

***Slovenian media reporting on Turkey:  
Timeline 01/11/09 – 01/05/10***

**Istanbul, May 2010**

## **1. SHORT PREFACE ON SLOVENIA-TURKEY RELATIONS**

### **1.1. Images of Turkey in Slovenia's public sphere**

Turkey and Slovenia are sharing a history of entanglement for about 500 years now. The relations have been well-balanced and stable. But frankly, there is not much knowledge of Turkey, or Turkish culture, history, arts and recent developments among many Slovenians. This is most visibly shown in lack of Turkic studies at any of the universities, as well as absence of Turkish language lessons. In fact the whole Turkic speaking world (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, etc.) has been in the 'grey sphere' of understanding world politics in Slovenia for some quite long time. In contrary, business ties between those two countries seem to be developing rapidly, since many Slovenian companies (mainly manufacturers and heavy industry) are moving at least some parts of their production plants to Turkey, as well as selling Slovenian final products and goods in this vast and rapidly growing market. There are also many Slovenians who choose Turkey as a summer holidays destination, stating that Turkey's south coast is more welcoming and offering better value for Euro than Croatia or Greece do.

As economical cooperation has been long on its way, we are in anticipation of political, cultural and educational exchange, since we have been long enough in similar integration streams.

### **1.2. Historical insight**

#### ***1.2.1. Slovenia's doorstep: Ottoman Empire and Balkan region***

In late 15<sup>th</sup> century Ottoman Empire ruled almost all Balkan Peninsula, between 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century, and Ottoman army made constant raids into nowadays Croatia and Slovenia. Time of Ottoman government (who also gave Balkan Peninsula its name) represents the longest period of Balkans' unity, and simultaneously denoted its political order and economic development. Myth that Ottoman Empire suspended natural development of Balkans, and its disconnection with other parts of Europe was created in eyes of Balkan's nationalists. In contrary of that general thinking, Balkan farmer paid less taxes than his Western counterpart, Balkan was also integrated into streams of renaissance (which Orthodox Church did not recognize) and followed European development due to Ottomans and there is little evidence of forced religion conversion, there were no interference into life in Christian community, and even Balkan nations contributed to Ottoman culture. There's a presumption that if they would be so unsatisfied in Ottoman state they

could revolted, because they would outnumber Ottoman forces (Todorova 2001, Stavrianos 2000).

Slovenia was never part of Ottoman Empire, but people living there have always looked across the border with fear and disregard, filled with Vienna's propaganda about prehistoric customs of Turkish (Asian) nations. So in this context one of most influential novels titled *Martin Krpan* took place. Main character is the mighty peasant, who battles grotesque Turkish giant who is trying to conquer Vienna; and at the end he singlehandedly defeats the giant, using clever methods, even though several times smaller than him. It is hard to avoid the symbolism. Other novels include titles like *Janičar* or *Jurij Kozjak slovenski janičar*, describing life of young Slovenian males, captured and taken into Ottoman army. The word 'janičar' derives from Turkish *yeniçeri* (new soldier) – elite army member, or personal guard of Ottoman sultans.

In that context is impressive, that last name (family name) **Turk**<sup>1</sup> is ranked 12<sup>th</sup> most common on the scale of all last names in Slovenia, reaching back in early 15<sup>th</sup> century (SURS 2010).

### **1.2.2. Slovenia within Yugoslavia: representation of migrant workers as agents of Turkey and its customs**

Slovenia's population of two million also consists of 2.4% of Muslim believers (SURS 2002). But Islam consolidated in Slovenia as late as in the end of 60's and 70's when large proportions of migrant workers came from rural parts of that time Socialist republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, receiving free vocational learning, scholarships, good housing, and other benefits in order to build 'friendship and unitary' among brotherly nations. But often criticized for their lack of integration, they slowly slip into marginality. For those migrants from southern part of Socialist federative republic of Yugoslavia prevailed unitary expression 'Bosnians', even though those people originated either from Macedonia, Kosovo, or Serbia (Kalčić 2006). Other prejudicial terms were: 'Southereners', 'People from down-low', from nineties on 'Čefurji' (it is believed that word 'Čefur' derives from Turkish term 'Cühut', or Arab 'Kāfir'), or even 'Turks', characterizing Muslim denotation of Western Balkans states, and connected them with supposed Turkish ancestors. Some extremists (although just a handful), viewed them as an extended hand of 'Turkishness'.

