



INTERNATIONAL BLACK SEA - CAUCASUS CONGRESS

“Economy, Energy and Security; New Opportunities”





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PRESENTATION

Today, the globalization has been separating international relations, political and socio-cultural interactions, energy and security perception and dependences, and especially the economic cooperation from its traditional line and has been carrying all of them to the new dimensions. New strategies that have been rapidly transferred into the practice have been causing new developments. Paralleled to these developments; the countries, who cannot produce the projects that have vital importance for the future, have been forced to stay only as an object of the globalization instead of being its actor.

Turkey, who is in the junction point of Asia, Europe and Africa, should be a country who affects the globalization at least, instead of being exposed by its effects. Turkey should seriously support its politicians, businessmen, academicians, artists and new generations in the subject of spreading to the external world by placing the classical comprehension of the past on one side in the period of 21th century. It is definitely an inevitable obligation to form a gravity force to inside from abroad as the necessity of expansions towards to the outside.

TASAM has been periodically planning the international qualified congresses that contain the geographies of Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and Balkans on certain themes every year; so TASAM aims to serve the interaction among the investors, political determinants, vocational institutions and scientists in various geographies of Turkey and the World; and the development of mutual relations. It is obvious that the geography of Black Sea-Caucasus has been leading to the privileged areas on which this aim has been observed.

The geography of Black Sea-Caucasus has kept its existence as an important geostrategic and economic area throughout the history. Throughout this geography; trade, transportation and communication have been highly difficult and dangerous. Natural obstacles and the frontiers, which have been changing or cut by wars, have been serious obstacles in front of the stability all the time. However the indispensable condition of economic development and prosperity in the present point of globalization has been the cycle without constraint of goods, services and fund in a place which is purified from the violence and protected. No doubt that the conditions specific to the geography of Black Sea-Caucasus have been making an economic and political integration impossible such as in the example of European Union.



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But this situation is not an obstacle for developing the mutual relations among the actors of the Region on the basis of cooperation. **The “International Black Sea-Caucasus Congress”** has been targeting to present concretely what can be the new opportunities with economy, energy and security areas to the forefront by considering the potentials in the Black Sea and Caucasus in the context of global power challenge and the geopolitics of the Region and to draw a perspective towards to the future.

Today, the events in the Black Sea and Caucasus are the proofs of the necessity to comprehend its geopolitics after the Cold War as in a different shape from the past but as a new order according to Turkey. Geopolitical codes and balance of the world have been destroyed. New period has been living the formation process of new geopolitical balances. Roles, partnerships, contradictions and profits have been revised. The alliance ground of the Cold War period has been highly distant to explain the targets of cooperation in today. New geopolitical challenge areas have been forming; the tone, color and sides of challenge have been reshaped. And in the present point, **the efforts of dominating in the same place with the same reasons have been making the conflict inevitable.**

The geography of the Black Sea-Caucasus has a special place according to the “geopolitical gaps” of the period after the Cold War as the Central Asia, Balkans and the Middle East. Mentioned geography has been leading up to work in the mechanism of communicating vessels of “geopolitical gaps” of the period of the Cold War. Then the geography of the Black Sea-Caucasus has been a crossing area of geopolitical axis in the axis of East-West.

In addition it has been both resource and reaching focus of energy geopolitics. It has been the scene of multilateral challenge. It has been a potential challenge area in which two super powers of the Cold War period have been directly face to face just as evoking the past again. So, **the Black Sea-Caucasus has been among the most important nerve endings of Eurasia challenge.** The Black Sea-Caucasus has been a challenge are of geopolitical profits not only for the USA-Russia but also for EU, Turkey, Ukraine and Iran. Also the location of Turkey has been the most private country among all.



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While the gap caused by Russian Federation in the Black Sea will be filled only by Turkey; Turkey has been keeping its sleeping giant position. What will be the heaviness of Turkey, who has deep sociocultural links with the Caucasus as its longest frontier with the Black Sea, in the Region in the next decades? That should be questioned.

It is the most privileged issue than it was in past that Turkey should look after its historical heritage and responsibility in the Black Sea-Caucasus, and redefine its profits and targets in this context.

