

THE NATIONAL EUROPE CENTRE
RESEARCH SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, ANU,
PRESENTS:



PUBLIC SEMINAR

EUROPEAN UNION AND TURKISH RELATIONS: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

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Tuesday 9 October 2007, 5.30-7pm

ANU National Europe Centre, 1 Liversidge St [67C], The Australian National
University. Light refreshments will follow the seminar. Parking available
in Balmain Lane, opposite University House. This lecture is free and open
to the public. RSVP preferred: europe@anu.edu.au
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Dr Kemal Kirisci is Professor of International Relations in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul. He is also Director of the European Studies Center at Boğaziçi University and he holds a Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration. Professor Kirisci is the author of numerous international scholarly publications and his most recent book, co-edited with B. Rubin, was *Turkey In World Politics: An Emerging Multi-Regional Power* (Lynne Reinner, Boulder, 2001).

European integration has sparked impressive economic growth in most new member countries and has expanded and consolidated "democratic peace" in most of Europe. Turkey is the next challenge. Accession negotiations with Turkey formally began in October 2005, but have proceeded much slower than the negotiation talks with Croatia, which started the process at the same time as Turkey. Clearly, there are numerous challenges that face Turkey's accession ranging from the Cyprus problem to the slow down in Turkey's reform process to the virulent opposition to Turkish membership among a number of key member countries, foremost France.

What are the prospects of both sides overcoming these challenges? This paper will demonstrate that Turkish membership in the EU could bring a number of advantages to both sides as well as to the regions surrounding Turkey. Yet, most importantly, a genuine engagement of Turkey towards membership would help to overcome the legacy of the last remaining historic "division" in Europe and help to bring the benefits of "democratic peace" to a neighbourhood of strategic importance to Europe. A transformed Turkey would be an asset in strengthening the EU's "soft power". It would bring dynamism to the EU and also help overcome its own dilemmas concerning its identity.

The views in this Lecture are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University



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