



(STRATEGIC VISION DOCUMENT)

TURKEY - CHINA FORUM

New Era in Turkish - Chinese Relations: Opportunities and Risks

(27-29 June 2012, Beijing)

Turkey has increasingly grown as an important actor with its 75 million population, developing and expanding economy, geostrategic position in the middle of Afro-Euro-Asian mainland; historical, political, cultural connections with the European, Black Sea, Caucasian, Asian, Middle Eastern and African countries, its activity in the international arena, particularly in the UN; its stand as one of the most important members of NATO, OSCE, and CICA; and its recently advanced activist foreign policy.

People's Republic of China, on the other hand, has become apparent as an important power that grabs attention worldwide with its surface area, 1.3 billion population, natural resources, progress in the fields of industry and technology, veto power in the UN, position in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and newly developed foreign policy strategies.

Turkish - Chinese relations has deep rooted historical background through the Silk Road. Still, diplomatic relations between the two countries could not be established until 1971 because of the Cold War necessities. After China initiated international expansion program, high profile visits began between Turkey and China.

Turkey and China have common interests in the geopolitical and security areas of the Middle East and Central Asia. In view of **energy security and ever increasing terrorist activities**, meeting the requirements of peace and security in these areas is vital for the interests of both countries.

High development rates captured by Turkey and China recently urge both Turkey and China to **take each other into consideration in terms of economy**. For China, Turkey is an exit into Balkans and Europe, and an economic partner in the Middle East and Central Asia. Turkey, on the other hand, sees China as partner to strengthen mutual relations in the areas of economy and security. Turkey gives special importance to cooperate with China to improve its relations with Central Asian countries. In this regard, Turkey attaches great importance to SCO, search for full or observer membership opportunity and, through being a member of the organization, thinks that she can carry its relations to a better point in the areas ranging from international trade to security cooperation and that she will be able to gain membership in the international organizations such as ASEAN.

China, surpassing Japan and South Korea, has become **the biggest trade partner for Turkey** among the Asia-Pacific nations. In parallel with the trading volume, the relations between the two countries have gained speed.



The most important problem regarding Turkish-Chinese relations is **ever increasingly grooving trade deficit in favor of China**. In the long term, this can produce a set of economic and political problems regarding the sustainability of the relations. Trade deficit arises mainly from Chinese trade policies but there are reasons regarding the Turkish side as well. In addition to the unique restrictions set by China, timid positions of the Turkish businessmen have deepened the question.

Cyprus issue being in the first place, Turkey has ever tried to take China's support in the international affairs. In the upcoming period, ground for cooperation may be strengthened within the scope of the organizations such as the UN, CICA, ASEAN in parallel with the growing impact of Turkey within the international platforms.

Both countries can develop an effective strategic cooperation ground regarding the sustainability of the long term interests that bear great importance for both China and Turkey. In this context, it is important to look at the events in a broader geopolitical point of view.

In order to bring the Turkish-Chinese relations to an ideal point in the world system that is increasingly gaining a multidimensional appearance, Turkish and Chinese policy makers must steer for a structure that may constitute mutual depth not only on the political and strategic grounds but in the all parameters.

In this regard, the aim of the **Turkey-China Forum**, which is planned to be set out alternately every year, is to reveal opportunities and complementarily relations in the Turkish-Chinese relations with a strategic point of view and to build an institutional and intellectual ground for public opinions in both Turkey and China, without neglecting the issue areas.

Main theme of the forum and sub-themes are:

Main Theme

New Era in Turkish – Chinese Relations: Opportunities and Risks

Sub-Themes

Turkish-Chinese Economic Relations: Opportunities and Risks

ASEAN Region and Turkey - China Relations

Energy Security, Energy Supply Policies and Opportunities

Sharing Technological Know-How

Turkey - China Security Cooperation

Middle East - African Countries - Turkey - China

Central Asian Countries - Turkey - China

Academic and Cultural Cooperation