



**TRANS EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES ASSOCIATION  
AND CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES  
OF THE MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY**

KICK-OFF CONFERENCE

**From Istanbul to Brussels: Dialogue on Turkey's accession to the EU**

\*to be held in the framework of the project "Mobilizing Local Networks for a better Informed Dialogue on Turkey's Accession to the EU" (ACCESS-TR)

**3/4 March 2009**

Fondation Universitaire  
Rue d'Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels

---

This Kick-Off Conference in Brussels is the starting point of a one-year project named ACCESS-TR, implemented by the Center for European Studies (CES) of the Middle East Technical University, Ankara, in co-operation with the Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA), which aims to promote the active participation of local and regional stakeholders in the process of Turkey's accession to the EU.

The aim of the Kick-Off Conference is to bring to Brussels a number of key multipliers of the ACCESS-TR project and its outreach, to discuss the challenges and benefits of former enlargements as well as recent developments in the relations between the European Union and Turkey, and to familiarise the participants with the impact of enlargement on the European institutions. By bringing together actors from Turkey, representatives of the European Institutions and stakeholders of Turkish interest representation in Brussels TEPSA and CES seek to obtain sustainable partnerships after the end of the project. The kick-off conference thus follows the goal of identifying challenges and benefits which are common to every enlargement round due to the process of Europeanization and adaptations to supranational structures, and conceptualizing the specific characteristics for the case of Turkey.

Following the Kick-Off conference held in Brussels the ACCESS-TR project will comprise **workshops in Samsun, Antalya and Gaziantep** which will each focus on four topics (Single Market; Gender issues across social protection, education policies and regional development strategies; Notions of inclusive citizenship linked to the debates on European citizenship; Ways of conducting foreign policy in the European Union); a **Final conference in Istanbul; Virtual Teaching Units**; a **project website**, and **Policy Briefings** (representing summaries of research on "EU-Turkey relations and the functioning of the EU"; "History and key features of EU enlargement rounds"; "Single European Market, Customs Union and consumer protection"; "Gender perspectives: Social protection, education policies and regional development strategies"; "Citizenship"; "Foreign Policy in the European Union and joint interests with Turkey").

---



## Programme

### Tuesday, 3 March 2009

- 9.00                    *Registration*
- 9.30                    **Welcome**  
Yvonne NASSHOVEN, Executive Director, TEPSA
- Atila ERALP, Director, Middle East Technical University (METU)
- 9.45                    **Introductory speech**  
H.E. Ambassador Volkan BOZKIR, Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the EU
- Answers and Questions*
- 10.15                   *Coffee Break*
- Session I            The EU and Turkey: Where do we stand?**
- 10.30                   *Chair*  
Atila ERALP, Director, Middle East Technical University (METU)
- Introductory speech*
- Heather GRABBE, Executive Director, Open Society Institute Brussels;  
former member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Olli Rehn
- Comments*
- Andrew DUFF, MEP, Vice Chairman of the EP's EU-Turkey Delegation,  
European Parliament, member of TEPSA Board
- Bahadir KALEGASI, Representative to the EU, Turkish Industrialists' &  
Business Association (TUSIAD)
- Ahmet EVIN, Sabanci University, Istanbul Policy Centre
- Discussion*
- 12.30                   *Lunch*



## Session II

### Lessons from the past? Insights from the 2004/07 enlargement round

13.30

#### *Chair*

Andrew O'ROURKE, Head of Enlargement Working Group, member of Executive Committee, IIEA

#### *Impulse-Presentations*

#### **Economic and financial challenges and benefits from enlargement**

Krisztina VIDA, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for World Economics, Budapest

#### **How has EU membership shaped foreign policy structures/attitudes?**

Sabina KAJNC, Research Fellow, Centre of International Relations, University of Ljubljana

#### **The EU's impact on social cohesion and regional development**

Liviu MURESAN, Executive President, European Institute for Risk, Security and Communication Management (EURISC), Bucharest

#### *Discussion*

15.30

Coffee Break

## Session III

### The functioning of the enlarged EU

16.00

#### *Chair*

Jan ROOD, Head of the Clingendael European Studies Programme, Netherlands Institute of International Relations, The Hague

#### **Effects of past enlargements on the EU's decision-making process**

Sebastian KURPAS, Head of Section and Research Fellow, CEPS

#### **Effects of past enlargements on the EU's Institutions**

Pierpaolo SETTEMBRI, Administrator, Council of the European Union

#### *A projection*

#### **What would a future enlargement of Turkey mean for the EU's institutions?**

Andrew O'ROURKE, Head of Enlargement Working Group, member of Executive Committee, IIEA

#### *Discussion*

18.00

end of 1<sup>st</sup> day



20.00                    **The role of research and media in the EU enlargement process**  
Dinner speech  
Julian OLIVER, Secretary-General, Fondation EurActiv, Brussels

### **Wednesday, 4 March 2009**

#### **Session IV                    Turkish insights on challenges and benefits in the EU enlargement process**

09.00                    *Chair*  
Gianni BONVICINI, Executive Vice President, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome, Member of TEPSA's Board

#### **Perspectives from academics and practitioners from Turkey**

Bulent OZCAN, EU Expert, Prime Ministry, Secretariat General for EU Affairs

Vural ÖGER, MEP, member of the EP's EU-Turkey Delegation, European Parliament

Aslihan TEKIN, Head of Brussels Office, Women Entrepreneurs Association of Turkey

Cengiz GÜNAY, Researcher, Austrian Institute for International Affairs, Vienna

#### *Discussion*

10.30                    Coffee Break

#### **Session V Round Table: Effects of Media and Communication Strategies on Turkey's Accession to the EU**

11.00                    *Chair*  
Dick LEONARD, European Voice/The Bulletin, Brussels

#### *Introductory speeches*

Maurice GUYADER, Public Relations Office, Information and communication Unit, Dir A – Enlargement Policy and communication, DG Enlargement, European Commission

Thomas GRUNERT, Head of Unit "Interparliamentary Delegations - European Countries", DG ExPo, General Secretariat of the European Parliament



Selda PAYDAK, Press & Information Manager, Delegation of the European Commission to Turkey

Nazlan ERTAN, EU Info Centre, Ankara

Gizem KOLBASI, Turkish Radio and Television Corporation

Guldener SONUMUT, Bureau Chief of NTV Brussels

13.00

**Closing remarks**

Krisztina VIDA, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for World Economics, Budapest

Atila ERALP, Director, Middle East Technical University (METU)

13.30

*Lunch*

14.30

end of conference