

TURKEY AS A STRATEGIC PARTNER OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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The relationship of Turkey and the EU (until 1992 EEC) represents one of the most important and actual items of policy of Turkey, that is why the studied problem is relevant in our days. Attempts of Turkey to become the full member of the EU determine that policy, focused on Europe, is priority for the country. The purpose of the article is to analyze the characteristic of prospects of the entry of Turkey into the EU through the analysis of requirements of this organization, and to reveal factors according to which, Turkey could become the strategic partner of the EU. The leading approach to research of this problem is the historical and comparative method based on the selected sources, allowing comparing, and analyzing aspects of readiness of Turkey to become the partner of the EU. The main results of research are in the analysis of features of relationship of the European Union and Turkey taking into account that each of the parties pursues own benefits and aims. The reasons and circumstances on which doors of the EU cannot open before the Republic Turkey are established, and the potential role of Turkey as strategic partner of the EU is considered. Materials of article can be useful in the researches connected with political history of Turkey and in modern socially - political debates about a potential place of Turkey in the EU.

Keywords: European Union ; Copenhagen criteria ; council of the EU ; summit ; protocol.

INTRODUCTION

Annual “reports on development,” published by experts of the European Union give the analysis about the level of readiness of candidate countries to become full participants of this organization. The report of 2011 put forward a position of the European Union in relation to the countries, which are going to become members of the EU (www.again.inosmi./europe). It does not say that conditions for all countries tending to get to the EU are identical. The European Union Council creates the separate list of requirements for each country taking into account the economic and political situation in this state. For the characteristic of prospect of the entry of Turkey, the report uses the Copenhagen criteria (Mesut, 2008). However, the current president of the republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan repeatedly expressed opinion that Turkey is not interested in the accession to euro alliance any more, and Turkey has already bypassed some European countries in economic and socio-political factors (www.haber.gazetevatan). Besides, it is possible to follow that in Turkey the interest in a question of the accession to the EU decreased. Today this idea is supported only by 20 percent of the population of the country while a few years ago this figure was four times higher (Ortaylý, 2011). Lately the relations between the EU and Turkey became stronger, the parties agree

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on the general projects and the plans of action, and in particular, they activate negotiations on the entry of Turkey into the structure of the European Union.

Background of the question of the entry of Turkey into the EU

Turkey submitted the application for a full membership to the EU (at that time to EEC) still on July 31, 1959 when the head of the state was Menderes (Starchenkov, 2002). The Ankara contract became the main document of the Turkish - European relations. It stated the purposes of cooperation between Turkey and the EU and peculiarities of these interactions (Kudryashova, 2010). To become the full member of the EU the following was required - the solidity and security of the institutes providing democracy, justice of laws, observance of the human rights, respect and protection of ethnic minorities; existence and functioning of stable market economy, as well as ability to cope with the competitive pressure and market prices within the Union; consent to accept conditions and obligations of membership among which there is a commitment to the political, economic and monetary and credit goals of the union (Gadzhiyev, 2006). Today Turkey declares that it has not only fulfilled all requirements, but also has outstripped some member countries of the European Union in economic development. However, the question of the entry of the Republic of Turkey into the EU remains open.

Question of compliance with the Copenhagen criteria

After an assessment of economic indicators, the European Commission draws the general conclusion about compliance of the country with the Copenhagen criteria. The most important factor is that Turkey has the stable market economy. Nobody can doubt it. The level of the state intervention in economy is normal, and we will quite compare it with the majority of the European countries. The European Commission revealed some difficulties in economic development of Turkey, but does not focus attention on them because these small defects the country can easily correct. The following criterion is a logical continuation of the first one. After creation of market economy, it is necessary to enter the world market. It is important for integration with the European Union. EU noted full progress of Turkey (Kudryashova, 2010) on these indicators. A lot of attention was paid to such branches as education level and degree of unemployment in the country.

These indicators are true for an economic condition of the country. The government of Turkey shows the vigorous activity in the decision of all existing problems.

In the sphere of economy the following conclusions were made: transition from the agrarian form to the industrial is conducted at a high level, there is a restructuring of the industry, failures of the market are quickly closed and restrictions for activity of monopolies became much less (Ziganshina, 2005). Manufacturing of high technologies and orientation on services show a proper level of the

development of economy. The Turkish economy becomes more and more open. And it is a positive point. Quality of the Turkish export improves. Speaking about economic integration with the EU, its rates are lower than the expected. But Turkey actively establishes commercial relations with other countries. The majority of them are the countries of the Middle East countries and some other developing countries (Urazova, 2004). For the EU it is of course unprofitable, but it is very profitable for Turkey. In the final part of the report it is said that the Turkish economy can be called market only within stabilization and success of reforms in the field of economy. The European Commission doesn't deny that Turkey took many successful steps for the improvement of an economic situation. On a background of such candidate- countries the inclusion into the structure of the EU, as Bulgaria, Romania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the economy of Turkey is powerful. The Turkish economy surpasses in growth rates even Finland (www.inosmi./europe). It shows the huge potential of the Turkish economy. It will be more difficult soon to European Commission to find faults in the Turkish economy. And it is necessary to notice that Turkey is developing at its rate, but it doesn't seek to do anything for taking place in the EU.

