

TURKISH SUMMER UNIVERSITY

in Istanbul

“The Relations between the European Union and Turkey”

July 15th to August 2nd, 2009 – Istanbul

- SUMMARY -

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During the Summer University we had the opportunity to deep our knowledge of the EU-Turkey relation from lots of different points of view and approaches.

After the Opening session and the Presentation of the programme, first lessons were about the European Union in order to give to all the students common *points of attachment* on EU History, Polity, Internal and External Policies.

The student could listen the lecture of Prof. Dr. Hartmut Marhold with his interpretation of the European integration process and the heritage of the economic development of the 70's: the current financial crisis. Very interesting has been his comparison between U.S., Soviet Union and EEC-EU strategy.

The speech of Mr. Edgar Lenski, was about EU Institutions, decision making and law. He started with the concept of Citizenship and then described the role of each EU Institution, the relation between First and Secondary legislation, the “Pillar structure”, the Competencies and decision making procedures, quoting EU law and ECJ case.

Prof. Jacques Le Cacheux's lecture was about Europe in the globalization process and linked EU growth with World crisis, with an eye on the future: demographic changes, migrations, competitiveness and financial stability.

We spoke about Enlargement with Prof. Dr. François Bafail that underlined that this is a negotiated process. He focused his lecture on Turkey accession, showing a comparison with the last two enlargement rounds. The main issues under the Copenhagen criteria are about regionalization/decentralization and rights (also minorities and human rights).

Prof. Dr. Mathias Jopp made a lecture about the Common Foreign and Security Policy giving us a wide overview on the present and future (Lisbon Treaty?) CFSP activities, strategies and partnerships.

The EU Sustainable Development Strategy was the topic developed by Dr. Laurent Baechler that show us not only the benefits of the Kyoto Protocol but also some flaws, ending with the future challenges: the Copenhagen COP (December 2009).

We focused on the origin of the EU-Turkey relation, from an historical approach, with the lecture of Prof. Dr. Gencer Özcan (but we had some notion also with the lecture of Prof. Dr. Ayhan

Kaya about Islam and Europeanization of Turkey, even if it was more from a sociological approach).

The issue of the Westernization of Turkey has been also coped by Asst. Prof. Dr. Boğaç Erozan. He elucidated how this concern was important even since the last decades of the Ottoman empire and how the new Turkey republic dealt with (e.g. joining the NATO, applying for the EEC-EU).

But lots of problems still remain in Turkey. One of this is the “incomplete” democracy, as Ms. Beken Saatçioğlu demonstrated, showing us the difficult path of the reforms on the way of democratization and underlining how laws without implementation are useless.

Prof. Dr. Serhat Güvenç screened the civil-military relation in Turkey, related with the democratization issue. He analyzed the importance of the Army in the Republican age and the support received from the Turkish society in each coup d'état.

A first interesting Round table was about the EU “Absorption Capacity”, with the participation of Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wessels, Mr. Andrew Duff (MEP), Mr. Joost Lagendijk (Former MEP) and Dr. Senem Aydın. The first speaker stressed the need of a “deepening because of the enlargement” and, from Mr. Lagendijk point of view we have to speak of “integration capacity” instead of “absorption capacity”. The issue of conditionality bring with itself the promise of membership, said Ms. Aydın and we also have to take into account the perception concern. Mr. Duff, emphasized that during last years the issue of “the accession of Turkey has been posed in a strong way”, achieving “an importance that never had before”: “is a challenge in the political EU Agenda”. But the MEP also underlined that EU need the Lisbon Treaty will enter in force, giving the capability to continue on the way of the enlargement.

The second lecture of Prof. Dr. Ayhan Kaya was focused on Citizenship (and diversity), analysing this concept in a our contemporary society. He also discussed on the concern of the institutionalization vs. individualization of Islam or, in other words, traditional vs. new/young approach to the Faith.

With the controversial topic of Rights (Human, Woman, Minorities) and how them are implemented or not (“reservation”) even with the signature of International conventions (lesson of Dr. İdil Işıl Gül) we closed the second week.

The last week was open by Prof. Dr. Gencer Özcan with an overview on the “Turkish Foreign Policy towards the Middle East and Asia”, starting with the early 18th century and the role of the Ottoman empire, until current days and highlighting the Great game in the Middle East played by Colonial powers before, and U.S. nowadays. He also analysed the aspects of change (end of Pan-Arabism, regionalisation of Kurdish problem...) suggesting that Turkey was “dragged” into the Middle East.

The second Round table on *EU - Turkey Relations* saw the participation of representatives of the Turkish civil society : Mr. Bahadır Kalegasi, TUSIAD – Business, Ms. Zeynep Göğüş, journalist and from the EU side, Mr. Alain Servantie, DG Enlargement- EC, moderated by Prof. Dr. Ayhan Kaya. The first speaker stressed on the reforms that Turkey need but also suggested us a question: “After these reforms, EU will be still attractive for Turkey?”.

Ms. Göğüş has been more outspoken, stressing on the need of a “culture of compromise” and the importance of the secularism (“EU is losing popularity among Turkish secular people”).

Mr. Servantie has shown us the EU public opinion on Turkey and underlined how the Acquis is evolving and the EU society as well. We have to check if something really changed since the EPP meeting in 1997 in which political leader labelled Turkey as “not an European country”...

A third debate was about Euroscepticism toward EU. Ms. Özge Onursal, noticed that the support of Turkish people to EU has felt down (2004 around 71%, 2008 around 43%) because of the EU democratic deficit, on a side, and the “shallow consensus” on the other side. Also through the Turkish intellectual elite a suspect of “double standard” for the accession is creating criticism.

Last lesson of Mr. Prof. Dr. Ayhan Kaya has been about the Invention of Europe, with regard of cultural tradition and social construction whereas Prof. Dr. Alan Duben lesson was about the city of Istanbul and its complexity and its change.

After the PPT group presentations (Laicité in Turkey, Intercultural Dialogue, Istanbul Capital of Culture, Turkey-Armenia: Towards a Dialogue, Minority Rights in Turkey) and the final Exams, we closed the Summer University with the Simulation of a EU Council of Ministers meeting, led by Ms. Gesa-Stefanie Brincker and Mr. Severin Fischer. It was a very interesting experience that allow us to put in practice the theoretical notions we learnt and to notice how is difficult to achieve the Consensus with the current EU rules.

Last but not least, each of us really appreciated all the Excursions and cultural visit: e.g. we had the opportunity to enter in contact with some people belonging to the Allevi or Armenian minorities, to speak with them and to deep practically (not only in theory) their issues and concerns.

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