



# SEMINAR SERIES-25

Systemic Change in International Relations and

Turkey-EU Relations

by

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Since the late 1950s the relations between Turkey and the European Union (EU) have been regarded as a question of foreign policy or as a matter of economic development. The official application of Turkey in 1987 slightly changed this mainly technical and economic perspective. The Helsinki Summit in 1999 that the EU granted official candidate status to Turkey made a radical change in this regard. The EU's impact on Turkey's politics gained a legitimate ground with the start of the accession negotiations in 2005. However, the relations made an unexpected turn due to mainly two reasons. First of all, international relations face a dramatic breakthrough as a result of the recovery of Russia and emerging China. Regional powers such as India also reassert themselves in different parts of the world. We are no longer in a unipolar world of the immediate post-Cold War period. Secondly, Turkey-EU relations have been affected by the recent changes in the common neighborhood. The Arab Spring and the civil war in Syria brought a humanitarian crisis caused by the refugee problems as the central question. In light of the recent changes in global politics and the Middle Eastern crisis, this paper aims to make a current assessment of Turkey-EU relations.

Kivanç Ulusoy is currently a Professor of Political Science at the Istanbul University. He was previously a Fulbright Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School (2012-2013), a Jean Monnet Fellow at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute in Florence (2003-2004) and a fellow at the Madrid Diplomatic School (1996-1997). His areas of research include regime change and democratization, Turkish politics and Turkey-EU relations. Dr. Ulusoy has conducted studies at the Departments of Political Science and International Relations in various universities such as the Middle East Technical University, Bogazici University and Sabanci University in Turkey Granada University in Spain, Stockholm University in Sweden and Tsukuba University in Japan. Some of his recent publications are "Saving the State Again: Turks face the Challenge of European Governance", SIGMA Papers, (Paris: OECD, 2005); "The Challenge of European Governance to Turkish Politics and Political Structure" in N. Tocci and A. Evin (eds) Towards Accession Negotiations: Turkey's Domestic and Foreign Policy Challenges Ahead (Florence: RSCAS, 2004); "Turkey's reform reconsidered, 1987-2004", Democratization, June 2007; "The Europeanization of Turkey and its Impact on the Cyprus issue", Journal of Southern Europe and the Balkans, December 2008; "The Changing Challenge of Europeanization to Politics and Governance in Turkey", International Political Science Review, Vol. 30, No. 3, (November 2009); "Manipulative Deliberation in Turkey: Alevi's Defective Political Engagement and Remedying Strategies", Juan Ugarriza and Dider Caluwaerts (eds) Democratic Deliberation in Deeply Divided Societies: from Conflict to Common Ground, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014); "Elections and Regime Change in Turkey: Tenacious Rise of Political Islam", Mahmoud Hamad and Khalil al-Anani (eds) Elections and Democratization in the Middle East: The Tenacious Search for Freedom, Justice and Dignity, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014).

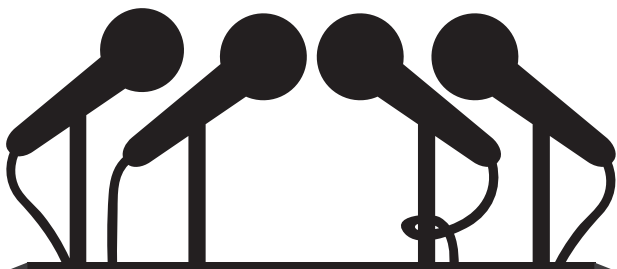
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