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We all had taken part in the preparation of the Young Ambassador in the previous issue. All three of us had great fun last year, so we wanted to take greater responsibility in this issue. Soon we understood that it was actually a rather hard task.

First we had to come up with issues and assign them. Then we renewed the format of the magazine, which was actually a very tiring process. The following months were spent chasing people, trying to get hold of their drafts. There was a lot of yelling and staring around helplessly involved. When there were only a few weeks left till our deadline, we realised that most of the pieces of the

puzzle were missing. We found out that it was not always fun to be the editors, especially when we didn't have any experience in magazine publishing and we had games to play in the debate room.

The debate room got pretty hectic when it was the last week and we had so little to work on. All the residents of the corridor were pretty shocked when they saw us buried in files and sitting on the floor trying to write or edit. We kept having mini nervous breakdowns, thanks to the non-opening windows, a malfunctioning printer that threw up blank papers (as it turned out to be just a simple disconnection because we had forgotten to plug the cable of the printer to the computer) and lack of food and water





supplies. The drafts that kept changing in length and concept till the last minute and the computer that insisted on sabotaging our work didn't help at all either.

Still, in the end, we managed to come out of the room with victory because we had the issue of 2007 in our little, blue flash disk and we were free to leave the debate room which was now filled with the remains of what used to be candy, chocolate packs and bottles. Everything is over now, and despite all the hard work, unfriendly technological devices and dehydration, we still had a great time building up a magazine from scratch, all by ourselves.

All that we can do now is to hope that you will enjoy

reading the latest issue of the Young Ambassador, as much as we enjoyed making it.

From Our Directors

With the end of the 2006-2007 academic year approaching, my time as the director of the Debate Club will soon come to an end. But I believe that will remain with you in spirit.

So, farewell "Honorable Delegates". Farewell "Distinguished Chairs". We faced many challenges together and shouldered great responsibilities when representing TED Ankara College and the Turkish Republic on the international stage. We fulfilled the criteria of our mission and achieved our tasks, and did so with tremendous enthusiasm, energy and dedication. Indeed, my own commitment and passion has often been inspired by the students themselves, who have participated as delegates, demonstrated their numerous talents and cooperative attitudes through conscientious hard work.

Yes, dear delegates and directors - I am proud of each of you and what we have all done together. Thank you once again and be sure that I will be counting on you to continue your indispensable work for our school. Goodbye.

Bürçek Dinçler

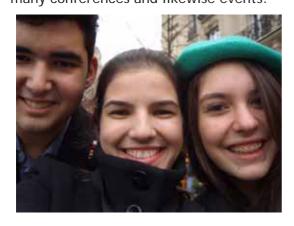
Another year has passed and again I'm proud and honored to have witnessed all the success and glory of the Politics and Diplomacy Club. Unfortunately, Politics and Diplomacy Club is also about to go through a deep sadness since our beloved director Bürçek Dinçler has decided to finalize her directorate. Her promise that she will always be there when we need her has been a real comfort which has also provided us a slight relief. The end of the academic year 2006-2007, a year of farewell has passed. However, each end is followed by a new beginning and each beginning is based on the previous end. I ensure and promise that we as the Politics and Diplomacy Club will always remember you and keep on referring to your invaluable wisdom. We thank you for guiding us, teaching us, supporting us and being a true mother for us... For everything that has brought us here today, thank you.

Emine Efecioğlu

The young ladies and gentlemen with their excellent manners and in elegant clothes lobbied, writing resolutions and delivering speeches to make a change in world politics and in issues concerning humanity's welfare. I am proud to have been involved in these amazing and unbelievable Politics and Diplomacy club activities. I would like to thank all these enthusiastic young people for their great efforts and contribution to world peace and for reminding us of the fact that caring and sensitive young people still exist today. Actually, they let us know there is hope for the future of humanity. I also would like to thank Mrs Bürçek Dinçler, Mrs Emine Efecioğlu and Ms Zeynep Ulus for helping me step into the world of politics and participate in the debates.

Hacer Demircan

As the end of the year approaches, we sit in the library writing this article. We have spent three years in the Debate Club and now feel as if we grew up with it. We had good and bad times, yet always held on to each other. In the process we attended many conferences and likewise events.



While doing so we had a lot of fun, learned a lot and made many new lifetime friends. Still remembering Orçun's pink tie, Nil's never ending screaming and big big hair, Dilşah's Seychellois jacket, Alican Ertaş's Ray Ban's and enthusiasm makes us smile. As of the conferences we attended, we have been to three MUNESCOs, Model European Parliament, PAMUN, organized such events as Spring Day in Europe, UN Day and Europe Day.

With the motivation that the Debate Club has provided us, we went beyond the borders of our school and were present in several other events. Orçun has been to a workshop in Portugal about religious diversity, Dünya attended international summer camp in Spain and Nil and Ece were delegates in an international European Youth Parliament Forum in Münster, Germany. To get it even beyond, Ece chaired in the European Youth Parliament (EYP) 17. National Selection Session of Germany in Munich and Dünya, İrem, Bahar, Alca, Cansu and Gökcan are getting ready for an international EYP Forum in Greece. If that is not enough Dünya and Alican Ergür will be attending the Global Young Leaders Conference in Washington DC and

New York City. All these involvements show how much Debate Club has contributed to our personal development and thus, we appreciate all the efforts of our beloved directors and colleagues.

All in all, we believe that we have spent these three years in the best way possible: learning, having fun, seeing and experiencing other cultures and making friends. We find the Debate Club experience to be one of the most fruitful and enjoyable ones and see that it has opened the gates of a new whole world to us, showing us a new way of life.







Excitement, nervousness, pride, worries, happiness... Seems like a strange combination yet, that was the whirl of emotions Paris Model United Nations Conference (PAMUN) team felt when they were first told that they would be conference. attending the The excitement was not only about going to Paris, a unique city, but also about the prospective friendships, fruitful debates, having the oppurtunity to sit in the very **UNESCO** seats as the same representatives and the team effort we would need to put together to make this event a success. However, there was no time to waste on dreaming about the days to come as we urgently needed to start the preparations for the conference. We were going to Paris, our names, Ece Ayda Aygün, İrem Tümer, Bahar Cila, Dünya Değirmenci and Alican Ergür, were already in the registration list, once again proving that we had to start getting ready immediately.

First of all, we learned that we representing Luxembourg, would active member of many international organizations and founding member of international important organisations such as the European Union. With that in mind, I was informed that I would be the ambassador. Although it was not my first time as an ambassador, the scale of the conference made me guite nervous as there would be more than 700 delegates attending. In addition to having the responsibility to make an opening speech, I was also responsible to ensure that the team actually worked as

a team and prepared for the conference in the best way possible.