Turkey, who has the biggest economic and military power in the Region in pursuit of Russian Federation, has the political, economic, military and cultural system in the Region that is the most integrated with the West, in the same time. It is obvious that Turkey is supposed to form and apply new policies in the Black Sea-Caucasus that seems the important developments. Turkey can find a middle course as an only actor in the Region who has been close to the USA, EU and especially Russian Federation; and has their trust. So, a possible division in the geography of the Black Sea-Caucasus can be ignored.

How will the Black Sea-Caucasus of 21st century will be reminded in the history? Who will provide a permanent peace in the Black Sea-Caucasus? How will the changing geopolitics of the Black Sea-Caucasus affect the global security? These are the questions whose answers will be tried to be found by the International Black Sea-Caucasus Congress. This congress, whose target is to provide an important contribution to search an answer of all these questions with all actors of the Region and to develop new opportunities **“based on economy”**, has also been aiming a healthy and sustainable industrialization.

Best Regards...

Süleyman ŞENSOY
TASAM Başkanı



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MEETING NAME

International Black Sea - Caucasus Congress

SUBJECT

Economy, Energy and Security; New Opportunities

To organize the activity of the “International Black Sea - Caucasus Congress” which will actively gather the representatives of the sides who have been directly concerned with the Black Sea Caucasus Region, and will be participated by related business grounds, academicians and experts besides the superior managers in charge in the public establishments.

PLACE

Istanbul, Turkey

DATE

2016

CONTENT

The Black Sea - Caucasus Region has always caught super powers’ attention throughout the history because of its geopolitical importance, natural resources, ethnical structure and cultural wealth; and has been keeping on catching global and regional powers’ attention such as the USA, EU, Russia, Turkey and Iran today. At present, the Black Sea - Caucasus Region has been security, energy and transportation link between the East and the West.



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Both the common usage of petrol and natural gas in Eurasia and the transfer of them to the Western markets have been increasing the importance of the Region.

While the content of the Congress has been determined, it has been tried to consider some factors such as politically historical development of the Region states; the problems faced in the development of state and economic development processes that were underlined of the crisis exploded in Caucasia in August, 2008 with the problems faced especially in the period after the breakout of USSR, ethnical conflicts and the security of energy transition route. In this frame, it will suit to be concentrated on political developments of region states, frozen conflicts and its effects to the regional stability, new economic opportunities and energy security issues. These subjects have been responding to the requirement bornt from the lack also in case of being areas in which concrete opportunities, cooperations and dialogues for the solution will be able to be maintained in the same time.

According to the geography, the Congress has been planned as to contain the Black Sea and Caucasian regions which have an interwoven geopolitical location. In this frame besides the Black Sea countries such as Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Russia and Georgia; Azerbaijan, Armenia and Moldova have been taken into the scope of Congress.

COORDINATOR

The coordinator of congress is Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies (TASAM). TASAM is a nongovernmental organization in which private sector representatives, sciencemen and researchers, who know the importance of strategic researchs and who aim to supply our country about this issue, have come together and hold activities in an academical dimension.

The aim of TASAM is to produce realistic, dynamic, creative, effective solutions and decision options to the determinants by making scientific researchs, analyses and evaluations towards to the dual, regional or multilateral international relations; historical, cultural, political, economic, legal, sociological and geopolitical struction; political, economic, socio-cultural problems of Turkey by following the latest developments in the world.



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AIM

In the Black Sea - Caucasus security, the crisis experienced in August, 2008 became a milestone. From the Cold War period to now it has been the first time that regional and global powers have been on the edge of a conflict. Even if it is known that the security of the Black Sea has a deep basis both in terms of history and politics; it has been observed that usual security perceptions and policies in the region have begun to change right after the August Crisis. Also the Ukraine Crisis experienced in 2014 is one of the hottest results of this situation.

The main aim of the project is the revival of the discussions about the economy, energy and security of the Region in the light of developments existed in the Black Sea - Caucasia region; and the development of a conscious area specific to the Black Sea - Caucasus in the areas such as economic relations, security cooperation, democratization, energy security among the Region countries.

