Economic Development Foundation
Five Years of Accession Negotiations
By the time this booklet is published, we will have left behind the fifth year of the accession negotiations with the EU. During this time, thirteen chapters were opened and only one chapter was opened and provisionally closed. Due to the decision of the European Council not to open eight chapters and provisionally close any chapters as well as vetoes by some Member States, the negotiations did not proceed at the desired pace. While we are feeling a little resentful when evaluating the fifth year, we should continue with our work fully aware of the fact that EU membership is a cumbersome process, which requires patience and perseverance.

EU membership objective still holds true for Turkey. This objective is the driving force behind Turkey’s modernization, whereby citizens will attain a more prosperous standard of living. In the realm of democracy, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms as well in different spheres of daily life, which affect our quality of life such as environment, food safety, animal welfare and work life, European standards remain to be the most advanced model in the world and in the region. In this context, Turkey’s striving to reach for these standards is a rational choice. Nevertheless, Turkey’s EU goal should not only be seen as an instrument of modernization. In the globalizing world, we witness an increasing interdependence among countries. Nowadays, countries feel the pressing need to act together in areas like trade, investment, energy and collectively fight against global problems such as poverty, climate change and illegal migration. In this regard, collaborating with the other countries in the Union will bring numerous advantages to Turkey in resolving both cross-border problems and having a bigger say in the global governance system.

Turkey encounters some difficulties in her relations with Europe and sometimes Turkish public feels unjustly treated. This, in turn, leads to confidence crisis, frustration and resentment. This is a point, which should be taken into account by Turkish and European officials. It should not be forgotten that, an integration process can only be built on mutual trust and solidarity. For that, the EU should realize how important and
valuable Turkey’s EU target dating back to 1959 is. Likewise, as Turkey, we should not forget this target requires a serious determination, preparation and diligence.

Another point that needs to be emphasized is this: As quoted by Jean Monnet, the founding father of the EU, “we unite people, not states”. In this way, joining the EU does not only mean that the public authorities work with the EU. Rather, it means that all institutions and all individuals encompassing the public sector, the private sector, civil society and universities should work together in a coordinated manner. In the accession negotiations, the relevant public authorities should work in close cooperation with the private sector and the civil society and they should be included in the negotiating delegations. In this context the EU Communication Strategy initiated by the Minister and Chief Negotiator Egemen Bağış and Secretariat General for EU Affairs should be reinforced and taken forward.

Lastly, I would like to briefly touch upon our Foundation. Economic Development Foundation, which I’ve been presiding over since 2007 under the auspices of the valuable board of directors, has been monitoring the European integration process and working for Turkey to take her place. In this context, IKV is the first and foremost specialized institution. Our Foundation, which aims to be the voice of the Turkish business world on EU-related matters, carries out various activities to raise awareness among the business world and the public at large about the EU process and its impact. You will find detailed information about those activities in this booklet. Our Foundation has pursued its activities about the EU and Turkey’s EU process at all times including those when the process was interrupted or problems dominated. Fully aware of its responsibilities, IKV will carry out its activities resolutely until Turkey becomes an EU member and also in the aftermath of membership as a specialized institution.

Prof. Dr. Halûk Kabaalioğlu
Chairman of IKV
## Contents

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## Abbreviations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APD</td>
<td>Accession Partnership Document</td>
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<tr>
<td>CU</td>
<td>Customs Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECJ</td>
<td>European Court of Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EP</td>
<td>European Parliament</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>EUROSTAT</td>
<td>Official Statistical Office of the EU</td>
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<tr>
<td>EUSG</td>
<td>Secretariat General for EU Affairs</td>
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<td>FTA</td>
<td>Free Trade Agreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>GASC</td>
<td>Greek Administration of Southern Cyprus</td>
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<tr>
<td>IGC</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA</td>
<td>Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPARD</td>
<td>Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance for Rural Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Prime Minister</td>
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<tr>
<td>TGNA</td>
<td>Turkish Grand National Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>TPC</td>
<td>Turkish Penal Code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRNC</td>
<td>Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>The United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WTO</td>
<td>World Trade Organization</td>
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As an institution actively involved in Turkey’s EU journey for the last 45 years, we have not only witnessed and took part in the new period, which started with the opening of the accession negotiations on 3 October 2005, but we have also strived to share our knowledge, experience and most importantly excitement with all the relevant parties. Despite demanding, intensive and highly variable internal dynamics of politics in Turkey, we have tried our utmost to keep the EU perspective as a prioritized agenda item. In this scope, at the fifth anniversary of the accession negotiations, we have prepared a chronological timetable, which displays the turning points and milestones that have occurred in the last five years. We are guided by the belief that the significant events in the political, economic and social spheres marking Turkey’s EU process, which is in essence a “societal transformation project” – though neglected sometimes – and closely relates to all segments in the society and as such should deserve due attention.