Our committee assignments Political followed, was the in Committee, Irem was in the Committee on Human Rights, Bahar in Committee on Environment, Dünya in Committee on Disarmament and lastly Alican in UNESCO Executive Board. We did our research in the manner that we always do; first learning about the country that we will be representing and its policies, then learning about the issue that we will discuss, exploring the significant aspects and last but not least learning the position of Luxembourg in our respective Then we wrote resolutions. Although we were not required to write resolutions, we felt that it was a great way to get our thoughts in order.

When all the research resolution writing was over, all that was left to do was to pack up our bags and make sure we did not forget our toothbrush while trying to figure out where to put all the research material that we printed. Indeed, we managed to pack up our bags with no problems and met at the airport at 4 am on December, 1. None of us had slept quite a lot that night because we were all very excited but, as time passed we found it hard to keep our eyes open. When we had finally got on the plane, we were still talking about the last minute tips, do not look the delegates in the eye otherwise you will be distracted, concentrate on several different places while you are talking so that the delegates will feel that you are keeping the eye contact...

Then on December, 2 , the conference started. As we had one day before the conference started, we were quite refreshed and fit when we entered the UNESCO Building. The opening ceremony went smoothly and then we were directed to our committees. The committees of some of us were very large while others being moderate in size. The largest committee was irem's committee, the Committee on Human Rights with

about 200 delegates while the smallest committee that we were represented in was Alican's committee, UNESCO Executive Board with about 60 delegates. December, 2 and 3 was reserved for committee work. All the committees wrote two resolutions, one for each topic. Then again, they had crisis situations for which they wrote an emergency resolution in an hour. The UNESCO Executive Board, however, did not have a crisis situation that they had to deal with.

The Political Committee focused on the topics of *Drafting a Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security Mankind* and *Resolution on the issue of facilitating and supporting Free & Democratic Elections.* The crisis



situation of the Political Committee was on Al Qaida posing a nuclear threat to Indonesia and the rest of South-East Asia unless all Guantanamo prisoners and all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails are released. The committee found it hard to draft a resolution on this crisis in an hour since the issue was very delicate but, in the end managed to find the solution.

The Committee on Human Rights focused on the topics of Drafting an International Treaty on Mental Health and the Protection of the Human Rights of Persons with Mental Illness and Resolution on "Feminicide". The crisis situation of the Committee on Human Rights was about the use of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) for surveillance and crime control which was becoming a

threat to privacy of the individuals thus, human rights. However, this crisis situation met criticism in the committee as the delegates proposed that this was not something that had came to occurance overnight thus, was not a crisis situation but, was an issue that could be taken into consideration in the long run.

The Committee on Environment focused on the topics of Drafting a Convention on Alternative Sources of Energy and Resolution on Measures to promote Sustainable Consumption and Fair Trade. The crisis situation of this committee was on climate change. However, this crisis situation faced similar criticism about it being an issue that the international community has been aware of for decades and that it was not an emergency situation and that it should be considered more lenghtly.

The Committee on Disarmament focused on the topics of Drafting a Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts and Review, Extension and Strengthening of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), especially in view of threats to its implementation. The crisis situation of this commitee was on increased activity in Iran in terms of nuclear power.

After the committee work, the General Assembly was held in which the Reformation of the Security Council was debated. During the debate, I made a speech putting forward Luxembourg's view on the reformation and as a delegation we made an ammendment and posed several questions. Being one of the several delegations that made a speech in the General Assembly and being very active, we have accepted congratulations afterwards. All in all, I believe that the conference in general has been very fruitful as we have made a lot of friends, contributed actively to the debates, were able to explore Paris as a city and had the oppurtunity to share seats with UNESCO representatives.

When the deafening noise of applause filled the hall, we looked at each other's faces with sparkling eyes, full of victory and joy. We had finally been proved fruitful by our three-month-long-determination.

Now the third MUNESCO (Model United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) was over and we, as nine enthusiastic, young diplomats had represented the State of Israel and our esteemed school successfully. Nobody spoke a word but I could tell from their faces how much they were pleased with their success.

I clearly remember our entrance to BUPS (Bilkent University School) Preparatory where conference was to be held. We were all curious and excited of what we were going to face, without exception. The entrance hall was full of students from different schools around the country and they were just as enthusiastic as we were. The first day was over with this informal lobbying session and the Opening Ceremony took place after on, in which our ambassador Alca took the floor and made an absolutely impressive speech, calling all nations to create a peaceful environment for the upcoming generations:

"It's time to ensure a better education for all, a friendly amalgamation of cultures and a safe environment where technology can serve for the betterment of the mankind."

In spite of the discomposure of the first day, we all felt less nervous but more confident the next day. Actually that day was the hardest one as we were to struggle a lot to merge the resolutions we had prepared on various topics of UNESCO agenda. At the end of the day we were all the main submitters of our

resolutions which means that we were the head of these new, proper proposals. With the relief and assurance of this success, we were the most active and enthusiastic participants committees while debating on resolutions the following day. Three of our delegates managed to have their resolutions signed to be discussed in the General Assembly. As a celebration Bürcek Hoca, Hacer Hoca and Zevnep Abla took us out to dinner with the old PDC members. This unforgettable dinner was a good opportunity for us to share our feelings and comments on the conference though it sometimes turned out to be gossiping =).

At last when the fourth and final day came, we were ready to debate on the final resolutions in the General Assembly. It was much more challenging than I had expected since we went over about six resolutions. When the debating session was over, we waited for the Closing Ceremony. We all felt quite upset since the days had past so fast and the conference now had a final at last...

Now, sitting here remembering those four days with a huge smile on my face, there stays only one question mark on my mind, which is why MUNESCO takes place only once a year?

I guess my friends too have some words to say about their unforgettable memories of MUNESCO 2007...



"Well, MUNESCO was truly one of the hardest challenges I have ever had in my whole life, probably just after my diaper challenge. Just kidding, but it's true that in this type of platforms, you must be brave and the situation wholeheartedly. example, I couldn't really cooperate with the people who had written resolutions on the same subject I had and fussed over the committee room yelling 'Please, listen to my proposals!...' but I needn't have. I put forward my own resolution with just a few changes through the Approval Panel calmly. The next day, my resoulution was the first one to debate on and it failed because of some budget-related numbers which our chairman had announced as "unimportant" but I held on to my calm stance firmly. Yet, I asked lots of questions, took the floor several times and some people began to call me 'Mr. Objection' and the Floor, the daily MUNESCO journal mentioned my 'consistency to disagree' and named me as the most radical and active delegate of the committee. In MUN conferences, there's always the chance of being successful, no matter how hopeless you are."