The aims of the congress that will be organized are:

- To share the information produced by expert persons and institutions from the Black Sea - Caucasus countries,
- To remove the miscommunication among the Region countries; and to contribute to exist an efficient and fertile communication area,
- To remove information pollution among the Region countries and institutions,
- To determine the requirements that will contribute the discover and evaluation of opportunities among the Black Sea - Caucasus countries thanks to the communication that will be established among the experts and institutions that will be gathered all together in the frame of Congress; and to form a basis to prepare a platform in which solution suggestions that will answer to these requirements have been produced,
- To contribute to create a public opinion in the level of academic and political areas and the think tanks in case of the prevention and analysis of conflicts in the Black Sea - Caucasus region.



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TARGET

- To make Turkish and foreign public opinion, academic community and **NGOs** representatives gather all together just in a short period,
- To put the original economy, energy and security construction of the Black Sea - Caucasus to the forefront, so to encourage to form discussions, suggestions and predictions specific to this structure,
- To discuss probable roles of Turkey and the other actors in the solution of problems in the Region,
- To strengthen the communication among the Region states, the other nongovernmental actors -who are active in the Region- and the various authorities in the step of formation of the Black Sea - Caucasus security,
- To contribute to prepare dialogue platforms or to develop diplomatic relations by increasing the communication,
- To offer policy suggestions and predictions to the determinant corporations and foundations about the Black Sea - Caucasus economy security in short, middle and long terms.

The targets of the Congress in the middle and long term are,

- To contribute the efforts of stability and cooperation in the Black Sea - Caucasus,
- To contribute to define action style of Turkey by producing the possible policy options,
- To identify the security comprehension in company with the Region policies and economy - energy balance of Turkey by counting the policies towards to the Black Sea - Caucasus in the regional and international areas.

REASON

The Black Sea - Caucasus Region has been located in a place where has an increasing importance according to being in the center of Euro-Atlantic and Eurasia security. In the Region, there hasn't been only the geographical differences, but also been differences on the political, economic, security and cultural areas. The security of the Region is the product of highly different security perceptions of riparian states to the Black Sea and their neighbors. Thus, some Region states have been in the Europe and North Atlantic security structures, others have been sharing the same agenda with the regional powers.



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Moreover, it has been observing that the international security center has slipped to the Black Sea - Caucasus when EU and NATO expansions, the increasing energy dependence to the Russia Federation by EU, and in this frame the increasing interest towards Khazar have taken into the account.

In Caucasus, the ongoing disagreement between Russia and Georgia has turned into a hot conflict in the result of an extensive military operation organization towards to the South Ossetia by the aim of “making the stability and order dominant and reinstalling the territory unity of Georgia” by georgian unities in 7-8 August, 2008. The intervention of Russia in the South Ossetia has been spread to the Georgia.

In the light of these developments; the crisis of August 2008 has caused the trouble, which was limited with the South Ossetia and Abkhazia according to the Georgia before, to turn into a crisis that fuels the disagreement of Russia-West in the end. The hot conflict in the Caucasia has deeply affected also the security of Black Sea.

The crisis of August 2008 has found out how fragile structure the Black Sea - Caucasus region has according to the security. The August crisis has been in front of us as an important problem whose isolatedly evaluation is impossible according to the reasons of its existence, the content of conflict and the following experiences.

The crisis has important reflections in lots of areas especially in regional political stability and democratization efforts; and Turkey has been one of the countries who have been affected from this crisis in the most serious shape. In 2014, a new crisis has exploded right after EU members except Russia defended the protection of land indivisibility of Ukraine without recognizing the referendum made for Sovereign Republic of Kyrm.

In the division process of Soviet Union, lots of etchnical conflicts have been experienced especially in the Black Sea and Caucasia by historical, legal, political and geopolitical reasons. The frontier problems of the newly established states and the hot conflicts that have showed up in the frame of these problems have blowed the disagreements shaped after the USSR, and have begun to affect the security of Black Sea and Caucasus region.



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The solution of conflicts have been postponed by the ceasefires and open-ended negotiation processes through the nineties; but these “frozen conflicts” have begun to bring the possibility of hot conflict again since the beginning of 2000s into the question. The military operation towards the South Ossetia of Georgia in August in 2008 has turned one of these frozen conflicts into a hot conflict. Similar conflict possibility has been still continuing in troublesome regions such as Karabagh between Georgia and Abhazia, Azerbaijan and Armenia; and Transdniester in Moldova. The recognition of independences’ of Abhazia and the South Ossetia of Russian Federation has made the solution of the problem difficult in the frame of present international law and security perceptions.

