VIADUCT

Enhancing Visibility of the Academic Dialogue on EU-Turkey Cooperation

Dear VIADUCT Friends,

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

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

The EDITORIAL by Prof. Meltem Müftüler-Baç (Sabanci University)

NEWS from the VIADUCT network

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

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EDITORIAL

Turbulence in Turkey's relations with the EU: Drifting apart in a world of increased uncertainty and refugee flows

When Turkey and the EU adopted the refugee deal on 18 March 2016, it signalled

Nonetheless, while the first two years of the refugee deal worked well, Turkey was

ongoing accession process. The deal aimed to **curb illegal immigration** using the Turkish territory to cross over the Aegean sea to reach Greece, and other EU member states. The deal rests on the **recognition of Turkey as a safe third country** to which asylum seekers who have transited through Turkish territory could be returned. When the European Commission published its "EU Turkey Statement - One Year On" fact sheet, it noted that irregular migrants trying to reach European destinations was down by 97% in one year, and **Turkey turned out to be a reliable partner**. The European Council President Donald Tusk reiterated this position as "I would like to express our appreciation for the impressive work Turkey has been doing". However, multiple aspects of the deal, such as visa liberalization for Turkish nationals for short term stays in Schengen countries, remain unfulfilled. Despite the rocky relationship on the accession track, **Turkey and the EU seemingly cooperate on their common interests**, tackling illegal migration being one of these interests. According to the UNHCR, Turkey is hosting the highest number of refugees in the world, 4.1 million refugees, 3.7 million of which are of Syrian origin. Unexpectedly, Turkey found itself as a buffer between the Middle East and Europe for these people, and carrying the political, economic, financial burdens of hosting so many people with significant repercussions on Turkish stability.

A new turning point arrived in 2020, when on 3 March, the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan stated that **Turkey would no longer monitor the Turkish-EU borders** to prevent the flow of illegal migrants to European destinations. He claimed: "We will not close those doors ... Why? Because the European Union should keep its promises." Accordingly, this declaration was a testimony to the ongoing reservations that Turkey had towards its refugee deal with the EU, along with the unexpected consequences that Syrian refugees currently residing in Turkey are causing at domestic level. **Turkey no longer seems to feel obliged to abide by the conditions of its deal** on refugees negotiated and agreed with the European Union in 2016. This is an important development with significant implications on the future of the Turkish-EU refugee deal, but also highlighting the impact of the Syrian civil war leading to a serious migration crisis for the EU, on Turkish-EU relations along with

as agreed upon in the 2015 Readmission Agreement and the 2016 Turkey-EU statement. Turkey has insisted that "it would not implement the provisions that entered into force in October 2017 until the visa requirement for Turkish citizens travelling to the Schengen zone for a short stay has been lifted". **Turkey already has a bilateral readmission agreement signed with Greece in 2002** for the return of illegal migrants, and under the terms of the Refugee Statement, this bilateral agreement was taken over by Turkey's Readmission Agreement with the EU from 1 June 2016 onwards.

However, the Turkish government suspended the implementation of the bilateral agreement with Greece on 6 June 2018, when the Greek government did not extradite to Turkey some Turkish officers, suspected of involvement in the 2016 military take-over attempt, to Turkey. **Since 2018, Turkey is not implementing the bilateral readmission protocol with Greece.** Despite the suspension of the Greek-Turkish readmission agreement, the Turkish deal with the EU continued functioning. The Turkish government's resentment increased further in summer 2019. As a result, the Turkish government announced that it will be suspending the Readmission agreement and the Turkish obligations under the refugee deal. The Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mevlut Cavusoglu, declared on July 2019, "The readmission agreement and visa waiver were supposed to enter into force at the same time. We have therefore suspended the Readmission Agreement". While this declaration did not necessarily mean that the readmission agreement is dead, **it indicated the rocky road on which Turkey-EU statement is proceeding on.**

This is why the turn of events in March 2020 is critical. When the Turkish government declared it will not no longer be monitoring and closing its borders to Europe, a new flow of refugees from Turkey to Greece began, resulting in another border crisis. It is becoming increasingly clear that **the Turkish government is disillusioned with the conditions of its refugee deal** with the EU, while taking upon the huge responsibility of taking care of the Syrian refugees in Turkey. This current impasse over different facets of Turkey's relations with the EU is further complicating the ongoing transactional relationship. While the refugee deal is a common interest area, **neither Turkey nor**

the European Parliament acknowledged that "for years Turkey has shouldered a heavy burden on Europe's behalf for very little in return".

take this relationship to the next level.