### **1.2.3. Recent developments**

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<sup>1</sup> It is worthwhile to mention that **Danilo Türk** is the name of current President of Slovenia.

In time of 'global financial crisis', the prevailing thought of many in Slovenia is (and of course other Europeans), that Europe should become a more contested category, and that Slovenia should consolidate its identity towards Balkan nations, as Slovenia lies on outskirts of Europe, and shares border with non-EU states.

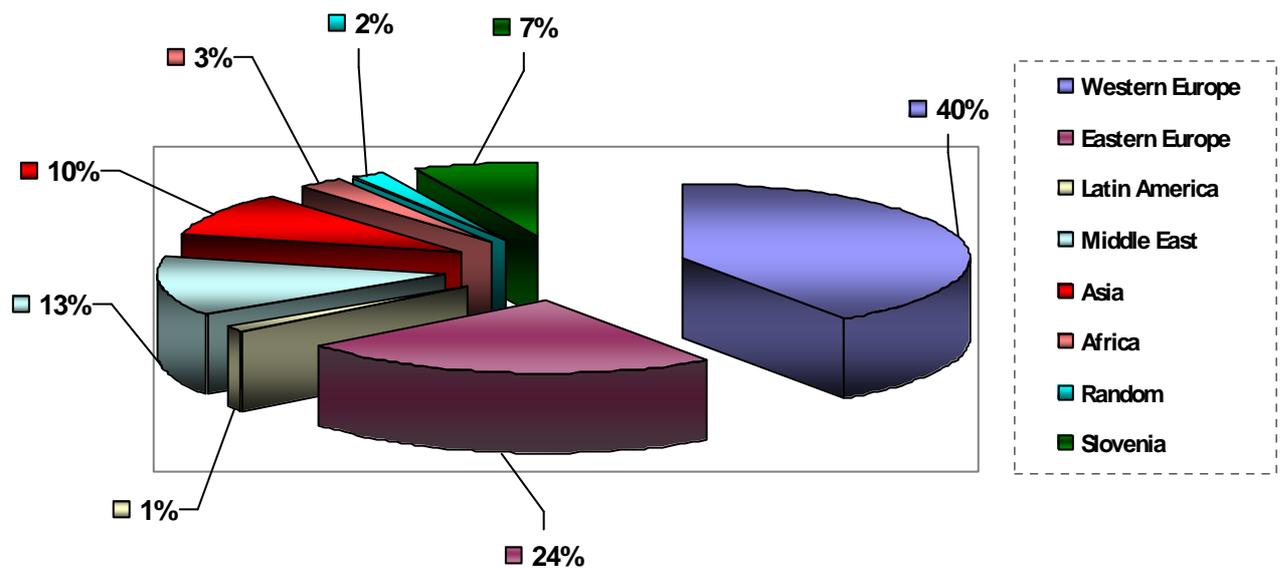
The truth is, that status of 'real' Europeanness was not acknowledged to Eastern Europeans, but now (including Slovenia) these states are part of EU and their (our) 'Europeanness' seem to be something completely natural.

### **1.3. On media representation of foreign news**

Media reporting of foreign news is the most important source of information regarding actual world news for the public; therefore it represents the image of the world. Enormous number of events happens each day. Individual can take part just in some, meanwhile majority happen out of our direct perception. But the picture of the world presented in media is inevitably deformed – news in media cannot cover all the events in all countries, that's why are the people, countries and developments (sometimes) represented very asymmetrical.

Image of the world created by media is not monolithic – quantity of images is in proportion with number of media. Most of the media is acting on the audience from national environment and it is focusing on the interests of the audience's country.

