

**THE AGENDA:
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS,
REPORTS AND EVENTS IN
JUNE-AUGUST 2009**



By Richard Giragosian

1. “CHRONOLOGICAL REVIEW”

31 August 2009: In a late-night statement released by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Turkey, Turkey and Armenia formally announce a new commitment to extending diplomatic relations and developing bilateral relations. The statement stated that the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Turkey have agreed to start “internal political consultations” on two accompanying diplomatic protocols: a “protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations” and a second, longer “protocol on the development of bilateral relations.” The two protocols provide a framework for the normalization of their bilateral relations within a “reasonable timeframe,” with political consultations to be completed within six weeks, following which the two protocols are to be signed and submitted to the respective parliaments for ratification. “Both sides will make their best efforts for the timely progression of the ratification in line with their constitutional and legal procedures.” According to the documents, the closed Turkish-Armenian border is to be “reopened within two months of the deal’s entry into force,” and according to Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu’s interview with Turkey’s *NTV* television the same day, “if everything goes as planned, if mutual steps are taken the borders could be opened around New Year.” Although Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has repeatedly stated in recent months that Turkish-Armenian relations will not be normalized as long as the Karabakh conflict remains unresolved, the draft protocols contain no direct reference to the Karabakh issue. One of the more controversial elements of the draft protocols stipulates that a Turkish-Armenian inter-governmental commission will be formed and empowered to address a broad range of issues of mutual interest, including a subcommittee on historical issues that will be assigned with the goal of engaging in an “impartial scientific examination of historical documents and archives,” with the assistance of experts from Armenia and Turkey, as well as international scholars from Switzerland and other countries.

29 August 2009: On his first visit to Azerbaijan since 2001, Turkish First Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkey Feridun Sinirlioğlu met in Baku with Azerbaijani President İlham Aliyev and presented the Azerbaijani leader with an oral report from Turkish President Abdullah Gül and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

on the recent developments in Azerbaijan-Turkey relations, joint international cooperation and regional issues and the status of Turkey's diplomatic engagement of Armenia. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Azeri President İlham Aliyev also spoke in a phone conversation, during which they exchanged views on recent developments in Caucasus, and Erdoğan gave the President of Azerbaijan information about the "normalization process" between Turkey and Armenia. Aliyev in turn briefed Erdoğan about the recent developments regarding the Karabakh peace process, stating that "our efforts are giving first results in the negotiation process. Our unchangeable position is that this problem could be solved only within the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. The people could live in Nagorno-Karabakh within the status of autonomy and within the united Azerbaijani state. These principles are basic today."

28 August 2009: On an official visit to Turkey, NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen urged Turkey to allow formal relations between NATO and the European Union, advocating that there is a serious life risk for EU trainers in Afghanistan. Frustrated with the EU membership process due to Greek Cypriot opposition, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu called on the Union to keep its promises, warning that "it is not understandable why Turkey has not yet become a member of European Defense Agency." Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu and Rasmussen held a joint press conference after more than two hours of discussions, and Davutoğlu promised that "Turkey will continue to take part in NATO activities at the highest level," but added that there was no plan to send extra troops for combat missions, explaining that "currently 795 Turkish military personnel serve in Afghanistan, but the number will increase up to 1,600 in November when we take over the ISAF command."

25 August 2009: Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu held a series of bilateral meetings with his Canadian and Swedish counterparts on the sidelines of the ministerial meeting of the Friends of Democratic Pakistan (FoDP). During the meeting with Canadian Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon, the Turkish minister reviewed ways to revive the relations between the two countries, which have been strained by Canada's recognition of the 1915 events as genocide. The two ministers drafted a two-month "action plan" for enhancing relations. In the meeting with Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, the two ministers also discussed Turkey's hopes for eventual EU membership.