With this publication, our aim is twofold. On one hand, we want to refresh our collective memory; on the other hand, by shedding light on the developments at EU and Member States level, we intend to facilitate the reading and contemplation of the accession process. Regarding this 5-year period, this booklet allows us to make both a simultaneous and comparative reading. As seen in the chronology, despite all the ups and downs on the way, important progress was made in Turkey–EU relations. In Turkey, many noteworthy legal changes were carried out, elections took place, steps were taken in the way of EU integration and although sometimes the process slowed down to the degree of coming to a halt, it was taken forward, fortunately without the occurrence of a “train crash” incident. Parallel to this, critical political and institutional changes took place in the EU and even though sometimes internal events prevailing in the EU Member States came to the fore, the Union has continued to evolve and change as a moving target. In the light of the changes at the background, Turkey–EU relations stayed on its track, although it failed to achieve the required momentum.

As has been the case for the last 45 years, IKV, from this day onwards will continue to closely monitor the accession process in all its dimensions and will pursue its actions, which aim to accelerate the process. We sincerely hope this publication will be a reference booklet for all the stakeholders involved, most notably the business world and the civil society as a way to remember the past, to understand the present and to prepare for the future. In the continuation of the accession process, we wholeheartedly wish that all the obstacles and hurdles are overcome and the EU accession process is speeded up with the objective of reaching full membership as soon as possible.
Economic Development Foundation, which is as old as the history of Turkey–EU relations itself, was founded in 1965, only two years after the signing of the Ankara Agreement establishing an association relation between Turkey and the EU. IKV, which was established to monitor and evaluate Turkey–EU relations, to inform the public and to represent the Turkish business world vis-à-vis the EU, is the brainchild of the then Presidents of Istanbul Chamber of Commerce and Istanbul Chamber of Industry, Mr. Behçet Osmanoğlu and Mr. Fazıl Zobu respectively.

With its Head Office in Istanbul and a Permanent Representation in Brussels since 1984, the first representation of the Turkish private sector in the EU, IKV, parallel to the developments in Turkey–EU relations and the needs of the increasing number of trustee institutions and supporters, has increased its activities, expanded the target audience and reinforced its mission.

**We are a specialized organization and,**
- have been resolutely working for Turkey’s membership to the EU for 45 years regardless of any conjectural shifts;
- are a non-profit making organization, having no ideological motives and/or links, and are equally distanced from all political parties;
- are fully financed by the private sector and receive no financial support from the government;
- express impartial evaluations and opinions on EU and Turkey–EU relations clearly and without any reserve;
- have established a well-deserved reputation as a respected and trustworthy “Specialized Organization” both in Turkey and the EU.

Founded by the joint initiative of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 1965, the number of trustee institutions and IKV supporters have increased over time parallel to the developments in Turkey–EU relations.

As of 2010, IKV Trustee Organizations comprise of Union of Chambers and Stock Exchanges of Turkey, Union of Textile and Apparel Exporters of Istanbul, Turkish Exporters Assembly, Istanbul Commodity Exchange, Izmir Commodity Exchange, Union of Banks of Turkey, Confederation of Employers’ Union of Turkey, Union of Agricultural Chambers of Turkey and Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen Association. IKV also has 42 “Foundation Supporters”, including many representative organizations and companies.

The Board of Directors, chosen among the delegates of the Founders and the Trustee Institutions, consists of 19 members, namely 17 Board Members and 2 Auditors.
In line with our goal, IKV, publishes studies on various EU policies, the effects of these policies on Turkey, Turkey’s level of harmonization regarding these policies and other studies on all aspects of Turkey–EU relations. In this scope, IKV, is a productive organization, which publishes extensively and formulates strategies on EU matters in Turkey. To this date, IKV has published over 500 studies. Even during the most stagnant periods of Turkey–EU relations, IKV has kept its confidence in Turkey’s EU membership target and continued its activities without interruption, always leading the way through its pioneering studies. IKV’s publications include perspectives and projections on the future in addition to current items on Turkey–EU relations agenda, and this allows IKV also to act as an early warning mechanism.