**Chart 1.1.: Geographical structure of news – geographical regions as source of news about world's agenda in newspapers *Delo* and *Dnevnik*.**



Source: Bejek 2006

## 2. EMPIRICAL INTRODUCTION

### 2.1. Introduction to researched media

The main subject will be of course browsing through web pages of Slovenia's most important press houses. In this chapter I will try to uncover how Slovenian media is representing Turkey. These media consist of:

- **'Radio-televizija Slovenija'** (eng. 'Radio-television Slovenia' in resuming text RTVSLO): state owned radio and television house, and by far the biggest, funded by subscriptions, mandatory for every household which has connection to electricity current. According to Law passed on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2005 Radio-television Slovenia "is a public institution of specific cultural and national importance performing public service in the field of radio and television activities ... with the intention of fulfilling democratic, social and cultural needs of the citizens of Republic of

Slovenia, Slovenians abroad, Slovenian national minorities in Italy, Austria, Hungary, Italian and Hungarian national communities in the Republic of Slovenia" (ZRTVS-1, article 1). It runs Slovenia's first multimedia portal, rtslo.si.

- Newspaper '**Delo**' (eng. 'Labor') is one of major daily newspapers in Slovenia.
- Newspaper '**Dnevnik**' (eng. 'The daily'), with Delo controlling most of the (printed) newspapers' market.
- Broadcasting and production house '**Pop TV**' is biggest private owned media in Slovenia. Its website 24ur.com (eng. '24 hours') is top rated considering visits per day among all websites in Slovenia. 24ur is also title of their evening news, which has the largest attendance.

## **2.2. Limitations of research**

Articles researched were limited to online editions, which basically means that I could get access to all articles published in printed versions of Delo and Dnevnik, but I have not taken into account evening news from Pop TV, and RTVSLO. I was instead using only posted articles, which are none the less summaries or in some cases transcripts of those news.

Also there was a difficulty of finding appropriate literature in language understandable to me.

## **2.3. Websites**

All press houses mentioned above have set up internet based archives of every news, published weather on early or evening news (Radio-television Slovenia, Pop TV), or in daily newspaper (Delo, Dnevnik). Portals are publicly open, so you do not have to have a special account, being a member or paying a subscription to view news. So from that point of view my research could be quite successful, even though I do not have access to printed media.

## **2.4. Slovenian (digital) media reporting on Turkey**

To have a representative pattern, I have taken into account news considering Turkey that was published within last six months time, from 1.11.2009 to 1.5.2010.<sup>2</sup> Published in Slovenia's largest media with best foreign policy redactions Slovenia has so far. News that were mostly left out, were consisting

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<sup>2</sup> Through all the text I'll be using date format used in Slovenia: **dd.mm.yyyy** (or d.m.yyyy). Although Turkey uses slightly different format: dd/mm/yyyy.

of either too bizarre reports (just couple of them were left in) from half-verified sources, sport reports (e.g. Turkish clubs in Champions league, or national football team), or news were Turkey had little role, or was just mentioned.

**Table 2.1.: All articles related to Turkey: Website of Radio-television of Slovenia (url: <http://www.rtv slo.si>).**

*Timeline 1.11.2009 – 1.5.2010*

Field	Title	Date
World report	“Boycott all Swiss goods!”	2.12.2009
	Turkish court out-casts pro-Kurd party	12.12.2009
	Israel and Turkey brighten up their relationship, but on the shaky foundations	14.1.2010
	Buried alive because talking with boys	5.2.2010
	Explosion took life of 17	24.2.2010
	Voting on the genocide angers Turkey	5.3.2010
	Earthquake demolished Turkish villages	8.3.2010
	Sweden ratifies Turkish genocide over Armenians	12.3.2010
	Going abroad for in vitro fertilization? Not any more, says Turkey	15.3.2010
	1.5 million Armenian souls break the silence of 95 years	24.4.2010
European Union	Merkel for partnership, Erdogan for membership	29.3.2010
	Will Turkey pay billions for the displaced Bulgarians?	6.1.2010
Culture	Turkey's cultural peaks in light of European Capital of Culture 2010	17.1.2010
Other	Turkish 'prince of pop' Tarkan in trouble because of drugs	26.2.2010

