

## TURKEY'S JOURNEY TOWARDS THE EU

*Speech held by Egeman Bağış, Turkish Minister for European Affairs at Andrassy University in Budapest*

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### *(Abstract)*

Negotiations between Turkey and the EU regarding Turkey's accession to the European Union have started several decades ago, but there are still numerous unresolved matters to be cleared from both sides. Since 2009 Turkish foreign policy has been following a new trend, which is mainly leaning on the country's soft power, its fast-growing economy, and its young and dynamic society. The target is set: the focus of the recent reforms is to be able to join the EU as a full member. The government has made every possible effort to ensure the economic and political stability, as well as the consolidation of the democracy. From the perspective of the EU, Turkey's cultural diversity, advantageous geographical location from economic, political and energy security point of view, its conspicuous economic improvements during the last decades, and its willingness towards serving as a good moral lesson along with its long history of constitution of secular democracy can be beneficial, provided Turkey is given a membership.

*Keywords:* European Union, secular democracy, soft power, neo-Ottomanism, global actor

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### *Outline*

1. Compliance with the EU criteria
2. Historical identity
3. Security and Safety Aspects
4. Increasing EU competitiveness and ensuring GDP growth
5. Energy security: energy corridor or competitor
6. Conclusion

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*The Article soon be published ...*

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