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TURKEY-U.S. FORUM



“New Era in the
Turkish - U.S. Relations: Opportunities and Risks”



Near East South Asia
Center for Strategic Studies



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“Turkey – USA Relations of the New Era: Opportunities and Risks”

Istanbul

Various speculations regarding the worsening of Turkey - USA relations, are present. Bilateral relations have been negatively influenced by; “a common history”, the normalization of the relations between Turkey and Armenia, Turkey's relations with Iran and particularly the controversial Turkey-Brazil-Iran Nuclear Enrichment Swap Deal. Especially the obvious tension encountered with the USA Congress; has evolved as a result of the worsening of Turkey – Israel relations due to the event of the Gaza Fleet. All of these situations are increasing the tendency to harm each and everyone of the stable and bilateral relations that provide mutual relations.

Despite the highly positive Turkey-USA cooperation in Iraq, the Middle East and Afghanistan; Turkey's more active regional foreign policy that adopts the approach of “Zero Problems With Neighbours” has created concern among several environments of the region and the US. Multipolarity in the international arena and the accredited policies adopted by various countries; are questioning widespread consensus regarding many visible problems and increases their concerns. As a result of emphasizing different perceptions regarding Iran and Israel, a new crisis in Turkey-USA relations is not too possible. The coldness that increased at the formal and informal levels, has put forward the need of a more sincere, more informed and more sustainable dialogue between the two nations.

Turkey, continues to be a key ally for the USA, and still sees the US as a highly important partner. These two countries share mutual interests regarding areas such as supporting peace and consistency in the Middle East, fighting against terrorism and fundamentalism, to promote an open and global economy, to provide with secure energy transportation, to provide the Black Sea, the Caucasus and the Middle East with security, and the sustainability of useful cooperation with the United Nations. Such a coincidence of interests, provides a possibility of a spectrum that is promising for the future regarding beneficial mutual cooperation. Keeping in mind Obama's intentions of closing to Turkey and the World of Islam, this cooperation seems specially favourable.



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But today, Turkey - USA relations are absent the strategic quality they used to possess before; and there is an emergence of more and more differentiating ideas of the two sides, especially regarding critical subjects such as the Gulf and the Middle East. Besides the expectations of a “Model Partnership”; both sides support the idea that it is difficult to approach subjects beyond daily events, and they are having difficulty forming effective bonds between their real interests and their political objectives. This structure of relationship, must be extended and deepened in order for it to contribute into wider strategic interests of both countries. In order for the Turkey – USA relations to gain the characteristics of a “model partnership” within the multi-dimensionally shaping global power system; the two countries must turn towards a structure that will create a mutual deepness in every parameter, not only a strategy based.

Turkey - USA Forum has been formed with this purpose. The Forum that will be held annually; aims to develop and strengthen the relations between Turkey and the US. The forum also aims to serve as a platform that will put forward the opportunities and ideas that will elevate interests of both countries regarding the region and also broader areas.

The main theme and sub themes of the forum are as follows:

Main Theme

“Turkey – USA Relations of the New Era: Opportunities and Risks”

Sub Themes:

Normalization of Turkey – Armenia Relations and Referred to as “Common History”

Peace and Consistency in the Middle East: Turkey- USA Cooperation

Turkey - Israel Relations: A New Regional Paradigm

Turkey - EU Relations and the USA

EU Common Security and Turkey within the Scope of Defence Policies, NATO and Role of the US

Energy Security, Energy Source Policy and Opportunities

Black Sea - Caucasus Policies of USA and Turkey

Afghanistan and Middle Asia: Possible Areas of Cooperation

Iran and the Region: Approaches of the US and Turkey

Iraq and the Region: Approaches of the US and Turkey