**Table 2.2.: All articles related to Turkey: Website of newspaper Delo (url: <http://www.delo.si>).**

*Timeline 1.11.2009 – 1.5.2010*

Field	Title	Date
World report	Turkey calls to boycott of the Swiss banks	2.12.2009
	And then came the Turk	8.12.2009
	In search of lost friendship	9.12.2009
	Is peace on Caucasus closer?	15.2.2010
	Prime minister's blow to the army	23.2.2010
	Seven Turkish officers imprisoned	24.2.2010
	Another 18 soldiers under suspicion of conspiracy	26.2.2010
	Turkish president calms the public	27.2.2010
	Armenians commemorate anniversary of massacres	24.4.2010
European Union	Long way from Bosphorus to Brussels	23.11.2009
	Merkel arrived to Turkey	29.3.2010
Other	Hiddink head of Turkish squad?	15.2.2009
	Turkey is a country where TV is reigning"	30.3.2010
	Queen of Turkish pop music	29.3.2010

**Table 2.3.: All articles related to Turkey: Website of newspaper Dnevnik (url: <http://www.dnevnik.si>).**

*Timeline 1.11.2009 – 1.5.2010*

Field	Title	Date
World report	Bulgaria could demand reparation for Balkan wars	6.1.2010
	Bulgaria withdraws announced blockade of Turkey	8.1.2010
	New friends from EU's periphery	14.1.2010
	Turkish minister appeals Muslims to close down accounts in Swiss banks	12.2.2010
	Seven Turkish officers, alleged of coup d'état already in detention	24.2.2010
	Instead of 'enjoying' retirement, Turkish officers ended up in prison	24.2.2010
	Because of resolution, Turkey withdraws ambassador from the US	5.3.2010
	Armenians caused conflict between Turkey and the US	6.3.2010

	Swedish parliament has characterized massacre of Armenians as a genocide	12.3.2010
	Angela Merkel called Turkey to open up airports and harbors for Cyprus	29.3.2010
	Proposal about changing of nuclear fuel is still to be negotiated for	21.4.2010
	Armenians massively commemorate anniversary of massacres: between 1915 and 1917 estimated 1,5 million Armenians were killed	24.4.2010
Other	Restless ground in Turkey: in an earthquake at least 51 died	8.3.2010
	Fashion show in Turkey: Models covered from head to toes displaying the newest swimsuit designs	26.4.2010

**Table 2.4.: All articles related to Turkey: Website of media Pop TV (url: <http://24ur.com>).**

*Timeline 1.11.2009 – 1.5.2010*

Field	Title	Date
World report	19 dead miners	11.12.2009
	Another political crisis threatens Turkey	11.12.2009
	13 dead in a mine	24.2.2010
	Shaking lasted for about a minute	8.3.2010
	Up to three years imprisonment for artificial insemination	15.3.2010
	Commemoration of genocide, recognized by UN and 20 countries	24.4.2010
Other	They buried their daughter for socializing with boys?	5.2.2010
	Divorced because he is father to only one of the twins	9.1.2010

### 3. ANALYSIS OF GIVEN RESULTS

#### 3.1. Schematic review

Table 3.1.: Number of articles according to field of reporting (all press houses combined).

Theme	Armenian genocide	Failed coup d'état	1915 Bulgarians displacement	Other
Number of articles	10	6	3	29
Percentage (%)	20,8	12,5	6,25	60,45

Table 3.2.: Reporting on Turkey by date. At least one article published from one of the press houses.