> *Gökcan DEMİRKAZIK 9/C General Committee 2



"Actually I find it quite hard to find the suitable words to describe MUNESCO 2007 through my eyes. Shall I say gorgeous or wonderful? Whatever, it was pretty cool. As far as I am concerned, I enjoyed it a lot (especially during the candy and chocolate distribution of the chairman in my committee), made new friends and developed my communication skills. What's more to say about an event like MUNESCO but looking

forward to its next session and, of course other MUN conferences?"

*Ezgi ERGİN 10/İ General Committee 1

"MUNESCO was brilliant as usual. The atmosphere, the people, the heated discussions...I understood once again that people who have just met each other can get together, work together and produce together. MUNESCO 2007 was a great experience for all of us and I believe that we all established wonderful friendships and succeeded in resolving world issues."

*Bahar Cila 10/F General Committee 3



"Though this was the second time I attended MUNESCO, it was still full of new experiences for me. Apart from seeing my old friends again, I also got the chance to meet several new people and work with them in a wonderful team spirit. MUNESCO 2007 was a thrilling and successful conference, full of memories that we'll remember throughout our lives."

*İrem Tümer 10/F General Committee 4

Bahar Cila

The conference room grew silent as Jill Tennessee from BBN reported the crisis. Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan had threatened to launch a nuclear strike on certain targets around Europe, if their demands were not met in one week. The demands were:

- Israel's recognition of the Palestinian Authority and the borders set by them,
- Israel's revealing her nuclear weapons programme, along with tangible evidence,
- Israel's releasing all Arab prisoners,
- The cancellation of Afghanistan and Pakinstan's foreign debt and the quadrupling of their financial aid.

The debate started with the speech of the representative from International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), who informed the house on the possible impacts of such an attack and precautions. Then the Polish delegate emphasized on the urgency of the situation. After her, the Israeli delegate took the floor and firmly stated that her country would not comply with the demands. She was followed by the delegate of Germany, whose country is the current term-president of the European Union (EU), who called upon proposals to resolve the issue at hand. Therefore, the house was given two minutes of caucus time after United Kingdom's motion, in which three proposals were submitted. The chairs decided to hold closed debate, eight minutes for and eight minutes against for each proposal.

The main submitter of the first proposal, the Netherlands, suggested complying with all the demands. His argument was that European citizens' lives were at stake and EU's general pacifist policy required such an action. Later on, the Greek delegate took the floor and showed his support for the proposal. When he was seated, the for-time had elapsed, so the delegate of United Kingdom took the floor, stating that proposal was unacceptable. She argued that complying would be giving in to terrorism and the EU would certainly lose her status in the international arena.

Furthermore, there was no guarantee that the attack would not recur in the future. The delegate was followed by Israel, who once again reminded the house that Israel would not comply, in just 30 seconds.

After the against-time for the first proposal elapsed, the chairs moved into the entertainment of the second proposal, in which France proposed to resolve the situation by using military forces. She delivered a speech on how EU would benefit from an army. Her speech led to a heated discussion in the house, as taking such an action would be abandoning the pacifist policy that EU had been following throughout her history. After France was seated, the floor was taken by the Spanish delegated, who made it crystal clear to the house that EU could not make such a decision because it would be responding to terrorism with terrorism.



third proposal, suggesting The negotiation with Turkey as a partner, was the one that the house seemed approving. After the Italian delegate's speech stating that EU had always been in favor of democracy, the Turkish delegate affirmed that her country would agree to become a side if the verdict of the Parliament required. Finland and Portugal spoke in the against time, attempting to influence the house not to vote for this proposal. Yet, they could not change the house's decision. With a clear majority, the house voted to hold negotiations. resolution was also approved by the audience.

Europe Day, once again proved that EU would choose diplomacy no matter what comes up, and that diplomacy is still influential and powerful.

GEORGE C. MARSHALI

After another successful MUNESCO conference at BUPS, the supervisor of the Turkish delegation Paul Generelli contacted Bürçek Hoca and told her that they were going to the MUNOL conference in Lübeck, presenting Egypt, and would like to have a Mock debate with us and the German School before they were headed to Germany. They set a date available for the both schools (April 24) and Mr. Generelli sent us the resolutions students had written.

On April 24, we headed to the George C. Marshall American School at noon and Mr. Generelli welcomed us with two other students (Kaan and Billur) and Füsun Ağusman who worked at TED before. Kaan and Billur gave us a tour of their school.

We started with the computer labs then moved on to the classes. We realized that every teacher had their own classes there, which they had to hang a paper that stated their missions and visions. Then we moved to the library. Inside the library, there kindergarten kids playing and coloring, students reading books. The library was special because it contained the biggest amount of Turkish books in all American schools in Turkey. At the corridors, there were man sentences on the walls that stated how important reading was. After that, we moved on to the hall we were going to debate in. The hall was decorated with country flags hanging from the ceilings. After some time of informal lobbying, we started debating on the resolutions. We had 5 resolutions to debate on.

The debate started with the welcoming speech Kayla made, she was the ambassador of the delegation of Egypt. Then we moved on to the first resolution on the situation in Iraq. Jorge was the main submitter so he made a speech on the resolution. We made points of information and Irem had the opportunity to make a speech. Then we moved on to Blake's resolution on comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations. He

made a speech on the resolution and we again made points of information directed to him but we asked more questions to him than we asked Jorge so he was the only one who took the floor due to the time concerns. With Blake yielding the floor back to the chair, we moved on to the third resolution on preventing the illegal trade of human organs. Kayla was the main submitter so she made a speech and only two of us had the opportunity to make points of information due to the time concerns! After those two points, we had a break for 15 minutes.

After the break, Ofer, the third main submitter made a speech on his resolution on the elimination of measures to prevent the cutting of energy supplies in order to place pressure on other countries. We made four points of information this time (we were the ones who asked the majority of all questions there). Then we moved to the last resolution which was written by Chi. on increasing the funding of projects which combat fatal diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Malaria. Again, we could only make two points of information due to time concerns.

In a nutshell, the debate was fruitful and very enjoyable but because of the lack of time, we weren't able to make speeches or make points as much as we wanted to make. We would love to continue having such debates with George C. Marshall in the future and even be the ones who invite them next time.