Scientific novelty of research

Scientific novelty of this article is in the question of relationship between the European alliance and Turkey through the analysis of modern texts of international treaties and agreements in the Russian, Turkish and English languages.

METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Research problems

During this research the following problems were solved: 1) to estimate results of the development of relationship of the parties from the moment of formation of the EU up to nowadays; 2) to define the factors preventing entry of Turkey into the European Union; 3) to analyze the value of Turkey as a strategic partner for the EU.

Theoretical methods

The complex of the various methods supplementing each other for the analysis of this problem was used:

- the theoretical – the analysis of literature, standard, legislative, instructive-methodological, briefs and mass media materials on a research problem; studying and synthesis of innovative historical analyses, synthesis;

Investigation and analysis phases

The research was made in two stages:

- the international mass media pay great attention to the development of the relations between Turkey and the European Union. We have selected the most informative and important materials are made their analysis; and also considered reports of politicians at the international conferences.
- translation of collected materials from Turkish, English languages into Russian.

RESULTS

The main statements based on annual reports of the EU about Turkey

In December, 2000 at the summit in the city of Nice the structure of the EU institutes were renewed. The next EU summit took place in December 15, 2001 in the city of Laken. Here Turkey was presented as well as other candidate- countries for the EU. In the middle of December 2002 the EU summit in Copenhagen took place. The important decision on expansion of borders of the European Union was made at this summit (Ziganshina, 2005). So, the relations between Turkey and the EU reached a new level. It was decided that during three years the process of integration will be checked every year. Further the constant partnership with the EU was offered to Turkey. But Turkey couldn't accept this offer. The leader of France Nicolas Sarkozy declared if "Europe accepts everyone in its ranks, soon it will lose the identity". Angela Merkel, the leader of Germany who opposed Turkey too, decided to sugar the pill for Ankara and declared that leading parties of Germany will surely support providing "exclusive partnership" for Turkey instead of "a full membership in the EU" (*www.europa.eu.biu.ac.il*). According to these remarks, Turkey had to forget the plans for full membership in the EU. First of all, it is caused by that France and Germany are the leading EU countries, their opinion will be always considered, and they can block any initiative of Turkey.

Results of implementation of requirements of the European Union by Turkey

Turkey fulfilled all requirements of the EU adequately and began to meet standards to political criteria of Europe. But the success of Turkey in this question is not still guaranteed. Now the measures for consolidation of cultural- political dialogue between two parties are discussed. There are no doubts that Turkey has to overcome a long and difficult way before it becomes the full member of the EU. It turns out that the process of preparation for accession to the European Union may take time until at least the middle of this century.

Public opinion of Turkish citizens about the studied question

Numerous analysis are carried out to identify the Turkish public attitudes to the idea of joining the EU. These analysis indicate that a substantial majority of the population supports the government in the idea of joining the EU. These indicators

are stable for many years. More than 70% of the population in 2004 acted with the approval of the idea. But then there was a delay of the process of internal political reforms. In addition, the lack of further progress in the negotiations and the general uncertainty of prospects for the country's accession to the EU significantly reduced the statistical indicators. The number of those who are in favor of joining the EU is 40% in 2010. (Mesut, 2008). But these indicators do not state that there is complete unanimity on this question. Many people are afraid of the negative consequences of Turkey's accession to the EU. Survey results indicate that 49% of the population cannot take the country's abandonment of its sovereignty because of the desire to meet the EU's wishes. They are against the reforms in the field of foreign policy and defense, 31% of people are not satisfied with the changes in the socio-economic sphere. Statistics show that 13% of the population do not want to lose its independence in the field of politics and culture. And finally, even more impressive figure of Turkish citizens (62%) believe that the EU shows permanent injustice against Turkey, as it sets new requirements which were not set from - candidate countries (Birinci, 130).

DISCUSSIONS

The studied problem has a relatively recent history, Russian researchers conducted a lot of work concerning this problem. You can mention such authors as A.G. Hajiyev (2006), G.M. Ziganshin (2005), G.I. Starchenkov (2002), Y.S. Kudryashov (2010), E.I. Urazova (2004). The views of Russian researchers on the prospects of Turkey's accession to the European Union are quite diverse.