6-7 August 2009: Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin visited Turkey and discussed bilateral relations, trade and energy issues with Turkish officials. Moscow recently signed an agreement with Baku on gas sales to the Russian republic of Dagestan and negotiated the price for gas purchases from the second phase of Azerbaijan's Shah Deniz project. Just prior to the visit, senior Russian official Yury Ushakov stated that Turkey has agreed "in principle" to allow the South Stream gas pipeline to pass through its territorial waters, noting that an agreement has been reached in principle to start construction work and carry out a feasibility study. Putin's trip follows a signing ceremony in Ankara in July for transit agreements for the rival Nabucco gas pipeline, a European Union-backed project designed to counter Russia's strong influence on European energy supplies (see July entry below). Ankara is also looking for Russian oil that would fill up a planned government-backed oil pipeline that is expected to travel from the Black Sea coastal town of Samsun to the Mediterranean oil hub of Ceyhan. Russia, which supplies a quarter of Europe's natural gas, wants to accelerate construction of gas supply routes to bypass Ukraine and other ex-Soviet states after rowing with Kyiv over transit payments several times in recent years. Some consumers in Europe are also seeking alternative routes, such as Nabucco, that would cut dependence on Russian gas by drawing on reserves in the Caspian Sea and Central Asia.

26 July 2009: Commenting on the recent controversial contacts between American diplomats and Iraqi Sunni insurgents in Turkey, Turkish government sources confirmed that Ankara had facilitated high-level talks, and maintains that the government in Baghdad was kept informed of these developments. The move is tied to the Justice and Development Party (AKP) government's earlier efforts to act as a peace broker between the conflicting parties to promote a comprehensive peace, and use its leverage in the region as an asset in its relations with the United States. Representatives from the political council for the Iraqi resistance told *al-Jazeera* that they held talks with American officials in Istanbul in March and May and signed a protocol on future talks. The protocol was signed anonymously by representatives from the American delegation, Iraqi resistance, and the Turkish delegation. Both sides recognized Turkey's mediation efforts in future rounds of talks in the form of facilitating communication between the Americans and the insurgents. Speaking anonymously to the press, Turkish foreign ministry officials confirmed the talks had occurred, but emphasized that Turkey was playing a facilitator role and the initiative was undertaken by the American side. Through this policy, Turkey has had long-running relations with

the Iraqi Sunni groups and was instrumental in convincing the Sunni groups to participate in the December 2005 legislative elections in Iraq.

23 July 2009: Departing Turkey on a trip to Syria, Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan revealed that the Justice and Development Party (AKP) government has launched a comprehensive plan to address the Kurdish question, adding that “we have launched an initiative, whether you call it the Kurdish problem or the southeast problem, or as some recently named it, the Kurdish initiative.” Erdoğan added that together with the ministers who are members of the National Security Council (MGK), “we have launched initiatives. The interior minister will be responsible [for the plan], and he will have talks with all relevant ministries, the General Staff, National Intelligence Organization (MİT) and parliamentarians from that region.” Erdoğan also referred to his historic speech in May 2005 in the predominantly Kurdish populated city, Diyarbakır, where he outlined a new direction in Kurdish-Turkish relations and acknowledged that the Turkish state had “made mistakes concerning the Kurds and its handling of the Kurdish issue, and that it was time to confront this legacy.” In the same speech, he advocated a new concept of national identity for a multi-ethnic and multi-religious Turkey. Moreover, he promised that his government would resolve this issue by adopting more democratic, cultural rights and promoting prosperity, while distancing himself from regional and religious nationalism. According to the AKP program, the Kurdish question was outlined as following: “our Party shall follow a policy guarding the happiness, welfare, rights and freedoms of the regional population, in a manner which goes beyond the reality of preventing terrorism that threatens the region, the integrity of Turkey, as well as the unitary State structure; a sustainable policy which goes beyond the identification of this reality, respectful to the sensitivities of the entire society, efficient and aimed at solving problems at their root.”

