

## Turkey and the EU after the election

Bruegel, 10 June 2015

### Participants:

- **Stefano Manservisi**, head of Cabinet of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, European Union
- **Kemal Dervis**, member of the Executive Board, Istanbul Policy Center, and director of the Global Economy and Development Program, Brookings Institution;
- **Fuat Keyman**, director, Istanbul Policy Center
- **Senem Aydin Duzgit**, Associate Professor and Jean Monnet Chair, Istanbul Bilgi University
- **Izak Atiyas**, senior scholar, Istanbul Policy Center, and professor, Sabanci University
- **Isik Ozel**, associate professor of political science, Sabanci University
- **Daniel Gros**, director, Centre for European Policy Studies
- **Marek Dabrowski**, Non-Resident Scholar at Bruegel, Brussels, Professor at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow
- **Munevver Cebeci**, associate professor, European Union Institute of Marmara University.
- Chair: **Guntram Wolff**, Director, Bruegel

The day started with a keynote speech from Stefano Manservisi. He indicated the importance of the Turkey-EU relationship both from a political and economic point of view. He added that election process and results showed that, even if it though it has some major difficulties, Turkey is a mature democracy and it is time to further open new chapters of the membership accession talks. Mentioning that the pro-Kurdish HDP got into the parliament with historically high number of MPs, Manservisi stated that this is a very good chance for Turkey to improve the rights of minorities.

After the keynote speech Kemal Dervis, Fuat Keyman and Senem Aydin Duzgit discussed the outcome of the election. Keyman gave statistical information about the last three elections in Turkey, while Duzgit looked at the EU-Turkey relationship. She pointed out that this election points to improvements in Turkey in certain areas, such the representation of women and minorities in parliament. Dervis said that Turkey should be a part of the European family, represented in the Council and Parliament, but with some special conditions given the different priorities of the EU and Turkey. He also mentioned that Turkey has deep connections to Asia, Middle East and Africa. Turkey being a part of the EU family would strengthen its role as a bridge between east and west.

In the second session Isik Ozel, Izak Atiyas and Danial Gros talked about economic and political prospects. Ozel summarized the economic performance of Turkey for the last two decades. She put forward the thesis that Turkey has followed an export-led and jobless growth with a high current account deficit and non-decreasing unemployment rate. Izak Atiyas talked about the performance of industry in Turkey, adding that

increasing productivity for the small-medium sized companies is very crucial. Daniel Gros highlighted that rapid growth rate of Turkey was mainly financed by debt, whereas foreign direct investment only counted for one third. He concluded that the deterioration of the political and judicial system should be reversed by a new government.

*Event notes by Burak Turkoglu, research assistant.*