



# **BALKAN** **İLETİŞİM AĞI KONFERANSI** **COMMUNICATION NETWORK CONFERENCE**

STRATEGIC VISION DOCUMENT ( DRAFT )

## **8<sup>TH</sup> BALKAN COMMUNICATION NETWORK CONFERENCE**

**“Economic and Security Integration in Balkans: Opportunities and Challenges”**

**( 7 November 2014, Edirne )**

Creating collective consciousness in Balkans is necessary to provide stability and trust that are barely settled on a delicate base after collapse of Yugoslavia, increase Balkans' life standard and actualize the regional interests ideally and comprehensively among the Balkan countries. Accomplishing those goals is dependent on establishing high level political dialogue, minding policies of broader international economic and political structures like NATO and EU, strengthening current cooperation areas, integrating or coordinating security and economic policies according to this framework. By doing so; multinational, multi-religious and multi-ethnic social structure in the region may be protected and “common interest areas” may be established among the Balkan countries.

European Union policies are determiner in assuring stability of Balkans and establishing a reasonable regional economic interaction. Moreover, West Balkans are crucial for EU's peace project. In the case of continuing EU accession process positively for Turkey, Turkey can attribute to development of Balkans and that may foster regional integration.

Until today, Balkan common identities have been shaped by the outside. A Balkan identity that is established by Balkans themselves prevents foreign interventions and empowers regional institutions. Thus, economy develops and need of foreign aid decreases. Hence, regional economy develops and dependency on foreign aid decreases. In addition to improve political and commercial relations, set up financial infrastructure for industry and commerce; that will help to develop tourism and sport and eliminate the obstacles for regional integration. At that point, accelerating process of Balkans' integration with EU is vital.

Tension and conflict in Balkans sabotage not only security but also welfare, cultural diversity and identities as history proved. Regional stability and security issues should be integrated under NATO umbrella, and the region should be protected from becoming zone of influence of different powers.

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# **BALKAN** **İLETİŞİM AĞI KONFERANSI** **COMMUNICATION NETWORK CONFERENCE**

Ensuring stability and security in Balkans is significant not only for the regional countries but also for Europe - Asia connections, as recent developments near the region reveal. The position of Balkans in the new security conjuncture has not been determined yet while centre of global security activities are getting to move to Pacific from Atlantic. The era we are living in is an historical breaking point and recently developing conditions require Balkan countries to construct their joint future according to zeitgeist punctiliously. The need of strong initiatives for justice, trust, stability, empathy, and cooperation in Balkans are more required everyday.

The main tendency with gaining speed of globalization after end of the Cold War is consolidating power within regional cooperations or “trans-regional partnerships” instead of per se. Currently, countries are tending towards an open structure based on economic, political, cultural dialogue and cooperation, while the other countries that could not adapt themselves facing with significant instability.

With this framework, **8<sup>th</sup> Balkan Communication Network Conference** with the theme of “**Economic and Security Integration in Balkans: Opportunities and Challenges**” aims for establishing an intellectual and strategic platform to support decision makers to take effective and preventive initiative, and revealing how mutual potential and current practices can be transformed into a strategic cooperation.

## **Main Theme**

**“Economic and Security Integration in Balkans: Opportunities and Challenges”**

## **Subthemes**

**Evaluating New Developments in terms of Historical and Strategic Background**

**New Aspects and Changing Content of Security Concept**

**Importance of Economic and Cultural Activities in terms of Security**

**Process of European Union and Future of Balkans**

**Importance of NATO with regard to Balkans**

**Importance of Transatlantic and Transpacific Economic Cooperation and Investment Partnership**

**Technology Sharing, Academic and Cultural Cooperation**

**Sectoral, Financial and Strategic Deepening**

**Cooperation in Diplomacy, Cultural, Tourism, Industry, Energy, Defense and Security, Banking**

**Social, Economic and Political Developments**

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