November 2009						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2009						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2010						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2010						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2010						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2010						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Key:



February 2010													
1		2		3		4		5		6		7	
8		9		10		11		12		13		14	
15		16		17		18		19		20		21	
22		23		24		25		26		27		28	

March 2010													
1		2		3		4		5		6		7	
8		9		10		11		12		13		14	
15		16		17		18		19		20		21	
22		23		24		25		26		27		28	
29		30		31									

April 2010													
1		2		3		4		5		6		7	
8		9		10		11		12		13		14	
15		16		17		18		19		20		21	
22		23		24		25		26		27		28	
29		30											

Key:

 Radio-televizija Slovenija

 Pop TV

 Delo

 Dnevnik

#### 4. FURTHER THINKING INSTEAD OF CONCLUSION

News from Turkey did not receive as much attention as news from US, Western Europe (or EU), Russia and China, Japan, Korean peninsula, and countries of former Yugoslavia. But surely Turkey received a lot more attention than most of Asia, Africa, South America, and of course Oceania. As mentioned before, cultural, historical and linguistic bonds, makes daily news floating.

As it is shown from the tables, there was a lot of reporting concentrated on 24<sup>th</sup> of February, 8<sup>th</sup> of March, as well as 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of March, and 24<sup>th</sup> of April. The headlines in that timeline were mostly about declaration of Armenian genocide, anniversary of genocide, and failed coup d'état. There was pretty much absence of news covering Angela Merkel and Recep Tayyip Erdogan's meeting, which surely had more importance for Turkey's accession to EU, than capturing retired army officials.

We can find a lot of one sided reports, showing the weaker side of Turkish politics, rather than introduce some positive developments that would make Turkey look better in eyes of average Slovenian reader, as well as educate him to some extent.

Let us point out some of the highlights that potentially generate very negative feelings:

- **Coup d'état** – lack of civilian control over the army, army as contested category.
- **The word 'genocide'** – automatically recalls images of World War II.
- **Displaced Bulgarians** – word refugee is followed by hostility towards the aggressor (in this case Turkey, even though this events took place in times of Ottoman Empire).

This kind of representation of country in media creates the feeling that these events were happening not so long ago, and are happening here and now, instead almost hundred years ago, on the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Other news consisted of natural or mining accidents, just one (Delo) mentioned Istanbul as capital of Europe, but only in one topic. The more in depth research articles are missing.

##### 4.1. Just for consideration: the phenomena of users' comments on topics

When news sites after years of hanging back, embraced idea of allowing readers to post comments, the near-universal assumption was that anyone could weigh in and remain anonymous. But now the idea is under attack from several directions, and journalists more than ever, are questioning whether

anonymity should be given on news sites. The debate over anonymity is entwined with the question of giving more weight to comments from some readers than others, based in a part on how highly other readers regard them. For example Wikipedia users can earn increasing editing points by gaining the trust of other editors, especially when their reviews are posted on Amazon.com (Pérez-Peña 2010).

Why is this important to us? All researched sites enable readers' comments on every topic. And commenting topics is gaining really massive popularity, and in most of the times dashboard beneath the news serves as a field for bilious clashes between 'ideological' opponents. As I found out reports on Turkey can become fertile ground for the xenophobic and retrospective block, which uses every negative report on Turkey as confirmation of their assumptions: Turkey and EU are not compatible.

In many cases comments were way astray from headline, but they were very inductive – buried girl (see appendix) raised much of attention in Slovenia, and waken up antagonists claiming, that these kinds of values have no spaces within Europe, but at the same time forgetting about even more bizarre deeds in our close neighborhood or even in their own home yard. Other would be of course Christianity-Islam polarization, since many Slovenians still think Turkish secularism of some kind of Trojan horse, and are suspicious about secularism in countries with more than 50% of Muslim population. And this puts us to the very beginning – problem of being ignorant about the history, for example ex-Soviet Central Asian states, which are secular as well. This was again demonstrated in coverage of 'Armenian genocide' (Slovenian press unitarily uses word 'genocide', even though Slovenian house of representatives has not sign any declaration characterizing these events as a 'genocide'). Even though these events are remaining well hidden from most of Slovenian public, and was shown in comments, users automatically abused this subject to make divisions between good and evil, European Christianity and Oriental Islam. There was not much of a debate considering essence of the problem, just extensive generalization.