The Black Sea - Caucasus region will be one of the most critical regions as of being in the focus point of the problems in the middle of international agenda such as frozen conflicts, Russian-Western relations, the energy flow of the East-West, the proximity to the Middle East and Khazar region in the next period.

So, it is highly important to revise its policies towards the developments that will be experienced in Black Sea and its ground; to get into the new conjuncture and to produce new policies by Turkey.

The Black Sea - Caucasus region has a critical geopolitical importance according to the energy flow of the East-West. An important part of the European Union energy demand has been supplied by Russian Federation. But the increasing energy dependence for Russian Federation by EU has begun to create a threat to the European Energy security especially by the power cuts in the result of disagreements experienced between Russia and Ukraine in Black Sea. This situation has taken attention of European Union countries to the Khazar resources.

And even if it strengthens the role of being an energy route of Black Sea and Caucasia; it has also heated the efficiency challenge on energy resources and transition routes in the Region. This efficiency challenge has been showed as one of the important reasons of Georgia - Russia conflict. The energy transition lines which have already been and have been planning to establish in the Black Sea-Caucasia region have been forming one of the factors that negatively influence the security in the region.



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After the crisis of August 2008 that was experienced recently and deeply affected the regional stability; there has been a requirement of the discussion of Black Sea - Caucasus security, the sharing of different security approaches and information in the step of defining policy according to the region states and Turkey, the development of common solution suggestions and regional perspectives. In the frame of this requirement, it has been critically important to increase the communication among the states and organizations who have actively been especially into the Black Sea - Caucasus countries and the Region. The lack that has been experienced in the subjects as augmenting the communication and the interest of Black Sea - Caucasus security by public opinion has been sourced from the problem of security, ambiguity and harmony of the region states and other actors. The political polarization that has showed up among the Black Sea - Caucasus countries has been increasing the distrust among the neighbor states. It will be beneficent to keep diplomatical channels, which have been called as **public diplomacy** and have been shaped generally by academic, non governmental organizations and think tanks, open for opening the communication and diplomatical relations, which have been closed for interstate relations. The prior actors in this case have been able to increase their efficiency, so their effects in the region.

So there has been a requirement for organization of an international congress especially with the participation of academical environments, representatives of economy-oriented sector, think tanks, nongovernmental organizations and international organizations; in the point of revealing the forecasted idea sharing and solution suggestions.

The International Black Sea - Caucasus Congress will remove the mentioned requirement by offering the suggestions for the future of the Region security, creating a discussion platform and creating a public opinion related with the subject in the context of probable developments especially right after the crisis of August 2008 and February 2014 with economy of the Region and the expansion of energy by gathering the experts all together.



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TEAM IN CHARGE

Project Leader

Süleyman Şensoy, Chairman of TASAM

Project Coordinator

Dr. Engin Selçuk, TASAM Director

Project Vice-Coordinator

Yadigar Seviş, TASAM Director Assistant

Project Advisors

Ambassador (R) Murat Bilhan, Vice Chairman of TASAM

Ambassador (R) Prof. Ali Engin Oba, TASAM Ankara Representative

Ambassador (R) Ümit PAMİR, TASAM TSV 2023 Project & NATO Wise Persons Board Member

Ambassador (R) Ömür ORHUN, TASAM TSV 2023 Project Wise Persons Board Member

Assoc. Prof. Güliden AYMAN, Marmara University

Prof. Esra Hatipoğlu, Vice Chairman of TASAM

Prof. Sedat Aybar, Chairman Advisor of TASAM

Dr. Necmi Dayday, Member of Board of Directors, TASAM

Assoc. Prof. Abdullah Özkan, Director of Public Diplomacy Institute, TASAM

Experts in Charge in Project

Dr. Almagül İsina, TASAM

Dr. M. Hilmi Özev, TASAM

Arif Ali Söğüt, TASAM

Diler Ulukaya, TASAM



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EXPERTS AS TO BE BENEFITED

TURKEY

Prof. Faruk Sönmezoğlu, İstanbul University

Prof. Mert Bilgin, Bahçeşehir University

Prof. Çağrı Erhan, Faculty of Political Sciences, A.U.

