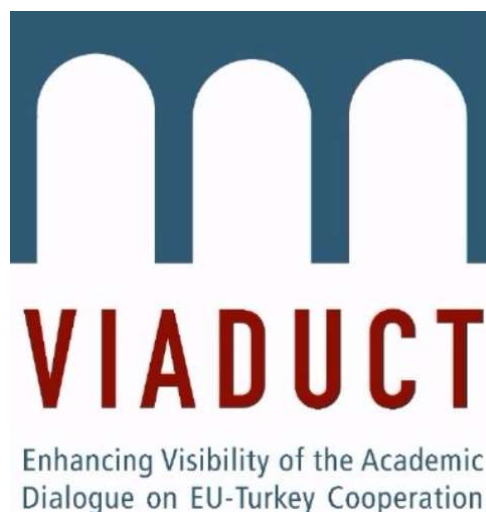




Dear VIADUCT Friends,

We are happy to share with you a brand new VIADUCT Newsletter.

In this **February 2020 Newsletter** you will find:

The **EDITORIAL** by Dr. Ebru Turhan (Turkish-German University)

NEWS from the VIADUCT network

The latest publications on EU-Turkey relations and the Future of Europe in the

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EDITORIAL

It's the Interests, Stupid!

For many decades the EU-Turkey dialogue has been resembling a rollercoaster ride: throughout the contemporary history,

On the one hand, the routinization of member states' unilateral vetoes has undermined the normative consistency of the EU's *acquis*

an era of intensified cooperation and rapprochement which was yet again followed by another period of disagreement and estrangement. The rollercoaster ride of EU-Turkey relations has mostly been a product of the **“norms versus interests dilemma”** which has become prominent in the overarching progression of the EU-Turkey relationship, in general, and in the evolution of Turkey’s EU accession process, in particular.

Interests prevail over norms in the continuous reformulation of the EU-Turkey relationship. For Turkey, the EU accession process has not predominantly been founded on an inherent and steady affiliation with European norms and rules. It has rather been a **“strategic goal”**, a motto frequently used by Turkish political elite at times when the urge to cooperate with the EU and its key member states in economic and/or foreign policy matters had become stronger. In a similar vein, for the EU and its member states, Turkey’s accession process has not been about a historic duty, or about reunification with a natural part of Europe; a rhetoric that was on the contrary evident not only in the accession process of the Central and Eastern European countries but also of the Western Balkans. Accordingly, the Turkish accession process was accelerated – even at the expense of normative concerns – mostly at times **when a convergence occurred between the strategic interests and preferences of Turkey, the EU and its key member states**. A rare exception to this pattern was witnessed during 2000-2004, when EU-Turkish convergence took place on both normative and utilitarian grounds.

The norms versus interests dilemma in the EU-Turkey dialogue has had **profound implications for the normative consistency of the EU’s *acquis* conditionality** as well.

with the EU *acquis* in several key chapters has not been rewarded with the launch of negotiation talks in those chapters. On the other hand, accession process-related components of the **March 2016 EU-Turkey Statement on the management of irregular migration influx to Europe** further impaired the normative consistency of the *acquis* conditionality at a time when Turkey unequivocally moved away from European norms and rules.

The **recent developments in Syria** and the subsequent decision of Ankara to open borders to allow irregular migration influx into the EU have further strengthened the already existing norms versus interests dilemma of the EU as a result of three developments. Firstly, the Turkish decision and its immediate externalities for the EU have pointed out the **unsustainability of EU efforts to externalize its migration governance**, and underlined its normative consequences, *inter alia* the instrumentalization of refugees as a foreign policy tool. Secondly, the humanitarian emergencies and latest developments in the Syrian province of Idlib have accentuated the **urgency of burden-sharing by the EU and the international community**. And, thirdly, Turkey’s *de facto* partial withdrawal from the EU-Turkey “deal” has illustrated the challenges as regards the **formulation and maintenance of horizontal forms of transactional network interactions between the EU and Turkey without the presence of a clear conditionality**, particularly in issue areas with reverse interdependence in favour of Turkey.

This undeniably brings along **new questions and challenges regarding the formulation of alternative forms of partnership between the EU and Turkey outside the accession framework** in the future, making the complicated outlook even more blurry.



Ebru Turhan

NEWS FROM THE VIADUCT NETWORK

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

VIADUCT Annual Conference "Bridge over Troubled Water: Researching and Teaching EU-Turkey Relations", 11-12 March 2020, Brussels



As the VIADUCT project has entered its final year of implementation, the project partners and interested public will meet in Brussels to wrap up three years of successful cooperation and joint activities on teaching and researching EU-Turkey relations at the VIADUCT Third Annual Conference "Bridge over Troubled Water", co-organised by CETEUS and TEPSA. On 12 March the conference will be open to the public and feature a high-level keynote speech and a roundtable discussion with leading scholars from Turkey and the EU.

[Register here](#)

Call for policy papers



VIADUCT seeks excellent contributions communicating research to non-academic audiences, particularly practitioners and policy makers. Manuscripts with a word limit of around 2,500 words should be submitted by 2 March 2020.

[Read more](#)

Call for student papers

VIADUCT is organizing a student paper competition that seeks excellent contributions on EU-Turkey relations and shall offer students the opportunity to gain experience with academic publishing. The deadline to submit papers is 15 April 2020.

[Read more](#)



Roundtable on Europe's Energy Future "Adding Fuel to the Fire: The Role of Energy in EU-Turkey Relations", 21 April 2020, Vienna



This panel discussion will reflect on the challenges to Europe's Energy security in general and on Turkey's potential role of an Energy Hub. As such, it assesses the state of play in economic policies both in Turkey and in the EU, considering the current tensions in the wake of conflicts

[Read more](#)

PAST ACTIVITIES



Webcast Mater's Thesis

The VIADUCT Webcast on “[How to write a master's thesis](#)” is online. In this webcast you can find answers, tips, and tricks to the following questions and issues: finding your topic, developing your research question, choosing your method, reviewing literature, and many more.

[Watch the video](#)

NEWS FROM VIADUCT RESEARCHERS

- **Meltem Muftuler-Bac (Sabanci University)** became a Visiting Scholar/Affiliated Faculty at the Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania for 2019-2020

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Muftuler-Bac, Meltem (2019), [European Neighbourhood Policy](#), in Oxford Encyclopedia on the European Union, edited by Finn Laursen, Oxford: Oxford University Press. DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.1082

Öniş, Ziya and Mustafa Kutlay (2019): [Reverse transformation? Global shifts, the core-periphery divide and the future of the EU](#), *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/14782804.2019.1708280

Šelo Šabić, Senada (2019), [\(Ir\)relevance of Croatian Experience for Further EU Enlargement](#), *Insight Turkey* Vol. 21 No. 2: 171-189

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Darius Ribbe

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