As Turkey is a country with a rather important geopolitical situation and is one of the few secular democracies with a predominantly Muslim population, The Republic of Turkey has always received a great deal of attention in the international arena. However, this attention has not always been in a positive manner and the Republic of Turkey still faces all sorts of accusations relating to her borders, her population and her past. All of us are familiar with these accusations to some degree as we have grown up with loads of advice on how wrong they

mrkey

actually are. Still, being a PDC member and attending international conferences showed me once more how hard it is to be a Turkish citizen. In that sense, we decided to devote the Special Issue of this Young Ambassador to accusations that we have personally faced throughout our experience as a delegate and ways to combat them.

1) Turkey has killed millions of Armenians in a systematic and organized way between 1915 and 1917.

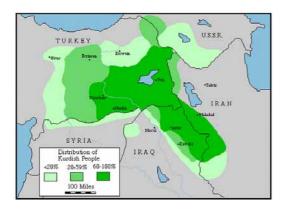
In the latest years the attention directed at Turkey has mainly focused on the claims of an "Armenian Genocide" between 1915 and 1917. However, the issue has been mostly discussed by politicians rather than historians. The Armenians were actually one of the largest minorities in the Ottoman Empire and they are known to have a good position in the

society while they were under the Ottoman Rule. However, with the Ottoman Empire's decline and the start of the First World War, the Armenians especially in the Eastern parts of Turkey engaged in conflict with the Ottoman Forces, supporting Russia in the First World War. As a result of these, the Ottoman Empire was forced to relocalise the Armenians who were involved in illegal acts. The Deportation Law (Tehcir Yasası) was put into practice on June 1915. The law didn't specifically mention the deportation of any minorities, it rather contained measures that were to be taken in order to stop the terrorism and riots. As a result of the law approximately 500.000 Armenians were deported to other regions of the Empire. There were casualties as a result of famine, epidemics and attacks but most of the Armenians arrived at their



destination safely. It should be highlighted that the Ottoman Empire was forced to take such a decision as a result of the acts of the Armenians against the empire and there is no doubt that the casualties during the deportation were in no way deliberate and they do not constitute "genocide".

2) Though Turkey has a vast Kurdish minority in the East, she officially denies their existence and represses their ethnic identity.



To start with, according to the Treaty of Lausanne, only non-Muslim populations are considered as minorities in the Republic of Turkey. In that sense the Kurdish population is no different than other Turkish citizens. They have the same rights, limitations and responsibilities. In the recent years they have been given even more rights concerning the use of their language in media. All in all, no matter what their ethnic background is all Turkish citizens enjoy the same rights and that surely includes the Kurdish people as well.

3) The military has great influence on the decision-making process and it interferes with the acts of the government.

The military is a very important institution in Turkey both as the main organ to ensure

national security and as the protector of the principles of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. However, this importance is not a means for the army to interfere with the acts of the government. Apart from the decisions relating to national security, the Turkish Armed Forces do not intervene any acts of the government as long as the secular and democratic principles of the nation are safeguarded. The army and the parliament both function as independent institutions and the issues relating to national security are only discussed in the National Security Council which ensures that the army doesn't take a political stand. As a democratic nation, the parliament of Turkey has always been an independent decision-making body and intends to stay so.



4) The Turkish army has unrightfully invaded Cyprus and taken over one-third of the island without any justifications.

Though Greece and Turkey have been going through a re-conciliation period in the latest years, the Cyprus issue remains to be an unsolved problem between these states. In order to take a clear look at the intervention of 1974 we need to have an idea of what happened before the intervention. As a result of the Greek Cypriot's ENOSIS aim which is to unite the island with mainland Greece, the illegal community EOKA was formed. In the following years more than 60 Turks were killed brutally (these events were later referred to as "The Bloody Christmas"). After these acts the Turkish government asked to use her "guarantor rights" 3 times and in the 4th time Turkey "legally" intervened Cyprus with the aim of protecting the Turkish Cypriots. The Turkish army forced the Greek fighters back and in 1984 the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus was formed. Though the Turkish Cypriots on the island are now safe, still the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus faces many problems as she is not recognized by many countries. All in all, this intervention was rightful as it was an act aimed at protecting the Turks on the island. As it was seen in the referendum of 24 April 2004, the Turkish Cypriots on the island are always ready to co-operate and find a lasting solution to this problem that has made both sides suffer over the years.

5) Women face excessive domestic violence, forced marriages and honor killings in Turkey and their rights are not protected.

Throughout history, Turkey has constituted an example in regards to gender equality and Turkish women have been granted the right to vote and to stand for election years before



many other nations in the modern world. Today Turkey's constitution (and especially the Law on the Protection of the Family) ensures the protection of women's rights. With the newly enacted laws, honor killings are punished more severely than other murder cases. What's more, a lot of non-governmental organizations carry out projects to prevent domestic violence and to ensure the enrollment of girls in schools. For example as a result of the "Haydi Kızlar Okula" campaign of the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, more than 222.000 girls have been enrolled in schools. Another

campaign that is being spearheaded by the newspaper Hürriyet " End to Domestic Violence" (Aile İçi Şiddete Son) has received various awards from international organizations and has proved to be very effective in raising awareness and preventing violence. On the other hand, the Republic of Turkey is making endless efforts to tackle women's problems and the latest example is the resolution titled "Working Towards the Elimination of Crimes Committed in the Name of Honor" that Turkey is working on along with United Kingdom.

This resolution will be debated in the 59th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

1) Turkey's aggressive policies concerning Northern Iraq cause turmoil in the area.

Since 1984 more than 37,000 people have been killed in the conflict between the Republic of Turkey and PKK which is a militant terrorist group. With the destabilization in Iraq in the recent years the terrorist activities have rose once again. After the recent increase in the number of terrorist acts (including the bombing in Ankara) Turkey is determined to solve this problem once and for all. Previous efforts to stop the organization through co-operation with the USA have also failed. To conclude, what the Republic of Turkey is trying to do is to protect her citizens and restore the peace and security in the area.

2) Turkey is an Islamic country and is in denial of the fact.

Turkey is a secular and democratic state since its foundation by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. The Republic of Turkey doesn't have an official religion, it doesn't promote any religions and it ensures that state affairs and religion don't intercept. Secularism has always been one of the most important principles of the country. The recent walks for secularism have once again proved that the Turkish people are very sensitive on the issue and the Republic of Turkey continues to be one of the modern secular states with a predominantly Muslim population.



3) Religious beliefs and rights are not respected in Turkey and the debates on religion and secularism lead to polarization in the society.

