

MONTEUS Dossier No. 4

BA – Seminar: EU-Turkey Relations in Energy Cooperation

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Description of the Seminar

The seminar provides an introduction into the EU's and Turkish energy policies and EU-Turkey relations evaluating possible diverging geopolitical interests, priorities as well as common challenges of the energy market. As a result, the participants develop possible scenarios for future energy cooperation.

Background knowledge: EU-Turkey relations

Turkey has been a candidate country for EU membership since 1999, along with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2005), Montenegro (2010), Serbia (2012) and Albania (2014). Turkey's aspirations to join the European Community are however much older and stand for long, yet troubled relations with the EU. In a historic perspective, this follows the similarly close but unsteady relations of Turkey and the Ottoman Empire with today's EU member countries in earlier centuries.

The Beginning of EU-Turkey relations Turkey's official application for membership of the European Economic Community marks the beginning of formalized and close relations between Turkey and the Community in 1959. While today, in 2018, recent relations are under close scrutiny due to the latest developments within both the EU and Turkey, the picture of Turkey as a possible member state was far more positive at the early stage of the European Communities (see Document 1).

Document 1: Speech of Walter Hallstein 1963 in Ankara

**Walter Hallstein
12 September 1963, Ankara**

[...] Turkey is part of Europe. That is really the ultimate meaning of what we are doing today. It confirms in incomparably topical form a truth which is more than the summary expression of a geographical concept or of a historical fact that holds good for several countries. Turkey is part of Europe: and here we think first and foremost of the stupendous personality of Atatürk, whose work meets us at every turn in this country, and of the radical way in which he recast every aspect of life in Turkey on European lines. It is an event without parallel in the history of the influence exerted by the European culture and politics. I would even say that we sense in it a certain kinship with the most modern of European developments: the unification of Europe. [...]

Source: <http://aei.pitt.edu/14311/1/S77.pdf>.

Background knowledge: EU-Turkey relations in Energy Cooperation

Guaranteeing energy security is one of the most important challenges for today's societies. Import dependency on oil and natural gas are a fact of life not only for the European Union (EU) but also for Turkey. Turkey is becoming more and more important for the delivery of gas and oil to Europe. Especially since the crises in Ukraine, Europe's interest in an additional supply through Turkey is growing steadily. According to the plans of the Turkish government, the country would become the most important energy hub of the region.

The geographical position of the country is a big advantage: More than 70% percent of the worldwide oil and gas reserves are located in close proximity to Turkey. Thus, the country may hold a key position

in the distribution of oil and gas. While Turkey's accession process has been on hold an important question arising is how Turkey and the EU evaluate a strategical energy partnership not only with regard to gas supply security but also with regard to the harmonization of the electricity and renewable energy markets.

Document 2: Country Report 2018, chapter 15: Energy

Country Report 2018 Chapter 15: Energy

Turkey is moderately prepared in the area of energy. **Some progress** has been in this area, mainly on security of supply and the renewable energy sector. The Commission's 2016 recommendations remain valid. In the coming year, **Turkey should particular:**

1. Complete the gas market reform in line with the acquis, by setting out a legally binding plan and a timeline, including third party access to the transit network and the unbundling of activities;
2. Adopt its nuclear energy law in line with the acquis, including restructuring guarantee its full independence from anybody involved in developing nuclear energy;
3. Make progress transparent, cost-reflective and non-discriminatory tariffs for electricity and gas.

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