IKV website, which is restructured according to the needs of the modern age and regularly updated, provides visitors with news and announcements on Turkey–EU relations, information on main EU policies, comprehensive information on the EU, Turkey–EU relations and accession negotiations, glossary of basic concepts on Turkey–EU relations, IKV’s evaluations on various subjects, bimonthly IKV bulletin archive, studies and projects undertaken by IKV, core documents on the EU and Turkey–EU relations, online catalogue of the IKV library...

The IKV library is the oldest library specializing on the EU and the only “depository library” of the EU in Turkey. The library includes IKV publications as well as various national (SPO, TURKSAT, UFT, etc.) and international organizations’ (EU, OECD, UN, WTO, UNIDO, IMF, EFTA, etc.) studies on issues concerning or related to the EU together with statistical and periodical publications. IKV library, which is open to public and regularly serves a wide portion of the population including business representatives, civil society institutions, public sector employees, academia and students, is constantly adding to its collection of over 25,000 registered books and expanding its archive of 300 Turkish and 150 foreign periodicals.
IKV, which has significant experience in developing and implementing projects, is continuously developing its cooperation with various organizations and institutions, most notably the public sector, business world and the civil society.

**Training and Informative Projects**

Turkey’s EU accession process can be seen as a macro-level restructuring project, which will deeply influence the political, economic and social life in Turkey. Guided by this belief, IKV aims to include all related segments in this process through projects, which aim to address general and technical issues. In this framework, informative projects are implemented, whereby the business world, civil society representatives, media and the public opinion are trained by high-level officials in Turkey and the EU.

**Some Exemplary Projects Conducted by IKV in the Last Five Years**

- SME’s On Their Way to the EU (2010–…)
- Visa Hotline Project (2009–2010)
- EU Presidencies and Informing About Turkey (2009–…)
- Window to Turkey Seminars (2009–…)
- Transformation of the Women Workforce in the Agriculture (2008)
- ABC Project in the Primary Schools (2008–…)
- The Effects of the Horizontal Implementation of the EU Acquis on the Leading Turkish Sectors (2007)
- Strengthening of the Impact Analysis Capacity of
Seminars on Accession Negotiations with the EU (2005–...)

**Seminars, Conferences and Panels**
IKV organizes seminars, conferences and panels on EU and Turkey–EU relations in Turkey and in various EU Member States with the participation of high-level representatives and experts.

**Formulating Basic Opinions and Proposals**
IKV closely monitors developments in the EU and Turkey–EU relations and formulates proposals on behalf of the Turkish private sector. While forming opinions, IKV is in constant dialogue with the private sector and obtains regular feedback to help better prepare its proposals.

Since the beginning of Turkey’s full membership perspective, IKV plays a leading role in the process through the reports and strategies it prepares and presents to the government; the briefings it gives to various parliamentary commissions and high-level ministry officials and through close cooperation with the Turkish Parliament, political parties, public institutions, private sector representative organizations and NGOs.

**Coordination, Promotion and Lobbying**
Through its Brussels office, IKV carries out extensive promotion activities, vis-à-vis the EU institutions and the Member State delegations. IKV ensures a regular flow of information to the European Commission and Parliament as well as to European NGOs and media representatives including activities undertaken by Turkey in the harmonization process, supports and participates in the meetings held in EU Member States and carries out lobbying activities regarding Turkey.

With the support of the Turkish business world representative organizations, IKV has undertaken the task of coordinating their relations with EU institutions and public sector on EU matters. In this context, IKV executes versatile campaigns of communication, promotion and lobbying with the participation of interested segments of the society and primarily the “Turkey Platform”, which brought together over 250 NGOs under IKV’s coordination with the aim of supporting Turkey’s EU membership.
Our Publications

More than 500 IKV Publications covering different topics are regarded as reference publications by all actors included in the process.

IKV has been producing publications since its inception, the number of which has now reached over 500 and which cover different topics ranging from EU policies, to the effects of these policies on Turkey’s harmonization process to various aspects of Turkey–EU relations. These publications are regarded as reference publications by the business world, public sector, civil society and the academia.