The founder of the Republic of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk has always kept the same distance from any religious ideologies during his lifetime. Consequently, as a secular state, the Republic of Turkey ensures the protection of religious beliefs and rights regardless of the religion. As a bridge between the West and the East, Turkey has always been an amalgamation of different beliefs and approaches towards religion. For centuries, people of different religions and ethnic origins have lived harmoniously under the Ottoman Rule. Though the majority of the population is Muslim, Turkey is home to people believing in a great range of religions and these people have always lived comfortably without facing discrimination or any other problems.

4) Turkish water development plans for the Tigris and Euphrates rivers attacks the rights of other countries such as Syria.

Some of the biggest dams in Turkey are set up on Tigris and Euphrates rivers. However, this is due to the lack of water sources in the region. The Republic of Turkey uses her governance rights over the rivers and in no way threatens other countries' rights. In that sense the issue should not be put forward constantly by other countries as an example of violation of rights and should be settled in regards to the mutual benefits of both sides through international law and agreements between the two sides.

10) Turkey violates Greece's rights about the extent of territorial waters and airspace.

The extent of territorial waters and airspace of Greece has been an important dispute between the two countries since the foundation of the Republic of Turkey. Especially during



the 1970s several political and military tensions have risen as a result of the dispute. Since the islands are undeniably a part of Greece, Greek claim of 12 miles will include almost 70% of the Aegean Sea, leaving only a 10% part to Turkey. Although UN Sea Law clearly states that a government has the right to determine the territorial waters up to 12 miles, International Court of Justice has decided that "designating territorial waters is intergovernmental issue and it can't be bound by the coastal state's decision, as defined by their national law. Although determining borders is necessarily a unilateral action due to the coastal state's authority to decide upon the issue, this limitation's applicability for other nations is purely an issue of international law". Therefore in spite of the fact that the issue remains stable in the recent

years, efforts from both sides are needed to resolve the dispute.



October 27, 2005; Clichy-sous-Bois... the breakout of events that reminded the world of the situation in which immigrants in Europe are. The controversial death of two North African teenagers that led to a turmoil and disastrous riots in France. Nothing can be said whether such an event will occur again, but there is one thing for sure. It is time that the European Union (EU) took stronger action.

Ever since the 1970s, EU proposed numerous plans to tackle the immigration problem. The core of the problem has been identified in two-fold, first of which being the illegal immigration clandestine, which refers to the illegal immigrants and second one, aftermath. Last year, on 19 July 2006, the EU Commission adopted a new policy that aims to achieve more efficient standards in migration management. Right now it appears that, if the new strategy is well implemented, it will resolve the first part of the problem.

The "Communication on Policy Priorities in the Fight Against Illegal Immigration of third-Country Nationals" addresses the whole process of illegal immigration, with the intent of balancing security and basic individual rights. The plan will firstly aim at developing the communication both between Member States and with third-countries. By this way, EU intends to gain the long-sought operational cooperation in her fight.

Another key article in the Communication will be tackling illegal

employment. It is evident today that industries such as textile, construction and catering, offer employment for illegal immigrants. Even though the conditions often prove to be inhumane and exploitative, these jobs are still a great pull-factor for illegal immigrants. Thus, the Communication also addresses the human rights issues, and not only in working standards. The return policy is changed too, and now illegal immigrants will face with more tolerant and humane procedures.

All things considered, EU is making a leap in her policy towards immigration clandestine. Yet, how the newly-imposed measures will pay is still unknown. If EU keeps this attitude up and succeeds in fully implementing the new Communication, a major part of the clandestine will seemingly be solved. Still, the remaining part must be accounted for.

When the bigger picture is taken into consideration, it is obvious that the integration of ethnic minorities is still a huge obstacle. Surely, none of the Member States can afford another breakout like the Clichy-sous-Bois. That is why; countries must grasp the importance of the integration problem and take the necessary action rapidly. With the right precautions and new approaches especially in educatory and social areas, the issue can be resolved. It is now up to the European governments to decide what their next step will be: insisting on their discriminative and degrading policies or reforming the system for a permanent solution?



ENVIRONMENT 17

"It happened that a fire broke out backstage in a theatre. A clown came out to inform the public about the habit. They thought it was a simple joke and applauded. He repeated again; but people laughed even more. This is actually the way the world will end-with general giggling by all witty heads, who believe it is a joke." * This is actually the real situation we are facing up with nowadays. This is actually what global warming may bring us in the end; like Titanic sinking in the bottom of the ocean day by day, but still performing the play, applauding the musicians and saluting our regrets which have already drowned in our ignorance.

Global warming... Just hearing the name makes us scared of the future which is so far from what we dream of. We are all surrounded by the pessimistic manners of people all around the world, the catastrophe theories of newsmen when we turn on the radio and the heartrending of beadsmen invokes everywhere we step on, but what is the real situation today? Is it too early to say goodbye to everything we once loved on this earth or is it definitely the right time to ring the alarm?

The world climate system is a really elaborate composition which is made up of different orders of the atmosphere, oceans, forests, deserts, icebergs, volcanoes, polar zones, stream systems and human ecology. All these compositions ensure the immutable system of the earth and keep the ecological balance, and simply, global warming is the point where all these systems and mutual balance shatter. Basically, global warming is observed increase in the average temperature of the Earth's near-surface air and oceans in recent decades and its projected continuation. This increase is mainly because of the greenhouse gases that heighten through the sky and mix with the structure of the ozone layer. When these gases come face to face with the ozone layer, ozone gas disperses and loses its property of holding the dangerous rays coming from the sun, and these rays cause extra heat

on the earth and global warming arises throughout the world.

Honestly, the scenario we have been acting for a very long time may actually come true if we don't take the necessary precautions and keep ignoring the basic deficiencies. The effects on both natural environment and human life have already arisen: A 2001 report by the IPCC (The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) suggests that glacier retreat, ice shelf disruption such as the Larsen Ice Shelf, sea level rise, changes in rainfall patterns, increased intensity and frequency weather events, extreme are being attributed in part to global warming. While changes are expected for overall patterns, intensity, and frequencies, it is difficult to attribute specific events to global warming. Other expected effects include water scarcity, changes in mountain snow pack, adverse health effects from warmer temperatures, and the spread of diseases.

According to the latest UN report on Global Warming, the situation is much more frightening than it seems. "The drought of water sources is just the visible part of the iceberg we are about to crash" summarizes the report, and continues: "Due to lack of water and source, dangerous wars and disputes are waiting for us in the future." The report also claims that, in the following years, drought may increase in several continents like Africa, Europe and Asia, deserts may enhance around the whole world, natural disasters and cataclysms may arise and tornadoes may emerge in America.