16-17 July 2009: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas visited Turkey and held talks on Middle East peace initiatives and discussed bilateral relations with Turkish President Abdullah Gül, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu. During the joint press conference, Gül emphasized Turkey’s official position that the two-state solution should be the basis of the efforts to resolve the Palestinian issue and reiterated Ankara’s support for an independent Palestinian state, which would have East Jerusalem as its capital. He also called on Israel to stop building new settlements and lift the blockade to allow for the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip and the flow of humanitarian aid.

13 July 2009: In an official ceremony in Ankara, Turkey and four EU member states signed a historic deal allowing work to start on the Nabucco natural gas pipeline, which is aimed at allowing the European Union to tap directly into non-European gas reserves. The Nabucco intergovernmental agreement, signed by representatives of the key transit states Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, and Austria, advances the project to diversify EU energy supplies by transporting gas reserves to Europe from the Caspian Sea region, Iraq, and the Middle East, rather than through Russian territory. The 3,300-kilometer Nabucco pipeline, to run from eastern Turkey to the Austrian capital Vienna, is not expected to become operational until 2014, when it is planned to carry 31 billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas annually and supply between five to ten percent of the EU's projected gas consumption in 2020. The Nabucco project has long been hampered by a lack of commitment from both suppliers and investors, with additional questions over adequate supplies of gas to make the pipeline profitable and cost effective. For that reason, planners are seeking the initial eight bcm of gas needed annually to start up Nabucco by looking to Azerbaijan's Shah Deniz II gas field. Azerbaijan's recent 500 million cubic meter deal to sell gas to Gazprom does not appear to worry Brussels, where officials say the deal is just a small portion of Azerbaijani overall gas output, however. EU sources also say Azerbaijani government thinks that country could produce "far more" gas than the eight bcm needed to make Nabucco viable, with some speculation of a possible 30 bcm being available from Azerbaijan alone by 2015. In addition, the EU itself has agreed to finance some 250 million euros of the estimated total cost of 7.9 billion euros for the project.

9 July 2009: Turkish President Abdullah Gül announced a new commitment to taking positive steps towards resolving the Kurdish conflict, inviting the Kurdish nationalist Democratic Society Party (DTP) parliamentarian, Selahattin Demirtaş to accompany him on his visit to China. Gül's efforts were welcomed by a group of eight DTP mayors from Kurdish cities, including Osman Baydemir, the mayor of Diyarbakır (the largest Kurdish populated city), who have outlined seven key steps that are required in order to solve the Kurdish question, including transforming the unitary Turkish state structure into a semi-federal system by reinforcing the provincial authorities, with natural resources redistributed to the federal entities. In addition, the mayors want to see their native language used within education recognized as a constitutional right, while Turkish remains the official language of the state. The DTP also launched a new initiative to organize peaceful protests, including a march for "democracy, peace and a solution" held in Istanbul on 9 July.

8 July 2009: Turkish officials hosted the first joint ministerial meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)-Turkey strategic dialogue in Istanbul, which served to highlight the growing multi-dimensional ties between the country and the Middle East. Ankara has increased the frequency of bilateral meetings with the regional states, reflecting the intensification of its diplomatic activity in the Middle East, and several high level meetings between Turkey and the GCC aimed at addressing regional issues or deepening economic cooperation facilitated this dialogue. After his meeting with the GCC ministers in Jeddah, the then Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Babacan said that both sides signed a memorandum of understanding to institutionalize their relations by launching the strategic dialogue process.