Meltem Müftüler-Baç
Professor of International Relations and Jean Monnet chair, Sabanci University
Visiting Scholar/Affiliated Faculty at the Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania

NEWS FROM THE VIADUCT NETWORK

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

DEADLINE EXTENDED - VIADUCT Research Award

The aim of the VIADUCT Research Award is to recognise outstanding research in the fields of EU-Turkey relations and the Future of the EU: new forms of relations between the EU-27 and neighbouring countries with a focus on innovative methods in researching this subject. The VIADUCT Research Awards invite nominations of junior and senior researchers from different geographical and disciplinary backgrounds. The award will be given out in the following category: **Migration, Identity and Globalisation ('People') Awards.**

Deadline: 31 May 2020.

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TEPSA - German Pre-Presidency Conference "Shaping the Future of Europe", Online, 25-26 June 2020

TEPSA and its German member, Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP), will organise the **German EU Pre-Presidency Conference "Shaping the Future of Europe"** on **25-26 June 2020**. In the midst of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis, Germany will assume the Presidency of the EU Council on 1 July 2020.

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In view of the COVID-19 pandemic and unfortunate cancellation of the Brussels excursion of the PROTEUS project, this seminar will consist of six online lectures by experts on this year's topic "The future cooperation of EU27 and UK". The first lecture was held by Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wessels, who gave an introductory on the European Council and a first insight into the legal aspects of Brexit.

Read more

UPCOMING EVENT - TRACK & University of Cologne: "The European Union and the Corona pandemic: the European Council as crisis manager", Online, 17 June 2020

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, this event will take place online. Wolfgang Wessels (TRACK & University of Cologne) will contribute a lecture on the role of the European Council in the Corona-crisis to the lecture series of the University of Cologne for guest students.

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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS - COMOS project: "#Future of EUrope: What can the European Union learn from federal systems"

The Cologne Monnet Association for EU-Studies (COMOS) calls for abstracts for an edited volume project on "#FutureofEurope. What can the European Union learn from federal systems."

Deadline: 30 June 2020

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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS - Master of European and International Affairs (MEIA)

CETEUS and colleagues from TEPSA institutes offer courses for European Students at a unique University in Istanbul. With its multidisciplinary approach the Master of "European and International Affairs" (MEIA) at the Turkish-German University combines subjects of politics, international relations, economics and law. Information about the application process will be announced soon.

Read more



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS - TEPSA: EU@Work Seminar on EU Affairs

Funded by the Europe for Citizens programme of the European Commission, this 4-day seminar will offer the opportunity to 15 **undergraduate students** (Bachelor students, high-school students and recent graduates) an opportunity to gain first-hand insights from researchers, EU practitioners, policymakers and officials **on the existing rules and practices within the EU institutions and on the state of play of the main EU policies.** The seminar will take place in Brussels, at the heart of EU politics, **from Tuesday 29**

Deadline 26 June 2020.

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PAST ACTIVITIES



VIADUCT - Annual Conference Remote Video Contributions

The VIADUCT Final Conference, organised by consortium partners TEPSA and CETEUS, was due to be held in Brussels on March 12 2020. The conference, entitled “Bridge Over Troubled Water: Researching & Teaching EU-Turkey Relations”, aimed at exploring innovative ways and new agendas for teaching and researching EU-Turkey relations. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, unfortunately, this event was cancelled.