The melt-down of the icecaps may consume all water sources and as of 2020, 1.2 billion people may suffer from thirst and if the average temperature increases 1.5 degrees and the weather becomes warmer than the year 1990, 1/3 of animal and plant species may become extinct. As of 2100, great amount of the icebergs and icecaps in North Pole may melt down and most probably, Antarctica may disappear, and unfortunately, all these scenarios have already shown their effects in today's world.

The most painful detect of the report is that, the only directors and causers of this catastrophe movie are all the same: Human beings...

Certainly, there are many exits to get out of the scenario we are performing today, but it may only come true if we really stand up for our world and accede struggling for the home we actually belong to.

Universally, there are many types of suggested solutions for the betterment of the situation we are in, and most obviously, The Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This is an amendment to the international treaty on climate change, assigning mandatory emission limitations for the reduction greenhouse gas emissions to the signatory Countries nations. that ratify protocol commit to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases, or engage in emissions trading if they maintain or increase emissions of these gases. This protocol is one of the most important steps ever taken in our way back into a healthy world. Most of the countries ratified the protocol, but ridiculously, some countries

like the USA and Australia, which have been causing damages in the ozone layer much more than anyone else, have been unwilling to ratify the protocol. They simply demanded that, their economical stakes are more important than the health of the world, and didn't agree to take a really necessary step to protect our grandchildren-maybe just ourselvesfrom a "happily 'never' after..." ending...

This reality shows us once more, how arrogant and selfish we, human beings are. This actuality again shows us why we do deserve such an ending. This simple insolvency reminds us how helpless and desperate our minds are, even if our hands are holding nuclear bombs tightly. This situation symbolizes once more, how much we have forgotten the real meaning of being a human and how a simple concept such as money has become our god.

One day, when the last rain drop touches the ground, when the only animal left gives his last breath and when the last leaf desperately fades, people will understand: Money is not enough to survive...

STOP GLOBAL WARMING!



* : Soren Kierkegaard

Surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean, accepted as the origin of humans here is Africa; the world's second-largest and second most-populous continent. Have you ever thought why Somalia is in these conditions, or why people die in Darfur, Sudan. All in all, what is the problem in Africa?

"Since colonialism, African states have frequently been hampered by instability, corruption and violence. The vast majority of African nations are republics that operate under some form of the presidential system of rule. However, few of them have been able to sustain democratic governments, and many have instead cycled through a series of coups, producing military dictatorships. instability, however, was mainly the result of marginalization of other ethnic groups and graft under these leaders. For political gain, many leaders fanned ethnic conflicts that had been exacerbated, or even created, by colonial rule. In many countries, the military was perceived as being the only group that could effectively maintain order, and it ruled many nations in Africa during the 1970s and early 1980s."

instability has become common in Africa. And I think one of the top-ranked reasons for instability in political circle is the incursion of Military in Politics. Though with the new songs about democracy in all parts of Africa, the heavy hand of the military is still very much felt. Political Instability is associated with the military regime. However, the question is why Africa is still experiencing the same in democratic settings.

United Nations is making efforts to heal wounds in the continent through the resolutions for the betterment of countries, direct aid and supply for them. These helps function in different ways. An UN organization which makes effort for Africa is called the UNDP (United **Nations** as Development Programme). Actually UNDP is the UN's body for global development, advocating for change and connecting countries knowledge to help people build a better life. UNDP has projects focused on the continent Africa, the Millennium Development Goals in Africa (MDGs). The main objective of the UNDP is the extensive interventions in peace building. "UNDP plays a lead role in planning and coordinating aid strategies, programme and activities amongst, and on table of the strategies."

behalf of UN agencies in Africa."

Peace keeping missions of the UN are essential for Africa. Peacekeeping as defined by the UN; is a way to help countries create conditions for sustainable peace. For instance, in the beginning of 1993, a



two-year UN humanitarian effort in Somalia was able to alleviate famine conditions, but order still had not been restored. However, in most cases UN operations fail to be effective in ensuring peace and security.

United Nations, the symbol of peace, acknowledged recently that a decade of UN peacekeeping in Angola has failed. Angola is not the only example of failure to be mentioned; peacekeeping actions in Rwanda, Sudan, Somalia or Sierra Leone are also examples. Former Secretary General, Kofi ANNAN, stated that another civil war in neighboring Congo might spread over the continent and he also tried for months to get leading UN countries to consider deploying UN peace-keeping forces to the area. However, while the fighting continues without stopping in Congo and in other African states such as Sierra Leone, the response from the United Nations' 185 members has been silence. As a result, we will keep on seeing news concerning Africa, starvation, death, civil wars... Moreover, the United Nations has accepted the findings of a report which accuses it of failing to prevent the genocide in Rwanda more than five years ago. Obviously, UN accepts her failure in the territory; her fields of action should vary and be more effective in order to overcome the problem of instability. Admitting failure is not the solution. As Jean Nidetch once said "It's choice - not chance that determines your destiny.

Irem Tumer

Every week for several years now, the mothers of the murdered women in Mexico and Guatemela "Las Muertas" gather in the streets and remember their daughters. Dressed in black, they march on the roads like small, sad birds; trying to remind the authorities of what has happened to their children.

Their daughters are actually the victims of a wide-spread phenomenon commonly referred to as "feminicide". Feminicide is the systematic killing of especially workingclass women by exposing them to violence and torture due to their gender, regardless of ethnicity age or ideology.

After the number of female murder victims increased considerably in some regions of the world, the international community started to question why these deaths were taking place. After some investigations, it was understood that a high number of women were being killed especially in states where their rights where their rights were not properly safeguarded and they were subject to discrimination.

The cases of feminicide were mainly seen in the city of Ciudad Juarez in Mexico and Guatemala City. According to different sources, approximately 320 females were murdered in 2003 in Ciudad Juarez while 1.600 women are thought to be victims of feminicide in Guatemala since 2001. These high numbers resulted in a sudden global campaign and several commissions were formed by certain organizations to put an end to the chain of murders. Consequently, the European Parliament passed resolution no.1454 in 2005 and United Nations included the issue in agendas of several conferences. However, these actions did not pay off as they were expected to and soon the global community forgot all about the women in Guatemala and Mexico.

The biggest question why these women were murdered and why these murders are unstoppable, still lingers. Of course there are many factors that contribute to feminicide, and the biggest of them is

"impunity". Impunity is the overall failure to investigate, prosecute, capture, try and convict those who are responsible for crimes. Moreover, it is seen widely in Mexico and Guatemala. Until November 2003, only 35 perpetrators were and they were sentenced convicted maximum 20 years in prison because of the corrupt system in those states. Another reason is the lack of adequate attention and the political will of the authorities to confront the problem. It is known that most of the member states facing feminicide are not parties to international treaties concerning women's rights. What's more, there are no effective record-keeping systems that provide data and numbers relating to feminicide. Most of the police reports classify these murders under different names, thus making it impossible to determine the exact number of murders.