Of course this paper is just a general outline, which conducts further thinking, about representations of states ready to join European family, but in media coverage they are basically left on the banks of the third world (according to the reporting styles). It can also serve for more in depth study of relationship between two countries and image that is generated by foreign reporting among broader audience.

## 5. REFERENCES

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## 6. APPENDIX

### 6.1. Appendix 1.1.: Some translated articles from Radio-television Slovenia's website.

#### **Turkey's cultural peaks in light of European Capital of Culture 2010**

**Istanbul 17<sup>th</sup> of January: With presentation of highlights of Turkey's all traditional cultures and ethnic minorities, they've opened ECC 2010.**

Slovenian minister of culture Majda Širca was also attending the opening ceremonies, and underlined that the whole celebrations and following programs are sending message that country is prepared for the dialogue and cooperation between all nations living in Turkey.

Besides all Turkey's high officials there were also numerous delegations of all other ministers of culture from southeast Balkans and other European countries. According to Širca, Turkey showed great effort, demonstrated that is ready to go shoulder by shoulder with other European states.

She also demonstrated big amount of capital invested into the adaptation of different monuments, all year round program, and of course promotion, because Turkey is fully aware that will profit from the advertisement.

**Link: [Kulturni vrhunci Turčije odprli EPK 2010](#)**

#### **Israel and Turkey brighten up their relationship, but on the shaky foundations**

**They used to be big allies**

**Ankara, 14<sup>th</sup> Of January 2010: Office of Israel's PM Benjamin Netanjahu has sent regrets to Turkey and expressed hopes that both countries will continue their friendship. Ankara concurred.**

Deputy foreign minister Dani Ajalon called for a pleading Turkish ambassador Ahmet Oguz Celikkol to express protest about Turkish TV series which is showing the brutality of the Mosad members. The meeting was rather unpleasant for the ambassador, he had to sit on a tiny sofa, deputy minister refused shaking hands, speaking only in Hebrew, and besides that he ordered Turkish flag to be removed from the table. All television teams were called to the spot.

Because of that incident Ankara immediately demanded the apology, so they sent a letter to Prime Minister Netanjahu, where they've stated that Israeli protest was legitimate, but it should be mediated in a diplomatic and

acceptable manner. Ajalon finally announced, that in the future he'll be explaining his views more tactful.

### **Ankara threatened with recall of the ambassador**

That made Ankara even more angry, Turkish president Abdullah Gül has threatened that he will recall ambassador in Israel, unless Jewish state will not officially apologies itself until Wednesday evening. Apology was eventually made, and letter was posted to Ankara, Turkish Prime minister Recep Tayyipi Erdogan accepted it. "We received the answer we have been waiting for," he replied.

In the letter Ajalon has written, that he had no intentions of degrading Turkish ambassador, and he is sending deepest regrets for what he done, and for all the understanding of the situation.

According to allegations TV series showed Israelis as criminals

Turkish TV series, which caused undiplomatic Israeli protest, is showing Turkish secret agents, who infiltrate to the Israeli diplomatic mission to save a Turkish boy, kidnapped by the Israeli secret service Mosad. According to Israeli foreign ministry that series is showing "Israel and Jews as child thieves and war criminals".

Monday's happenings on the Israeli foreign ministry have straightened tensions between old allies, which have derived from Israeli offensive in Gaza year ago, and strongly criticized by Ankara. Turkey was for long years Israel's closest friend among Muslim countries, countries have developed strong economic and military ties.

**Link: Izrael in Turčija zgladila odnose, a na trhlih temeljih**

## **Will Turkey pay billions for the displaced Bulgarians?**

### **Bulgaria threatens with block of Turkey's path to EU**

**Sofia, 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2010: Bulgaria is demanding 14 billion Euros of compensations for the displaced fellow citizens from the west side of Bosphorus, area, which came under Turkish control in 1923.**

If Turkey will not show political will to pay for the damages to the refugees 97 years ago, Bulgaria (as an EU member), will block Ankara's talks with the European union.

