debate surrounds Turkey’s slide towards an economic crisis, and, contrastingly, the prospect of opening negotiations on a modernized customs union. Whether or not an upgraded customs union could serve as a pillar in a novel institutional frame and link between the two parties is a question urging debate. On the migration front we will need to reassess the sustainability of the EU-Turkey Statement, especially in the light of recent events in Syria. Energy cooperation stands out as one of the potentially promising areas of closer integration between the two parties, yet challenges connected to broader regional political dynamics as well as to diverging visions on convergence remain to be addressed. Security is an increasingly key area in EU-Turkey relations and it will only gain further relevance in the near future. While a conflictual state of play seems to currently prevail in this field, there is also a strong potential for collaboration, the extent and the form of which will not only be informed by developments in Europe, Turkey, and in the broader neighbourhood of both actors, but also by the actions of a range of regional and global actors. Finally, one of the questions in which we need engaged discussion and new thinking now more than ever, is how to ensure closer engagement between Europe and the civil society in Turkey. Given the far from ideal relations between the EU and governing authorities in Turkey, it is essential that the EU deepens its embrace with Turkey’s vibrant and yet challenged civil society. Thus, Turkey remains a strategic partner for both the EU and its Member States in a wide range of areas. This implies that active and honest discussion between actors in Europe and Turkey on how to face existing challenges and rethink the relations is needed more than ever.*

*The roundtable discussion will be the final event of the multi-year project Global Turkey in Europe (GTE), conducted by IAI, IPC and the Mercator Foundation since 2012. The project aimed at exploring how the EU and Turkey could enhance their cooperation in the political, economic, security and foreign policy domains. Over the years GTE has built a core exchange and dialogue group as well as solid baseline of publication on all pillars in EU-Turkey relations.*

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