Since the start of the accession negotiations between Turkey and EU in 2005, IKV has guided the process by its pioneering studies, the number of which has exceeded 50. These publications cover issues ranging from the accession experiences of the Central and Eastern European States, which joined the Union in 2004 to visa applications towards Turkish nationals; EU Community Programmes, which Turkey participates in; to Lisbon Treaty. Consequently, IKV has both contributed to strengthening the technical knowledge and keeping the public support and enthusiasm alive.

IKV Magazine which aims to reflect the current affairs in Turkey–EU relations is relaunched in March 2010.
Europe needs Turkey and Turkey needs Europe.

Olli Rehn  
Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs, European Commission

I am confident that at the end of the process it will be a new, modern and reformed Turkey whose accession to the EU will be to the benefit of both the EU and Turkey.

Stefan Füle  
Commissioner for Enlargement, European Commission

Turkey belongs to Europe.

Günter Verheugen  
Ex-Commissioner for Trade, European Commission

We believe that there are big gains for Britain, Europe and Turkey from a process of closer and closer collaboration on issues ranging from security, energy to cultural Exchange.

David Miliband  
Ex-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

I’m not asking you to be a different country, to abandon your values, your traditions or your culture. We want you to be Turkey – because it’s as Turkey that you can play the unique role I have described in building greater security and greater prosperity for all our citizens. But we want you to push forwards aggressively with the EU reforms you’re making (...) Because just as countries draw great strength from the openness of their societies, so Europe will draw fresh vigour and purpose from a Turkey that embraces human rights and democracy.

David Cameron  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

I want to encourage you to carry on.

Guido Westerwelle  
Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany

All accession negotiations have one goal – accession, once all the criteria have been fulfilled.

Manuel Lobo Antunes  
Portuguese State Secretary for European Affairs
Expressions such as ‘privileged association’ are unacceptable. Any candidate fulfilling the criteria for adherence should have the right to be a member of the EU.

*Mirek Topolánek*  
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

We will take a very heavy responsibility for history if, faced with a people who tell us ‘We have adopted all your values, all your rules, all your objectives’, we tell them ‘No thanks’.

*Jacques Chirac*  
Ex-President of France

Greece believes that Turkey’s fulfilment of all the compromises that have been agreed with the EU will lead to its adherence as full member.

*Kostas Karamanlis*  
Ex-Prime Minister of Greece

We strongly support every effort the Turkish government is making to meet the accession requirements (...) and everything it is doing to galvanize momentum towards accession.

*Mary McAleese*  
President of Ireland

Somehow, resistance to Turkish membership is a sign of mistrust toward Europe, a Europe which has, however, already produced ample evidence in the past that it knows how to address the difficulties associated with its growth. Turkey’s accession could provide Europe with the opportunity to regain the momentum that characterized its best moments.

*Silvio Berlusconi*  
President of Italy

Turkey’s great potential will add a new meaning to European integration. We support Turkey’s effort to join the European Union.

*Danilo Türk*  
President of Slovenia

Arguably, Turkey today is more influential in the world than any of our Member States, together or separately (...) We’re not talking about some kind of privileged partnership; we’re talking about deep integration and cooperation.

*Alexander Stubb*  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland
When I say Turkey’s membership is the EU’s life insurance, I mean it in terms of peace in the region and safe and permanent access to a very important part of the world.

Michel Rocard
Ex-Prime Minister of France

There is a principle we follow in government: pacta sunt servanda. If a previous government and the EU decided to initiate accession negotiations with Turkey, then it is our duty to follow through on that.

Angela Merkel
Chancellor of Germany

The EU will be stronger with Turkey as a member. Together we are more than the sum of our parts.

William Hague
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

In 10 years, Turkey won’t be the same Turkey as today ... and certain fears that exist today can be put aside.

José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission

In 10 years, Turkey won’t be the same Turkey as today ... and certain fears that exist today can be put aside.
Key Dates of Turkey-EU Relations

1959 Turkey applied for an association agreement with the EEC.

1963 Ankara Agreement was signed between Turkey and EEC.

1970 The Additional Protocol was signed, preparing the ground for the establishment of the Customs Union.


1996 Customs Union between the EU and Turkey was completed and entered into force on the basis of decision number 1/95 of the Association Council.