29 June 2009: Meeting in Baku, Azerbaijani President İlham Aliyev and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev witnessed the signing of an agreement on Azerbaijani gas deliveries to Russia. The initial volumes are small, but the agreement as such is a powerful reminder that the Western-backed Nabucco project depends existentially on Azerbaijani gas. Moscow calculates that its agreement with Azerbaijan will undermine confidence in Nabucco and delay this project even further. The intergovernmental agreement on Nabucco was supposed to be signed in June, but Turkey's AKP government delayed the project with certain obstructions. The document, signed by Gazprom CEO Aleksei Miller and Azerbaijan's State Oil Company Chairman Rovnag Abdullayev, is a framework agreement on main principles of a sale-and-purchase contract, which should be finalized soon. Initially, Azerbaijan will deliver 500 million cubic meters of gas to Russia in 2010, starting from January 2010. Gazprom is offering to pay 350 dollars per one thousand cubic meters of Azerbaijani gas in 2010, slightly higher than Gazprom's offer to Turkmenistan in 2008 for deliveries of Turkmen gas to Russia in 2009.

27 June 2009: Turkish Undersecretary of Defense Industries Murat Bayar announced that he was optimistic about the purchase of Super Cobra helicopters from the U.S. Navy, amidst reports that a Turkish delegation is visiting Moscow to discuss the procurement of Russian MI-28 helicopters. Attack helicopters have been a long-standing priority for Turkish defense procurement and Turkey has awarded a three billion dollars contract for the production of its national attack/tactical-reconnaissance helicopters to the Italian Agusta-Westland group, according to the terms of which, the Turkish army will acquire 50 T129 helicopters, a modified version of the Italian Mangusta-A129, with deliveries initially

expected to start in 2013, but recently pushed back to 2015. Realizing that even under the most optimistic estimates national attack helicopters will not be delivered before 2013-2015, as a short term measure Turkey approached the United States in late 2007 to purchase up to 12 Cobra helicopters already in use by the U.S. navy. But since operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have overstretched U.S. military resources, Washington declined the Turkish requests and offered Turkey AH-64 Apaches, which Ankara refused, forcing it to turn to Russia instead. Ankara is reportedly negotiating the purchase of at least 12 MI-28 choppers within the coming three years.

25 June 2009: The Turkish Parliament adopted of an amendment to the Code on Criminal Procedure (CMK), paving the way for the trial of military personnel in civil courts and marking an important step towards curbing military power in politics and in meeting one of the critical criterion set by the European Union in Turkey's membership bid. The amendment allows the civil courts to prosecute military personnel in peace time for anti-government activities, threats to national security, constitutional violations and organized crime and also transfers the power to prosecute civilians in peace time for offenses currently under the military penal code. Turkish opposition parties criticized the bill, saying it aims to influence ongoing probes into the alleged plots to discredit or topple the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) government.

24 June 2009: The Turkish parliament approved a governmental motion to extend the mandate for the Turkish peacekeeping force serving in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Once the UN Security Council decides to extend the UNIFIL's mandate, the government will be able to keep Turkish forces in Lebanon for one more year, effective from 5 September 2009. Reflecting its growing involvement in the Middle East, Turkey played an active diplomatic role during the war between Israel and Hezbollah in the summer of 2006, which ended with a UN brokered deal. The Turkish contingent was dispatched to Lebanon in October 2006 and the mandate of the force was renewed in 2007 and 2008. The Turkish Armed Forces contributed patrol boats to the UNIFIL Maritime Task Force and a military engineering company to assist the reconstruction efforts in Lebanon.

12 June 2009: The Turkish daily newspaper *Taraf* published a set of documents recently discovered as part of the ongoing Ergenekon investigation that reportedly revealed that the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) had a systematic plan to

damage the image of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) government and the Gülen Movement, led by Fethullah Gülen, to downplay the Ergenekon investigation and to gather support for members of the military arrested as part of the inquiry. The set of published documents were seized in the office of Serdar Öztürk, the lawyer of a retired colonel arrested earlier this year on charges of membership in Ergenekon, a clandestine criminal organization charged with plotting to overthrow the government. The documents, prepared in April of this year, include a detailed plan drawn up by Colonel Dursun Çiçek and submitted to a department of the General Staff. Several dozen individuals have been arrested in the Ergenekon investigation, launched after the existence of a gang bearing the same name was discovered in June 2007, when police uncovered an illegal cache of weapons and munitions in a private home in Istanbul. The neo-nationalist Ergenekon gang is suspected of having links to various individuals and groups within the so-called “deep state” bureaucracy and the military, and is alleged to have sought to create conditions for a popular military coup against the ruling AK Party.