International media pay a great attention to the development of Turkey-EU relations. From the statements of EU politicians such as N. Sarkozy, A. Merkel, M. Ferbera were seen their negative attitude to the possibility of Turkey joining the European Union. They often tend to focus on some of the defects of the country's economy. And also, they point to political and territorial development of Turkey which is historically very different from the European.

CONCLUSION

R.T. Erdogan has repeatedly declared that if the EU does not take specific measures for or against Turkey's accession to the EU, Turkey will give up its European ambitions. In December 2012 he said the same words in an interview with «Zaman» Turkish newspaper. Erdogan said that Turkey is not going to wait forever at the EU door. After all, the EU did not want to make decisions to accept or reject Turkey (www.haber.gazetevatan). And if Turkey becomes a member of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization), then there will be no sense to knock on the doors of the European Union because the SCO is more powerful organization. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a regional international organization founded in 2001 by the leaders of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan

and Uzbekistan. Erdogan continued his speech with the following words: "I become more and more convinced that the EU has chosen the way of development as a Christian club". After World War II Turkey was accepted to NATO. No Muslim country could achieve this. NATO puts insurmountable obstacles in front of the Muslim countries, who want to enter into its structure. Apparently, the EU does not want to repeat the mistake of NATO". Erdogan also noted that Turkey is not focused on the EU, and is looking for alternatives to development. He accompanied his words with the idea that the SCO is becoming a global project. India and Pakistan tend to enter it. Turkey also does not exclude such a possibility (Ortaylı, 2011). So it is quite possible that in the near future Turkey will be appreciated in the eastern part of the world.

Meanwhile, politicians all over the world are engaged in preparing forecasts in the matter of possible entry of Turkey into the EU. As it known, the supporters of Turkey in the EU are the United Kingdom and the United States, and ardent opponents are France, Germany and Austria. The President of France is sure that if Turkey join the EU, it will be beneficial to neither the EU nor Turkey. However, diplomats say that Turkey is a bridge between East and West. This is the exclusive role of Turkey in the world. The majority believes that it is necessary to have partnerships with Turkey in the Middle East (Ortaylı, 2011).

Of course, intense oppositions against Turkey accession to the EU are connected with the fear of its current members, related to the future of the Union, if Turkey becomes a full member. The fact of the start of negotiations on Turkey accession to the EU in 2005, says that Turkey has already reached the European level and is ready to become a full member of the EU (Kudryashova, 2010). Turkey meets the EU requirements. The EU itself is funding the reforms in Turkey, and this suggests that it understands the necessity to fulfill its obligations to Turkey. In addition, accession negotiations provide the opportunity to influence the course of events in Turkey, to exert economic and political pressure. The supporters of Ankara are mainly leftists and moderate-conservative forces, the liberal-minded public. And they insist that when Turkey joins the EU, it will be easier to be influenced on. The EU's policy towards Turkey is based on its advantageous geopolitical and geographical location. If Turkey becomes a part of the Union, the EU will be able to act as a global dictator of conditions. But a negative experience for the EU will be the migration of a huge number of people from Central Asia and the Middle East to Europe. In the case of integration Turkey will become the most populous country in the EU. This means that it will have the largest number of deputies in the European Parliament. Due to large number of its population, Turkey can become the most influential component of the European Union.

The economy of Turkey is developing very rapidly. If it enters the EU, it will become a significant impulse for the development of the European market. Turkey will integrate with the European business, which in turn, will give the European

Union the possibility of huge investments. With the influence of Turkey, the EU will be able to gain access to sources of raw materials and new markets in the Middle East and Central Asia. It states that gradually Turkey will have to switch from dollar to euro. Turkey has close relations with the CIS countries, the Asian countries. Taking it into consideration, we can say that in the future euro will be able to significantly strengthen its position and expand the scope of use. Also Turkey will be able to become an assistant in energy supply to the EU, as it has a good stable relationship with the countries that possess the world's oil reserves. But due to its demographic and economic indicators, Ankara can turn into a country, often requiring assistance from the European Union. The EU fears that it will have to spend finances from internal projects to help Turkey, which will significantly deteriorate the state of the economy in Europe. After the accession of Turkey, the flow of Turkish labor force rushed to Europe will destroy the stability of the European labor market.

Over the past ten years, the experts talked about the indispensability and importance of Turkey as a partner of the EU, since Turkey has promising prospects, which can bring benefits to the European Union.

Recommendation

The article is of interest to specialists who are engaged in the study of political history of Turkey, the factors of interaction of the European Union with the candidate-countries entering the organization.

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