1999 Turkey was recognised as an EU candidate country in the Helsinki European Council.

2004 The European Council in Brussels decided that Turkey sufficiently fulfils the Copenhagen political criteria to open accession negotiations and decided to open negotiations with Turkey on 3 October 2005.

Turkey at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>783,562.38 km²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>73m. (2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Force (Population)</td>
<td>24.7m. (2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Age</td>
<td>28.8 (2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>USD 618 billion (2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP Per Capita</td>
<td>USD 8,590 billion (2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exports Value</td>
<td>USD 102 billion (2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports Value</td>
<td>USD 141 billion (2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism Revenue</td>
<td>USD 21.2 billion (2009)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tourist Number: 27.3 million people (2009)
Foreign Direct Investment: USD 7.9 billion (2009)
Number of Companies with Foreign Capital: 23,500 (2008)
Major Exports Markets Germany

Major Imports Sources Russia

Turkey is the 16th largest economy in the world and 6th largest economy compared to the EU area in 2009.

Source: The Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Investment Support and Promotion Agency
Chronology of Turkey-EU Relations

2005 • 2006 • 2007 • 2008 • 2009 • 2010
2005

1 January 2005
Luxembourg took over the EU Presidency.

2 January 2005
The EU Constitution was approved by the EP.

29 May 2005
The EU Constitution was rejected by 55% in France by referendum.

1 June 2005
The EU Constitution was rejected by 61.6% in the Netherlands by referendum.

3 June 2005
Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Babacan was appointed as Turkey’s EU Chief Negotiator.

13 June 2005
EU Foreign Ministers approved the Additional Protocol that extends the Ankara Agreement to new Member States including the GASC.

29 June 2005
The Negotiation Framework Document for Turkey was published.

1 July 2005
The UK took over the EU Presidency.

30 July 2005
Turkey signed the Additional Protocol which extended the Ankara Agreement, signed in 1963 and constituted the basis of the relations between EU and Turkey, concerning the new ten members on the 1st of May 2004. Turkey declared that this does not amount to a recognition of the GASC in a parallel declaration.

3 October 2005
Negotiations for full membership with Turkey started.

20 October 2005
First stage of EU accession negotiations, Screening Process on 33 Chapters was completed.

27 October 2006
European Commission released the first 38.1m. € of financial aid to be used by TRNC for the years 2004–2006.

8 November 2006
European Commission published its first Regular Progress Report on Turkey following the start of official negotiations together with a document entitled EU Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges.

13 November 2006
The Council of the EU entitled Istanbul as the European Capital of Culture in the year of 2010.

29 November 2006
European Commission recommended the suspension of negotiations with Turkey, regarding the Chapters; Free Movement of Goods, Right of Establishment

2006

1 January 2006
Austria took over the EU Presidency.
and Freedom to Provide Services, Financial Services, Agriculture and Rural Development, Fisheries, Transport Policy, Customs Union and Foreign Affairs.

7 December 2006
Turkey submitted a comprehensive settlement plan within the UN framework to the European Council, which consisted of Turkey’s opening of one airport and one port to trade with the GASC for one year in return for opening Erçan airport to international traffic and opening Mogusa port to the direct trade under Turkish Cypriot authority.

11 December 2006
European Commission’s recommendation on the suspension of negotiations with Turkey on 8 Chapters was accepted by the European Council. The European Council also confirmed the Commission recommendation that none of the chapters shall be provisionally closed until Turkey’s fulfilment of her commitments relating to the Additional Protocol.

2007

1 January 2007
Germany took over the EU Presidency.

1 January 2007
Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU as 26th and 27th Member States.

6 February 2007
Under the framework of IPARD established by the European Commission to support candidate countries’ accession process, 159m. & was earmarked for Turkey for the 2007-2009 period.

24 February 2007
Optional Protocols No.1 and No.2 of International Convention on Civil and Political Rights entered into force.

15 March 2007
“Report to the Conference of Presidents of the High-Level Contact Group for relations with the Turkish Cypriot community in the northern part of the island” was approved by the EP.

29 Mart 2007
The Enterprise and Industrial Policy Chapter was opened to negotiations.

30 March 2007
The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was signed.

17 April 2007
Harmonization Package of Turkey to EU Acquis including legal regulations and timetable prepared by the EUSG was declared.

11 May 2007
Turkey signed the Memorandum of Understanding to participate in the Programme Culture 2007 (2007 - 2013).

30 May 2007
Turkey signed the Memorandum of Understanding to participate in the Lifelong Learning and Youth Programme from 2007 to 2013.