Assist. Prof. Özgür Özdamar, Economy and Technology University, Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges

Dr. Hasan Kanbolat, Caucasus Expert

Assoc. Prof. Mitat Çelikpala, Economy and Technology University, Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges

ABROAD

Prof. Valery Saligin, International Institute for Energy Policies and Diplomacy

Alain SERVANTIE, European Commission, Belgium

Prof. Anatoli MOMRYK, National Center for Science Education, Ukraine

Prof. Denys KUZMIN, Odesa University, Ukraine

Diego MELLADO, European Commission, Undersecretary of Political Affairs

Prof. François GERE, President of France Strategic Analysis Center, France

Prof. Hans KOECHLER, President of IPO International Progress Organization, Australia

Prof. Ioan POPA, Romania European Institute, Romania

Assoc. Prof. Kostadin GROZEV, Sofya University, Bulgaria

Prof. Teimuraz BERIDZE, International Black Sea University, Georgia

Todor PETROV, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bulgaria



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Arzu SEMEDBEYLİ, Deputy, Azerbaijan Parliament

Prof. Bulatov Yuri, International Relations at the Moscow State University

Evgeniy Primakov, Russian Chamber of Trade and Commerce

Prof. Oleg Alekseyevich Kolobov, Russia

Prof. Aleksandr Alekseyevich Kornilov, Russia

Prof. Norman Graham , Michigan University, the USA

Prof. Sherman Garnett. Michigan University, the USA

Prof. Theodore Postol, the USA

Prof. Pieter Bottelier, the USA

Dr Julia C Strauss, Londra University, England

Prof. Frank Dikötter, Londra University, England

Dr Srinath Raghavan, King's College, England

Dr Anna Matveeva, Londra University, England

Prof. Gilbert Rozman, Princeton University, the USA

Prof. Angela Stent, Georgetown University, the USA

Eugene B. Rumer, International Strategic Research Organization, the USA

Prof. Debra Johnson, Hull University, England

Prof. Dr. Jonathan Stern, Oxford Energy Research Institute, England

Dr. Heiko Schuss, Friedrich-Alexander University, Germany

TARGET GROUP

The target group of the Congress is;

- Statesmen from Turkey and the Region countries
- Senior Bureaucrats
- Academicians and Experts



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- Research Centers
- Potential Investors planning to invest in the region
- Industrial and Commercial Organizations, Unities and Chambers
- Energy Institutions
- Nongovernmental Organizations
- Media Members
- All of our public and the Region communities interested in the subject

METHODOLOGY

The congress will continue for three days with its outlines. The first day of the congress; the first, second and third sessions will be held also with the opening speeches. In each session, five academicians or experts except the moderator will present their declarations in twenty minutes.

After the presentations, there will be a transition to the part of question-answer for an hour. In this part, there will be a discussion platform among the native or foreign expert academicians, who haven't presented a declaration, and other participants; and the academicians who have presented a declaration in the session. The same methodology will be followed also in the other sessions.

Also in the second day of the congress, four sessions will be held and the same methodology will be followed. The Congress will end with the session of general evaluation that will be done in the same day.

A travel program that includes historical and cultural places will be organized on the third day of the Congress.



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MEDIA

The chief editors and news directors with columnists of journals and televisions will be invited to the activities within the Project. Furthermore, the promotional works will be prepared for these activities to appear in the press.

PRESENTATION MATERIALS

The contents of presentation materials, which contain the activities in the Project, are:

Banner

Leaflet

Invitation

File

Notepad

Promotion

In addition the visuals that will reflect to the store in the hall and identification badges will also be prepared.

CONGRESS BOOK

A book will be prepared after the summit by the aim of turning the evaluations, data and information formed in the International Black Sea - Caucasus Congress and will be sent to the concerned institutions and authorities just as our other congresses and conferences. The transformation of the declarations presented in the Congress into a book form will make the studies of people, who has given an effort in this case, more meaningful.