2 June 2009: Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Taner Yıldız discussed energy issues with Azerbaijani officials on the sidelines of a soccer game in the Turkish city of Kayseri. Following his talks, Yıldız commented on the status of the Turkish-Azerbaijani talks on pricing gas imports and Turkey’s position on the Nabucco project. Yıldız told reporters that both sides shared their views as well as new proposals on pricing and added that the Azerbaijani side will respond after further evaluating the Turkish proposals. For his part, Abdullayev offered reassurance that no difficult issues existed between the two countries, but said that there was no reason to rush into the project. Under the terms of an agreement in 2001, Turkey annually imports six billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas from the Azerbaijani Shahdeniz-I site at a price of 120 dollars per thousand cubic meters, which is far below current global energy prices. Turkey also plans to purchase eight bcm of gas from the Shahdeniz-II for its domestic consumption. Since the 2001 agreement lapsed in April 2008, Turkey has continued to import Azerbaijani gas at the old price and in recent months, Baku has demanded the revision of the price to reflect the current market value.

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2. REPORTS OF INTEREST & NEWS FROM THE “THINK THANK” WORLD

New Report: “*Between Fact and Fantasy: Turkey’s Ergenekon Investigation,*” was published in August 2009 by the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and the Silk Road Studies Program. The report was written by Gareth H. Jenkins, a journalist, author and analyst who has been based in Istanbul since 1989, and who has written extensively on political, economic and security issues related to Turkey and the surrounding region. His latest book, *Political Islam in Turkey: Running West, Heading East?* was published by Palgrave Macmillan in May 2008.

Summary

Contemporary Turkish politics is striking for many reasons, not least the fundamentally opposing and mutually exclusive narratives by which domestic as well as foreign observers describe its major fault lines. Hence the irreconcilable descriptions of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) government, in power since 2002: its supporters describe it as the Muslim world’s equivalent of Christian Democracy, the political force that is ridding Turkey of its authoritarian past and making it a European democracy. Its detractors, however, accuse it of seeking to Islamicize the country’s state and society, muzzling independent media and criticism, moving it in the direction of authoritarianism, and in the process driving Turkey away from Europe. Descriptions of the mainly nationalist opposition to the AKP are equally divided, ranging from seeing these forces as well-intentioned supporters of Turkey’s secular republic to being authoritarian-minded, fascistoid groups that clamor for a return to military rule.

The full report is available for download at:

<http://www.silkroadstudies.org/new/docs/silkroadpapers/0908Ergenekon.pdf>

New Report: “*Turkey’s March 2009 Elections: Loss without Defeat, Gain without Victory,*” was published in the June 2009 issue of MERIA Journal, a journal of the Middle East Review of International Affairs (MERIA). The report was written by Eser Şekercioğlu visiting scholar at Sabancı University Faculty of Arts and Sciences in Istanbul.

The following is an abstract of the report: In the March 2009 Turkish local elections, the opposition Nationalist Action Party (MHP) and Democratic Society Party (DTP) did better but not as well as they had hoped. The incumbent Justice and Development Party (AKP) was content to finish first but disappointed by reduced support. Government losses were concentrated in the developed West –hard-hit by the global economic crisis– and the East and Southeast – where continuing violence breeds discontent.

This article has two main goals: The first is to provide a descriptive account of the March 2009 local elections in Turkey; the second is to discuss several themes that emerged during these elections that will likely influence Turkish domestic politics at large. The mayorship races and votes won in the provincial general council (İl Genel Meclisi) elections are the focus. Yet it is generally thought that general council elections are better approximations to general elections than mayorship races.