1 June 2007
Turkey signed the Memorandum of Understanding to participate in the 7th Framework Programme.

20 June 2007
European Commission declared 3,961m. & financial aid for candidate and potential candidate countries to be used from 2007 to 2009.

26 June 2007
The Statistics and Financial Control Chapters were opened to negotiations.

1 July 2007
Portugal took over the EU Presidency.

22 July 2007
In the general elections, AKP won the first place with 47% of the votes; followed by CHP (21%) and MHP (14%).

23 July 2007
EU leaders came together in an IGC to negotiate the Reform Treaty amending the EU Constitution.

28 August 2007
The former Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül was elected as Turkey’s 11th President.

2 October 2007
According to Eurostat statistics dating from August 2007, unemployment in the Euro Area of 13 members reached a historical low level by 6,9 %.

15 October 2007
Readmission and visa facilitation agreements were signed between Moldova and the EU.
17 October 2007
Turkey signed the Memorandum of Understanding to participate in PROGRESS Programme.

18 October 2007
EU Heads of State and Government reached a political consensus on the Reform Treaty during the unofficial summit held in Lisbon.

21 October 2007
A series of constitutional changes including the election of the President by the electorate was put to referendum under the Constitutional Reform Package.

6 November 2007
European Commission published its yearly strategy paper on enlargement policy and Regular Reports for candidate countries.

7 November 2007
The Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Serbia was initialled.

12 December 2007
Charter of Fundamental Rights was signed by the European Commission, the EP and the European Council.

13 December 2007
Lisbon Treaty was signed.

19 December 2007
Trans-Europe Networks and Consumer and Health Protection Chapters were opened to negotiations.

21 December 2007
Malta, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and the Czech Republic joined the Schengen Area.

2008

1 January 2008
Slovenia took over the EU Presidency.

1 January 2008
Malta and GASC joined the Euro Zone.

1 January 2008
Readmission and visa facilitation agreements signed between the EU and Bosnia Herzegovina, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and Macedonia entered into force.

15 January 2008
First meeting of Alliance of Civilizations headed by Turkey and Spain was held in Madrid.

18 January 2008
Agreements on energy security were signed between Bulgaria and Russia.

12 February 2008
Turkey signed the Memorandum of Understanding to participate in the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme.

17 February 2008
The Assembly of Kosovo declared Kosovo’s independence as the Republic of Kosovo.

20 February 2008
EP approved the Lisbon Treaty.

26 February 2008
APD of Turkey was published in the Official Journal of the EU.

3 February 2008
Lokmacı Gate was opened to pedestrian passage between the two parts of Cyprus after 45 years.

29 April 2008
The Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Serbia was signed.

30 April 2008
A series of changes were made on the Article 301 of the TPC within the framework of freedom of expression and thought.

12 June 2008
Lisbon Treaty was rejected in Ireland with 53% marking the beginning of a renewed crisis on the constitutional process.

13 December 2007
Lisbon Treaty was signed.

19 December 2007
Trans-European Networks and Consumer and Health Protection Chapters were opened to negotiations.

21 December 2007
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15 January 2008
First meeting of Alliance of Civilizations headed by Turkey and Spain was held in Madrid.
3 November 2008
The first meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean, which aims to enhance economic, social and cultural relations between 16 countries having coasts on the Mediterranean and 27 EU Member States took place.

5 November 2008
European Commission published its yearly strategy paper on enlargement policy and Regular Reports for candidate countries.

13 December 2008
Switzerland joined the Schengen Area, being the first non-EU country to join.

18 December 2008
Free Movement of Capital and Information Society and Media Chapters were opened to negotiations.

31 December 2008
National Programme of Turkey prepared by the GSEU on harmonization to the EU acquis entered into force.

2009

1 January 2009
Czech Republic took over the EU Presidency, being the first country to do so among the new Member States that joined the EU in 2004.

1 January 2009
Slovakia joined the Euro Zone.

1 January 2009
TRT 6 started broadcasting in Kurdish.

10 January 2009
Egemen Bağış, Minister of EU Affairs, was appointed as the Turkey’s Chief EU Negotiator.

14 January 2009
EP approved biometric passport rules in order to increase document safety in the Schengen Zone.

5 February 2009
Turkey signed the Kyoto Protocol.

19 February 2009
ECJ announced its decision regarding the Soysal case. The Court ruled that the visa requirement for Turkish nationals is in breach of the Association Law.