Bulgarian minister without portfolio Božidar Dimitrov in charge of the agency of Bulgarians worldwide, has told to the Bulgarian evening news: "Turkey can easily pay the amount, nevertheless it is a 16<sup>th</sup> biggest economy."In the interview minister has mentioned that Bulgarian government estimates

damage for more hundred thousand displaced Bulgarians on 14 billions of Euros.

### **Sultanate was exiling, republic has conquered**

Ottoman Empire has 1913, between Balkan wars, displaced majority of Bulgarian population from the broad hinterland of Istanbul, which lived mixed with Turkish. Ten years later, then already Kemal Atatürk's republican Turkey conquered western Bosphorus bank, and it became integral part of Ottoman successor's territory with Lausanne treaty. Two years later refugees gained the right to reparations, but it was never paid to them.

Bulgarian Prime minister Bojko Borisov will put this controversial question on the agenda on scheduled visit to Turkey this month. Commission has not given any comments on that case, nor did Ankara.

### **Going abroad for in vitro fertilization? Not any more, says Turkey**

**Ankara, 15<sup>th</sup> of March: In Turkey in vitro fertilization is illegal, but the new jurisdiction forbids Turkish women that kind of procedure to be done in a foreign country. Penalty for this kind of act: 1-3 years imprisonment.**

Women who could not become pregnant by nature, or did not have a partner, they could find a donator in a foreign country. Doctors and lawyers are pointing out, that it is not obvious how the government will force the law into being.

### **Child must know who about the father**

The document says that clinic, doctor or a patient, who are stimulating usage of the foreign semen banks, will be subdued to law, and denounced to public prosecutors, and will have to defend them in front of court. Ministry of health has underlined their statements, saying that every child has the right to know who her or his father or grandfather is. Conception with help of the donator does not enable this option.

"That's a big leap backward," says Ismail Mete Itil, head of the Turkish association of gynecologists and obstetricians. . "The law should be changed, regarding new possibilities which are offered to women by new technologies, but the ministry did quite the opposite. They are not fully aware of the consequences of this decision."

### **The discussion was brought up by the famous actress**

Itil have also added, that number of Turkish women went on a in vitro fertilization abroad was relatively small, round hundred a year. But he is afraid of consequences this suppression will have on other people, for example mixed couples

This question reached its turmoil last year, when one of most famous actresses Guner Ozkul revealed, that she has with a help of the Danish donator gave a birth to a healthy daughter, who is 5 months old.

**Prime minister's encourages women to have at least three children**

Association of women's rights thinks that suppression is reflection of governing party, which is devoted to reinforce traditional family values. In 2004 party tried to criminalized fornication, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has publicly called women to have at least three children.

In Turkey there is punishment threat for act which are pretty 'innocent' for the Western standards, for example insulting turkishness, taking part at the protest, or showing even minimal sympathy to the Kurdistan Workers' Party.

## 6.2. Appendix 1.2.: Some translated articles from Dnevnik's website.

### **Bulgaria denounced blockade of Turkey**

**Sofia, 8<sup>th</sup> of January: Bulgaria will not set up any other conditions considering supporting Turkish membership in EU in case of billions of Euros compensation for displaced Bulgarians in Ottoman times.**

Prime Minister Bojko Borisov has lashed minister of Bulgarians worldwide Božidar Dimitrov, who has over the past days publicly pointed out eventual blockade of Turkish membership if Ankara will not pay 14 billion in reparation for the left property of Bulgarians 97 years ago. According to Borisov, words of minister Dimitrov do not represent official opinion of the government.

Open bilateral questions among two countries have nothing to do with Turkish membership process whatsoever. If Dimitrov goes beyond his instructions once again, he will have to leave. "If you announce such thing without further knowledge of prime minister, you've directly challenged t prime minister and caused a problem," said Borisov.