On the other hand, the socio-economic status and environment of the women that were murdered brings another dimension to feminicide. When we check out who the victims are and where they come from, we see that they are mostly low-



waged women racing for the bottom line, working in factories without any insurance or rights. They are discriminated widely in their family and work lives as well as in the society and they are subject to violence.

Rigobertha Menchu, Guatemalan Nobel Prize Winner once said: "We are not myths of the past, ruins in the jungle or animals in zoos. We are people and we want to be respected, not to be victims of intolerance and discrimination." This is actually the common outcry of all the women in Mexico and Guatemala. Until the rights; effective, promotion of human professional, transparent authorities respect for women are ensured, it seems that "Las Muertas" will have to march in the streets like little black birds and mourn over their daughters' death for а long time.

DISARMAMENT

"I call upon the scientific community in our country, those who gave us nuclear weapons, to turn their great talents now to the cause of mankind and world peace: to give us the means of rendering these nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete." (Ronald Reagan)

At first with a great explosion in science, the first nuclear bombs achieved a big accomplishment, and a continual race commenced. Respectively all well developed countries started to produce nuclear bombs to supply longstanding peace in the world but as the honorable former U.S.A president supported; permament peace in the world can't be achieved, by guns, it can't be sited on strong basis.

On August 6, 1945, only about 62 years ago, more than 60% of Hiroshima's buildings were destroyed within seconds, taking down around eighty thousand of the citizens with In the aftermath of this oblivion, thousands of more people suffered from radiation poisoning until they finally found their eternal peace. It was a literal massacre, but it lasted much longer than the others. For many years, most of the children born in Hiroshima were victim to cancer or other diseases related to radiation poisoning. Even today, the adolescents of Hiroshima carry such diseases over world average. As a well-known fact, this nightmare is caused by nuclear weapons.

On July 1, 1968 The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (one of the first treaties concerning nuclear non-proliferation, issued by UN and serves as a cornerstone for fighting against nuclear armament) was opened to signature. Today, decades after 1968, we can still see some countries so ignorant as they haven't signed nor ratified the NPT. Other treaties, such as the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, have also been passed by the UN and are still waiting to be ratified. What do we get as result? More countries are developing nuclear weapon projects everyday, and they manage to show this as a legitimate right of

theirs. Meanwhile, other countries that already had their nuclear weapons ready to fire and came up with much more destructive ones -based on fusion reactions of hydrogencan be over a thousand times more powerful than the old ones (referred as fission bombs). Anyone who knows basic math can infer that the usage of these kind of bombs can cause to an average of eighty million instant deaths. The scariest part is that six countries have already acquired a hydrogen bomb.

The most common consolation would be assuming that no war can break out in our age, but looking at Iraq, we clearly see that it would be the most incorrect assumption. On March 20, 2003 the invasion of Iraq by the United States forces began. The first reason U.S. cited was that Iraq was working on an undercover weapon of mass destruction project. Luckily for us, Iraq didn't possess any kind of weapons of mass destruction and U.S. didn't need to use its extra-powerful nuclear bombs. With these facts, we came five inches close to experiencing another nuclear slaughtering. Only by thinking about this incident, one can say "goodbye" to his peaceful nights, and also luckily none of any other country bent to use nuclear weaponry.

"How much in danger are we then?" question This rests never answered...Many governments are secretly continuing various nuclear weapons programs without considering the danger and our rogations. Looking at these recent events, how can we possibly know how much nuclear danger is lurking around the globe? Please help us to stop nuclear weaponry in the world by joining hand in hand, with hearts attached to each other, with our stouthearted hearts, and with believing in each other, we can oppose the real massacre...We can stop the game of producing more powerful nuclear weapons that might cause the destruction of the world.

Who are we? How did we come to be who and what we are? Every nation is in need of learning their history of origin. The cultural property of nations represents the memories of their forefathers and help each nation's newly born generation to grow with their rich, unique history.

Many people continue to suffer from the loss of their unique and irreplaceable cultural heritage. There İS growing recognition of importance of cultural property in its place of origin which affected the feeling in the international community that these people should be empowered to recover objects which they created and which best represent their culture. Many organizations are working on the issue and trying to give the opportunity of bilateral negotiations to the states. The most functional organization on the issue is UNESCO's Intergovernmental undoubtly Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation.

There had been two demands of restitution to the committee which are the return of Parthenon Marbles from United Kingdom to Greece and the other one is the return of Boğazköy Sphinx from Germany to Turkey. Another milestone on the issue is the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and the Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. There are of course other related conventions and declarations. However the adoption of this convention by Member States is very crucial for the cooperation in the international community against illicit trafficing of cultural objects from one country to another.

The Member States of the committee are working for new projects and returning cultural objects of great historical significance to their rightful owners. Canada returned heritage artifacts to Peru, Mexico and Colombia which are also members of the committee and adopted the 1970 UNESCO Convention. Canada is recognized as a leader in the fight against illicit traffic in cultural property by the international community, as proved by its recent election as Chair of

UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee. On the other hand ICOM and INTERPOL's role in the fight deserves praising.

The negotiation settlements between individuals or institutions are as important as are returns effected through co-operation between police, custom and other relevant government-to-government authorities, negotiations and the work of the UNESCO Government-to-government Committee. negotiations often require some means of persuasion. Economic issues may be important. In litigations, experts have also played key roles in identifying objects and allerting governments. Recent cases in several countries must be able to provide timely evidence of the origin. (photographic object's evidence, museum inventories, archaeological excavation of evidence of recent reports excavations)

No country in the world, no matter how wealthy or well-organized in their museum and archaeological sevices, has been able to completely prevent these crimes. France, Ireland, United Kingdom and United States, all with art security measures, have suffered major losses of cultural value in the last decades. Co-operation among states will help the prevention of the loss of precious cultural heritage objects. That's why major art trading states are now party to the convention and others are working towards accession.

Importance of cultural property should be acknowledged by every state, and individuals. Our cultural heritage is lighting our past, our origins. This big loss must be prevented and wounds should be recovered. Human being should work in order to embrace their origin and not for destroying it.



Peoples of the world were relieved when the North Korean Nuclear Threat was over; but it was certain that this relief would not last long; because there came another at their doorstep immediately, namely, Iranian Nuclear Threat.