25 February 2009
In the Turkish Parliament, the Law on Committee on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women passed.

29 March 2009
In the local elections with the voter turnout of 78,23 %, the political parties got the following percentage of votes. AKP (38,83 %), CHP (23,11 %), MHP (16,07 %), DTP (5,65 %), SP (5,23 %).

1 April 2009
Radio broadcast in Kurdish and Armenian started.

4 April 2009
SAP Action Plan (2008–2012) was approved.

5 April 2009
Second meeting of Alliance of Civilizations was held in Istanbul.

27 April 2009
May 1st was again declared as a public holiday (“Labour and Solidarity Day”).

28 April 2009
Albania officially applied for the EU membership.

4 June 2009
In the EP elections with the voter turnout of 43,1 %, central right parties got most of the votes and obtained the majority of the seats.

5 June 2009
Following the ECJ’s ruling on the Soysal case, Germany announced an administrative change in law regarding her visa policy towards certain categories of Turkish nationals.

24 June 2009
EU–Croatia IGC was postponed and membership negotiations of Croatia were blocked due to the ongoing border dispute between Croatia and Slovenia.

25 June 2009
EUSG’s institutional structure was reformed.

30 June 2009
Taxation Chapter was opened to negotiations.

1 July 2009
Sweden took over the EU Presidency.

1 July 2009
The “Turkey Season” activities commenced in France.

8 Temmuz 2009
European Commission report on the implementation of the Financial Aid Package of 259m. € for supporting the economic development in TRNC for the years 2006–2011 was published.
13 July 2009
Intergovernmental Agreement on Nabucco Project was signed in Ankara.

14 July 2009
Former Polish PM and MEP (Christian Democrat) Jerzy Buzek was elected as the new President of the EP.

31 July 2009
50 years had passed since Turkey’s application to the European Economic Community (EEC).

5 August 2009
EU’s population reached to 500m. according to Eurostat.

25 August 2009
Judicial Reform Strategy was approved.

1 September 2009
Turkey presented its letter of intention regarding her participation to the EU Agency of Fundamental Rights.

9 September 2009
First negotiating session in view of Turkey’s accession to the Energy Community Treaty took place.

16 September 2009
José Manuel Barroso was appointed as the President of the European Commission for another 5 years.

18 September 2009
ECJ ruled that the residence permit fees taken from the Turkish nationals were excessive and had to be lowered.

27 September 2009
Christian Democrats won the general elections in Germany.

2 October 2009
Lisbon Treaty was accepted in Ireland with 67.1%.

4 October 2009
PASOK won the general elections in Greece.

11 October 2009
The protocols between Armenia and Turkey with a view to normalizing the relations between two countries were signed in Switzerland.

14 October 2009
European Commission published its yearly strategy paper on enlargement policy and Regular Reports for candidate countries.

15 October 2009
FTA was initialled between South Korea and the EU.

3 November 2009
Czech President Vaclav Klaus signed the Lisbon Treaty. Thus, the last obstacle to the Lisbon Treaty’s coming into force was cleared.

19 November 2009
Herman Van Rompuy and Catherine Ashton were appointed as EU’s first President and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy respectively, following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

27 November 2009
José Manuel Barroso, declared the new European Commissioners who will work until 2014.

1 December 2009
The Lisbon Treaty entered into force.

5 December 2009
EUSG’s Istanbul Representation was opened.

7 December 2009
UN Climate Change Conference was held in Copenhagen.

11 December 2009
The Constitutional Court declared its decision on the closure case of DTP.

11 December 2009
A new programme on the area of justice and home affairs, Stockholm Programme was approved.

19 December 2009
Citizens of Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro obtained visa-free travel to Schengen countries on their visits up to 3 months.

21 December 2009
Environment Chapter was opened to negotiations.

22 December 2009
Serbia officially applied for EU membership.

2010

1 January 2010
Spain took over the EU Presidency.

1 January 2010
Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture has officially started.

2 January 2010
Economic crisis was declared in Greece.
5 January 2010
EU Communication Strategy entered into force.

1 February 2010
Interim Agreement on Trade between the EU and Serbia entered into force.

17 February 2010
Two new Directorates-General (DG Energy and DG Climate Action) have been established within the European Commission.