Minister Dimitrov is himself a descendant of Bulgarian refugees of 1913, has already confessed in remorse, that he acted rashly about those announcements. For now he stays at the minister post. But the affair affected badly official government's official spokesman Veselin Ninov. At the moment he supported Dimitrov saying that Dimitrov's words are official, and recognized by the government.

### **New friends from EU's periphery**

**14.1.2010:** Once enemies, but today closest strategic partners. Turkey and Russia have yesterday stepped on a path of deeper strategic relations, and once and for all left behind troublesome history of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, when Russian and Ottoman Empire were involved in dozens of bloodsheds.

Countries on the periphery of EU are improving ties, ever since cold war ended. They are keen to put them on a higher level with setting up intergovernmental council for cooperation.

#### **South and Blue stream**

That's what Turkish and Russian prime minister have dealt in two day visit in Russia with president Dmitri Medvedjev and prime minister Vladimir Putin. Ankara and Moscow are devoted to reinforce their position in energetic field. Turkey would like to strengthen it's position as center for energetic, and Russia with it's pipeline South stream is representing natural partner as project Nabucco does not move from the dead end. A top of that, Turkey can profit

from project Blue stream. It will connect Black sea city Samsun with Mediterranean port of Cheyhan, and would bring Russian gas close to European users. Or maybe not just to them. They want to connect Blue stream to Israel.

Turkish interest to take over European logistical and power Olympus, has gained much of attention in Moscow. Russia wants with the spreading of pipeline network retain the position of biggest European suppliers of energy. Turkish influence and knowledge of territories of Caucasus and Central Asia represent big opportunity for making corporate business.

Wedding of convenience has evolved into peaceful marriage. Russia is Turkey's biggest trade partner. Yearly trading amount is 40 billion dollars, two-thirds represent Turkish import. Trading will grow and grow, but things will become more complicated when Russia will compete with the EU even more, turkey on the other hand will try to gain a full membership.

### **Armenia and Azerbaijan**

Moscow and Ankara do not want to exploit the relationship between countries just for budget surpluses. Turkey hopes, that Russia with its influence would help breaking the ice in Caucasus. For starters Turkey wants some good words by Azerbaijan's president Ilham Aliyev. Relationship between brother nations has become tense after Ankara and Erevan signed protocols on normalization of relationship. Official Baku is indignant that Ankara and Armenia set up diplomatic ties and opened the border, before they solved status of occupied Azerbaijan province of Mountain Karabakh.

Since last autumn Azerbaijan is looking towards Moscow and Gazprom, to whom it would like to sold large stack of its gas reserves. Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan has tried to calm things down with guarantee that relations with Armenia will not improve until Mountain Karabakh question will not be solved. Those words angered Armenian president Serge Sarkasijan, who has already threatened with dissolving the protocols. During that time dust is laying on the ratification of Turkish-Armenian agreement. Ratification process is gaining new powers in both parliaments with statement of the Armenian constitutive court, that protocols do not violate the constitution.

### **Voting on the genocide angers Turkey**

**Washington, Ankara 5<sup>th</sup> of March:** American congress' foreign affairs committee has voted compulsory resolution, which describes killings of the Armenians in Turkey during WWI. as a genocide.

23:22 was a close call of the voting, even though President Barack Obama summoned them to rest the case. Victory of the advocates of thesis that killings of 1.5 million Armenians were carefully planned by Turkish authorities and army and they can be described as genocide is for now more or less symbolical. Resolution is non-obligatory, and for now it is not clear whether it will enter congressional procedure, because the turnout was much tighter than it seemed before Obama took the office.

Appeal to the President that he should use term 'genocide'

"In following days, Turkish parliament will respond, and Turkish government will take appropriate measures, so the Americans will feel our discontent.

"Nobody can compare our parents with Nazis," was harsh Turkish member of parliament Suat Kiniklioglu, who was paying attention to developments in America's capital.