In order to allow the discussion to still take place in lieu of the Brussels conference, our keynote speakers, political science scholars and legal academics, have presented the VIADUCT Working Groups’ results in video format. Be part of the discussion, exchange your views, and listen to the findings of three years of research and teaching activities!

Watch the videos



Public Lecture by Prof. Wolfgang Wessels: "The European Council: Towards a new institutional reality?", Brussels, 6 March 2020

Wolfgang Wessels (TRACK & University of Cologne) contributed to the CEPS Ideas Lab on 6 March 2020 in Brussels. Besides, Luuk van Middelaar (Leiden University), Michael Karnitschnig (Secretariat General, European Commission) and Christine Neuhold (TRACK & Maastricht University) discussed the power position of the European Council within the institutional architecture of the EU.

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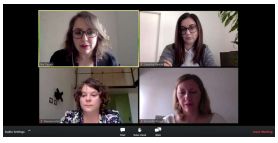

TEPSA Debate on "Euroscepticism in Italy in the Midst of the COVID-19 Crisis"

The event took place on Wednesday 13 May from 11:00 to 12:30 (Brussels time) via Zoom. The aim of the debate was to shed light on the state of play of Euroscepticism in Italy in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to understand how Eurosceptic parties in the country have confronted this crisis to further delegitimize the EU in Italy.

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NEWS FROM VIADUCT RESEARCHERS



Jean Marcou, Professor from Sciences Po Grenoble and prolific author, who runs the Master programme on Integration in the Mediterranean and Middle East, was interviewed recently on the topic of Turkey's new allies by journalist and historian Dominique Vidal.

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Hopp, L. and Wessels, W. (2020), "Europäischer Rat", in Weidenfeld, Werner, Wessels, Wolfgang, Funda Tekin (eds.), *Europa von A bis Z*, Wiesbaden: Springer VS, pp. 1-6

Wessels, W. (2020), ***Narratives Matter: In Search of Partnership Strategy***. IPC-Mercator Policy Brief

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Alaranta, T. (2020), ***Turkey in Africa: Chasing markets and power with a neo-Ottoman rhetoric***. FIIA Briefing Paper

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Heinikoski, S. (2020), ***COVID-19 bends the rules on internal border controls: Yet another crisis undermining the Schengen acquis?***. FIIA Briefing Paper

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Mühlberger, W. and Ruohomäki, O. (2020), ***Idlib's crucible moment: The cost of jihadist proxies and geopolitical tensions***. FIIA Comment

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Mühlberger, W. and Alaranta, T. (eds). (2020), ***Political narratives in the Middle East and North Africa: Conceptions of order and perceptions of instability***. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing

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Marcou, J. and Çelikpala, M. (2020), "**Regard sur les relations turco-russes: De la rivalité dans un monde bipolaire à la coopération dans un espace eurasiatique?**". in *Les Dossiers de l'IFEA, série: La Turquie aujourd'hui*

Marcou, J. (2020), "Du conflit syrien au conflit Libyen: le positionnement complexe de la Turquie au Proche-Orient et en Méditerranée orientale". in *Diplomatie* N°103, pp. 72-77

Marcou, J. and Zhuk, K. (2020), "**Biélorussie, Turquie: l'Union européenne à l'heure des États pivots**". in *The Conversation*

Öniş, Z. and Kutlay, M. (2020), "The Global Political Economy of Right-wing Populism: Deconstructing the Paradox". in *The International Spectator*

Kerényi, A. and Müller, J. (2020), *"Sunshine and shadows in the FinTech world; Sunce i sjenke u FinTech svijetu"*. in BANKAR 13: 48. pp. 54-63

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In this issue we are happy to introduce:

University of Ljubljana
Faculty of Social Sciences
Centre of International Relations

IPRI
INSTITUTO PORTUGUÊS DE RELAÇÕES INTERNACIONAIS
UNIVERSIDADE NOVA DE LISBOA

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To know more about VIADUCT and its activities you can contact the Project Manager
Anke Schönlau

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