It all started when a U.S.-supplied Tehran Nuclear research reactor in Research Centre (TNRC) was exported in the 1960s and thus, accelerated the slow progress of Iran for developing her nuclear program. In the following decade, Iran negotiated with United States (1974), Germany (1976) and France (1977) for the construction of nuclear power plants and the supply of nuclear fuel as well as purchasing stakes in a uranium enrichment plant in France and in Namibian uranium mines. Before the Islamic Revolution in 1979, when Iran was still a strong ally of U.S., she was known to have the most advanced nuclear technology in Middle East, being an active member of Eurodif and several nuclear-related organizations.

As each incline has a decline, the Iranian nuclear program and research came to halt the with Islamic Revolution because of two simple reasons: Firstly, the flee of scientists from the country made the nuclear research inoperable and in addition to that Khomeini government didn't regard the nuclear research highly due to their religious principles. Later, U.S. expressed her opposition to Iran's developing nuclear technology and thus, Iran's most attempts to establish nuclear power partnerships with other countries such as Russia, China and Argentina in the 1990s failed.

Now, when we look at the big picture, we see Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani (a former president of Iran) saying, "...we expect to soon join the club of the countries that have a nuclear industry, with all its branches, except the military one, in which we are not interested. We want to get what we're entitled to.", or the NPT (which Iran is a party to), stating that each state (that is signatory to the treaty) has

the right to develop a pure civilian program on one side, but at the same time the French Foreign Affairs Ministry Philippe Douste-Blazy strongly affirming that the Iranian nuclear program is a clandestine military program or the U.S. secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, demanding Mohamed El-Baradei to harden his stance on Iran or fail to be elected for a third term as IAEA's Director-General.

Personally, it's still hard for me to decide on the right side. Is this theory (the theory that Iran aims to develop nuclear weapons) something that the capitalist forces have just conspired to show that they have grown into skeptical nations or is there a clandestine significance of Iran postponing IAEA inspections to some of her nuclear centrals? If we ignore the fact that inspectors had found diagrams on how to transform uranium to "sphere" consequently made it malleable nuclear weapons or some Iranian politicians stating that they want retaliation for their beloved ones they have lost to chemical bombs of Iraq, there are no blaming fingers pointed at Iran. What we can observe from the surface is, it can be deduced that Iran only seeks to develop nuclear technology to sustain fossil fuel consumption and allocate those oil supplies to high value products export rather than generating electricity, and protect her environment.

However, for example, Israel has the right to be concerned about the president of Iran Mahmoud Ahmedinejad, denying her right to exist, and imagine what could happen if Iran obtained nuclear weapons or the US would worry about the fact that Iran supported Hamas and the Islamic Jihad and would give nuclear arms to them if she had any. They fear that waiting may not conclude in what they hope and thus, oppose Iran. Whether it will turn out to be a "comedy of errors" or a "tragedy of clowns" we need to wait and see what happens which Western countries are most unlikely to do.

Turkey's efforts to modernize its government in order to become one of the developed western countries is the most important reason Turkey wants to join the organizations founded after the World War 2 (especially the ones in the European Union or at least the ones that has capitals in the European continent) and European Union is one of those organizations / unions Turkey wants to join and has been trying to join. After the creation of the European Economic Community in 1958, Turkey made its first application to join in July 1959. The European Economic Community's response to application was to "suggest establishment of an association until Turkey's circumstances permitted its accession" as the Secretariat General for EU Affairs states. With that response, EEC proposed to sign an agreement with Turkey until its development was sufficient to fulfill a member's duties and that agreement was the "Ankara Agreement" which was signed on 12 September 1963. (The agreement entered into force on 1 December 1964.) The agreement stated that it would secure the full membership in the community and that it would assist the full membership of the country to the community.

With the military intervention to the government in 1980, relations between Turkey and EU had become even worse however with Turkey's developing economy and its multiparty elections (1983) the relations began returning to normality. With those improvements, Turkey applied for full membership in 1987. The application to the Council was then sent to the Commission for the Opinion. The Commission completed the Opinion in 3 years (1990).

It stated that Turkey was suitable but it postponed the in-depth analysis to a more favorable time. By the time EC was also on the eve of the Single Market policy so EC's own economic situation was another reason that prevented the Union from considering another enlargement. The Opinion also stated that there was need for comprehensive cooperation program for the integration of the two sides so the Customs Union should be completed by the end of 1995.

In 1999, Turkey was recognized as a candidate on equal footing by the Helsinki European Council.

With the elections of AKP in 2002, the reforms made by AKP led to the stability both politically and economically. The Turkish government supported the Annan Plan for Cyprus in 2004, which was later rejected by the Greek Cypriots. Also, the hyperinflation came to an end (which had been continuing for three decades).

As the Erdoğan's government and its political reform program continued, the capital punishment was abolished a crackdown of torture was seen and more rights to the Kurdish population was given.

As response, European the Commission suggested the negotiations between Turkey and the European Union should begin in 2005. The EU leaders also agreed to start the negotiations with Turkey from October3, 2005 Despite the fact of Austrian government statement that said Turkey should be given less than full membership.

However, Turkey's accession talks have dogged by numerous domestic and internal problems. The issue of Cyprus remains to be a major reason for not letting Turkey be a full member. In addition to that, European officials comments on the slowdown of the Turkish political reforms. These two major problems combined with each other is also leading the negotiations turn into a train crash instead.

A mid-2006 Eurobarometer survey revealed that 43% of Turkish citizens view the EU positively; just 35% trust the EU, 45% support enlargement and just 29% support an EU constitution. (1)

Taking into consideration the history of relations between EU and Turkey, we can say that the reasons citizens think that way is because the negotiations had taken much longer than expected. They think that if European Union wanted to have Turkey as a full member, the negotiations should be over by now with a happy ending not a transformation of a train crash.

Also, they don't trust the European Union as much as they did five decades ago, which didn't result as what they expected.

In addition to that, European Union wanted Turkey to implement some criteria that weren't involved in the Copenhagen Criteria and this also led to the decrease of the citizens trust.

They also think that European Union doesn't let Turkey become a full member because of the majority of the religion people believe in (which is Muslim and is not the official religion of Turkey).

They also think that European Union is not truly implementing EEC Treaty's Article 237. Another reason EU gives is that Turkey has only 3% o fits lands on Europe but the Article gives the right to become a member to any country that has lands on Europe, that is a European country.

As a conclusion, if the relations between the European Union and Turkey didn't take such long time and European Union could be more into having Turkey as a full member, citizens would still trust the union and the barometer would be showing other numbers that would show that Turkey is not backing down but wants to join the Union even more enthusiastically than ever.







- Special Thanks to:Oytun UğurelCan GöloğluTuğcan Selimhocaoğlu

