

Turkey-EU Relations: The Security Perspective and The CDSP



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TURKEY-EU RELATIONS: THE SECURITY PERSPECTIVE AND THE CDSP

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Security has always been one of the most significant determinants of Turkey's relations with the European Union. A member of NATO for six decades, a

candidate country to the EU, and one of the main actors in the shared neighborhood, i.e., the Black Sea, Southeast Europe and the Mediterranean, Turkey is/should be a 'natural' security partner for Europe. Nevertheless, Turkey's security cooperation with the EU, and to some extent NATO's relations with the EU, have been hamstrung because of the unresolved Cyprus issue, especially since the latter's accession to the Union in 2004. Moreover, Turkey's policies in recent years toward Syria, in Libya, and its security cooperation with Russia, have led to tensions and have become impediments to the progress of Turkey-EU partnership in the security and defense realms.

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