3 March 2010

25 March 2010
Civil Aviation Agreement between Turkey and the EU was initialled.

31 March 2010
European Commission set out the rules for commencing a citizens’ initiative stipulated in the Lisbon Treaty.

5 April 2010
EU Visa Code including a standardized application of visa policy towards third country nationals entered into force.

22 April 2010
Belgium PM Yves Leterme has resigned from his position the third time since 2007.

2 May 2010
Stabilization Agreement providing financial aid for Greece to overcome economic crisis was signed between Greece, the IMF and the EU.

6 May 2010
23 articles and 3 provisional articles of the Constitutional Reform Package were voted in the second round of the parliamentary talks.

6 May 2010
Conservative Party led by David Cameron won the general elections in the UK with 36.1% of the votes.

AB - 7 May 2010
The Euro Area Finance Ministers agreed on tightening budgetary discipline and the establishment of European Stability Mechanism.

AB - 8 May 2010
Report prepared by EU Wisemen, Project Europe 2030: Challenges and Opportunities was presented to the European Council.

22 May 2010
Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu was elected as the new leader of CHP.

2 June 2010
European Commission’s DG Justice, Freedom and Security was split into DG Justice and DG Home Affairs.

6 June 2010
Slovenia voted to accept an agreement on a border dispute with Croatia, which paved the way for Croatia’s membership talks with the EU.

9 June 2010
Central right-wing People’s Party for Freedom and Democracy won the elections in the Netherlands.

13 June 2010
Belgium’s Flemish separatist party, the New Flemish Alliance has won the majority of votes in the general elections.

17 June 2010
Estonia joined the Euro Area.

30 June 2010
Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy Chapters were opened to negotiations.

1 July 2010
Belgium took over the EU Presidency.

27 July 2010
Membership talks with Iceland started.

12 September 2010
Referendum regarding the Constitutional Reform Package was accepted with 58% of the votes.

3 October 2010
5th year of Accession Negotiations with Turkey and Croatia.

Turkey
Chapters opened: 13
Chapters provisionally closed: 1

Croatia
Chapters opened: 33
Chapters provisionally closed: 22
As seen in this booklet, the first five years of Turkey–EU negotiations were very intense. On one hand, the EU faced several problems such as the constitutional crisis and the global economic crisis and its legal and institutional basis continued to evolve with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. The changes in government in several Member States had in general an adverse impact on relations with Turkey. On the other hand, Turkey went ahead with democratization and development in the face of a dynamic political and economic agenda. In the neighbouring regions, major changes and upheavals took place. Turkish foreign policy continued to evolve towards an active, multilateral and multidimensional structure. In this environment marked by change and growing interaction, Turkey’s EU membership has immense potential for both sides. By accepting Turkey, EU, will benefit from the economic and political advantages an emerging regional power will bring and will grow stronger by merging with this country that is already engaged in increasing cooperation with the EU in many policy areas. Turkey, by becoming a part of a close-knit Union of 27 Members in its geographic vicinity will have a weight in the decision making mechanisms and will become an important actor in shaping tomorrow’s world. Therefore, we should continue to put efforts in a determined manner to reach the EU membership goal. Negative developments should not deter us from this goal. Both Turkey and the EU should look at the bigger picture and not just the conjectural shifts and realize how important it is for EU to take Turkey on board in a globalizing world.

As the Economic Development Foundation, we will decisively continue with our EU-related activities of 45 years. In this context, while generating knowledge as the voice of the business world and continuing to raise awareness among the public, we will keep on our advocacy and lobbying activities at EU and Member State levels with a view to promoting Turkey’s EU membership. We sincerely hope that the work undertaken by the government, the Chief Negotiator and the Secretariat General for EU Affairs will continue effectively. As the Economic Development Foundation, we reiterate that we will always support the work undertaken and will continue to be a staunch advocate and monitor Turkey’s accession process.
Online Resources

Official Website of the EU
http://europa.eu

Secretariat General for EU Affairs
http://www.abgs.gov.tr

Economic Development Foundation
http://www.ikv.org.tr

European Parliament
http://www.europarl.europa.eu

Council of the EU
http://www.consilium.europa.eu

Republic of Turkey Official Gazette
http://rega.basbakanlik.gov.tr

EU Official Journal
http://eur-lex.europa.eu

Eurostat
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat

Written Resources