Despite the opposition’s efforts to give the local elections a character of a vote of confidence or a sort of referendum, local elections generally are not faithful indicators of what may happen in general elections. Local factors such as candidate popularity and the services the candidate has delivered to local constituents influence local elections as well. Still, provincial general council elections give certain clues regarding future voting patterns as well as emerging electoral and regional voting patterns.

The report is available at: www.gloria-center.org/meria/2009/06/sekercioglu.html

New Reports: “*Turkey’s EU Accession Reaches an Impasse*” and “*Turkey’s Rise as a Regional Power and its Role in the European Neighborhood*,” were both recently published by the Spanish Elcano Royal Institute (Real Instituto Elcano). The reports were written by William Chislett and Deniz Devrim and Evelina Schulz, respectively.

The following are the abstracts of each report:

Chislett, William, “*Turkey’s EU Accession Reaches an Impasse.*”
WP 34/2009. 3 July 2009.

Turkey's EU accession negotiations, started in October 2005, are going very slowly for many reasons, including the government's continued refusal to open its ports and airports to vessels and aircraft from Greek Cypriot-controlled Cyprus (an EU member since 2004). This issue will come up for review at the EU summit during the current Swedish Presidency. In the worst-case scenario, considered unlikely, negotiations could be suspended. Turkey has opened only 11 of the 35 accession chapters and closed one of them. Political life has become highly polarized between the government of the Islamist Justice and Development Party and the so-called Kemalist secular establishment. As a result, reforms have ground to a halt. Meanwhile, support among Turks for EU entry is declining and France and Germany oppose the country's full membership and instead are pressing for an ill-defined privileged partnership.

The report is available at:

www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/portal/rielcano_eng/Content?WCM_GLOBAL_CONTEXT=/elcano/elcano_in/zonas_in/dt34-2009

Devrim, Deniz and Evelina Schulz, *"Turkey's Rise as a Regional Power and its Role in the European Neighborhood."*

ARI 108/2009

30 June 2009

Summary

Recent developments in the Southern and Eastern European neighborhood have led to a new perception of the European Neighborhood Policy. Turkey –on the one hand negotiating for EU membership, while, on the other, an important regional player in the common neighborhood (the Caucasus and Mediterranean)– is increasingly being perceived as a crucial geopolitical partner for the EU. Turkey's role in relation to the EU's existing initiatives –such as the Union for the Mediterranean, the Eastern Partnership and the Black Sea Synergy– and its own Caucasus Stability and Cooperation Platform represents a challenge for the future shape of the European neighborhood. This ARI outlines Turkey's relevance to a successful outcome of the EU's initiatives, its role for political stability on the EU's borders and the possibilities for cooperation or synergies between the Turkish and EU initiatives.

The report is available at:

www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/portal/riecano_eng/Content?WCM_GLOBAL_CONTEXT=/elcano/elcano_in/zonas_in/ari108-2009

Event of Note: *Brookings Institution Hosts Conference on Turkey.* The Washington-based Brookings Institution convened a conference on 15 July 2009 entitled “Turkey, Russia and Regional Energy Strategies.” Convened by the Center on the United States and Europe and the Energy Security Initiative at Brookings, leading experts from Turkey, Russia and Europe participated in a conference focusing on Turkey’s and Russia’s roles in European energy security and the role of energy in shaping cooperation and stability in neighboring regions. Richard Morningstar, special envoy for Eurasian energy at the U.S. Department of State, provided a keynote address.

Event Summary

Historically, relations between Turkey and Russia have been characterized more often by competition –if not outright war– than by cooperation. Yet centuries of imperial rivalry and decades of Cold War hostility have recently given way to quite different dynamics. Russia has become Turkey’s largest trading partner and a major target of Turkish foreign investment. Since Vladimir Putin became the first Russian leader to visit Turkey in 500 years, engagement between the two countries has increased in intensity and seriousness. Some analysts have seen a convergence of perspective between Ankara and Moscow on issues ranging from Palestine to Iran to the Caucasus. Further, as energy looms larger in the domestic and regional calculus of both countries, especially in terms of their respective European relationships, the strategic importance of their rapprochement has grown.

The transcript of the event is available at:

www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/events/2009/0715_turkey_russia/20090715_turkey_russia_energy.pdf

Event of Note: *CSIS Hosts Roundtable Meeting Focusing on Closer Turkish-Russian Relations and its Impact on U.S.-Turkish Relations.* The Washington-based CSIS think tank held a meeting on 11 August organized by CSIS Turkey Project Director Bulent Aliriza and CSIS Energy Program Senior Fellow Ed

Chow to examine developments in the energy sector. The discussion focused on Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's August 2009 visit to Turkey, which was defined as underscoring the dramatic improvement in relations between Moscow and Ankara since the end of the Cold War.

For more information, go to: www.csis.org

Event of Note: *CSUS Hosts Roundtable Discussion of Turkey's Gülen Movement.* The Washington-based CSIS think tank held a roundtable discussion on 17 June hosted by the CSIS Turkey Project on the activities and influence of the Gülen Movement. The speaker, Dr. Yüksel A. Aslandođan was a Board Member of the Gülen Institute who made a presentation and then answered questions from the participants.

For more information, go to:

http://csis.org/files/attachments/090617_overview_gulen_movement.pdf

Upcoming Event of Note: *2009 Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in İstanbul.* The 2009 Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group and the IMF will be held in İstanbul, Turkey on 6-7 October 2009. The Board of Governors for each institution consists of one governor from each of the institutions' member countries, typically the finance minister, central bank governor, or minister of development. During the Annual Meetings, the Boards of Governors decide on major policy issues related to the future work of the two institutions, which are subsequently implemented by their respective Executive Boards.

The Annual Meetings will be preceded by meetings of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), the advisory body of the IMF, and the Development Committee, a forum of the World Bank and the IMF that facilitates consultation and consensus-building on development issues. The communiqués that are issued after the meetings of these committees provide important guidance to the Executive Boards of the two institutions.

The Annual Meetings are usually held for two consecutive years at the IMF and World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC and every third year in another member country. The last three Meetings abroad were held in Singapore (2006);

Dubai (2003); and Prague (2000). The 2009 Annual Meetings will be the second time that Turkey will host the Annual Meetings (the first time was in 1955, also in Istanbul), making Turkey the only country to host the Annual Meetings twice.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.istanbul2009turkey.org/istanbul2009/index.php>

3. “ACADEMIC NEWS”

Ebert Foundation Workshop on Turkish Foreign Policy, Berlin, Germany, 3-4 September 2009. The German Friedrich Ebert Foundation convened a workshop on 3-4 September entitled “*Quo Vadis Turkey? Turkey’s European and Foreign Policy Today.*” The event, which featured some 30 leading experts on Turkey, included a keynote speech by Heinz Kramer (SWP) and presentations by a number of leading specialists and officials, including Turkish parliamentarian Suat Kınıklıoğlu.

The specific issues of the conference included:

What is to be expected from the nomination of Ahmet Davutoğlu? What are the likely implications for the foreign policy orientation of Turkey? Will there be a new balance between “Eastern” and “Western” orientation of Turkish Foreign Policy?

How do we assess the increasing weight of Turkey in the region and on the international level? What role will Turkey play in the Caucasus, the Middle East and beyond? How does Turkey’s approach affect the balance of powers in the region (Russia, China, Iran, etc.) in the long run?

How does the foreign policy approach affect the EU-accession process? Where are the common interests of Turkey, Germany and the EU? Where do they differ? How do German-Turkish relations develop against this backdrop?

For more information, go to: www.fes.de/