

Turkey News Update

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Sent Items

I thought you might be interested in the latest developments regarding the Republic of Turkey.

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- **EU Needs Turkey More, Says Bloc's Ex-Enlargement Chief**
-The EU's former Commissioner for Enlargement, Günter Verheugen stated "A Europe without Turkey is only going to face isolation, desperation, and civil strife. Turkey does not need Europe. Europe is the one that is in need of Turkey."

-Verheugen not only said that Turkey was discriminated against during its accession process, and that there has been a lack of goodwill and understanding toward Turkey, and commends Turkey for its work with refugees.

-He also said that Turkey makes the EU more powerful in terms of politics, economy, and security.

<http://en.ana.az/world-news/europe/eu-needs-turkey-more-says-bloc-s-ex-enlargement-chief.html>

<https://www.dailysabah.com/eu-affairs/2017/10/28/eu-needs-turkey-former-eu-commissioner-for-enlargement-says>

<https://news.az/articles/world/126428>

- **UN Hails Turkey as a Generous Humanitarian Donor**

-The UN High Commissioner for Refugees acknowledged Turkey as “a generous humanitarian donor”, after it pledged to spend \$50 million on supporting Rohingya refugees fleeing violence in Myanmar

-The money will be used to meet 800,000 stateless Rohingya refugees’ basic needs and build medium shelter units for 100,000 people, provide 2 hospitals, 10 health centers, and water supply.

-Besides being largest refugee hosting country in the world, Turkey continues to support humanitarian efforts elsewhere.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/2017/10/23/un-hails-turkey-as-generous-humanitarian-donor-for-aid-efforts-for-rohingya-muslims>

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/2017/10/23/turkey-collects-21-million-for-rohingya-muslims-fleeing-persecution-in-myanmar>

- **Merkel Praises Turkey for Handling Refugees**

-“I will also make clear that Turkey is doing a great job on the refugees and that we have obligations under the EU-Turkey deal”, said Merkel.

<https://www.trtworld.com/europe/merkel-praises-turkey-for-handling-refugees-11494>

- **World Bank, IMF, EBRD & EU Raise Turkey’s Growth Forecast for 2017**

-The World Bank raised Turkey’s projected economic growth to 4% for 2017.

-The IMF also raised their growth forecast for Turkey to 5.1% for 2017.

-The EBRD raised the growth forecast for Turkey to 5.1% in 2017 and 3.5% in 2018, which it attributes to improved exports, a revival in investment, and firmer commodity prices.

-The EU now projects that the Turkish economy will grow 5.3% in 2017, and 4% in 2018.

-Turkey’s bold fiscal stimulus and credit expansion stimulus have also led to the revised growth forecast.

-Turkey and Poland are currently the biggest drivers of growth among the 37 countries in which the EBRD operates.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-easteurpe-cbrd-forecasts/cbrd-lifts-growth-forecasts-for-eastern-europe-turkey-russia-idUSKBN1D71ZK>

<https://www.dailysabah.com/economy/2017/10/19/world-bank-raises-turkeys-growth-forecast-for-2017>

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/eu-raises-turkeys-growth-forecast-122190>

- **Turkey’s Tourism Revived**

-Turkey is exploring new markets in Asia to boost tourism, hoping 2018 will be the “Year of Turkey Tourism” in China.

-It is aiming to become one of the top 3 tourist destinations in the world in the next 10 years.

-Currently, Turkey has hosted 26 million tourists in the first 9 months of 2017, and Turkey's Tourism Minister Kurtulmus estimates Turkey will have 31.4 million visitors by the end of the year, with \$26 billion in revenue.

-Health Tourism is a growing industry in Turkey, with the country aiming to reach \$7 billion in this sector this year. Turkey is working to develop this market because health tourists spend 10 times more than holiday tourists.

-Turkey's tourism revenue grew 37.6% in the third quarter, earning \$11.39 billion.

-Kurtulmus says that the tourism sector should have revenue of up to \$30 billion in 2018.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-turkey-tourism-minister/turkeys-tourism-earnings-to-reach-30-billion-in-2018-minister-says-idUSKBN1D82MF?il=0>

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-10/31/c_136718249.htm

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-11/05/c_136728549.htm

- **Turkey & EU Held a High-Level Meeting on Economic Ties**

-Turkey and the EU discussed bilateral economic relations, and the renewal of the customs union agreement.

-Turkey is the only non-EU member country that has had a customs union agreement with EU since 1996, so modernizing the customs union to reflect current EU-Turkey trade would bring great economic benefits for both partners.

-Turkey is one of the EU's largest trade partners with an export value of 66.7€ billion and an import value of 78€ billion in 2016.

-Turkey's Deputy PM says EU relations are on the mend, and the summit was the perfect stage to upgrade the customs union, and to move past the political rift between the two partners.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-11-03/turkey-eu-economic-summit-will-show-ties-recovering-simsek-says>

<https://www.dailysabah.com/economy/2017/11/03/turkey-eu-to-hold-high-level-meeting-on-economic-ties-on-dec-7-8>

<https://www.politico.eu/article/turkish-official-turkey-remains-anchored-to-europe/>

- **Turkey to Increase Support for Exports**

-Export support, which was worth \$262 million in 2016 and \$787 million in 2017 will rise to \$1.1 billion in 2018.

-Turkey's foreign trade volume increased by 18.2% and exports increased to 9% in October.

-Turkey expected to exceed revised export target of \$156.5 billion by the end of the year.

-Exports reach decade high at 15.6% in October.

-Exports during the first 10 months of 2017 reached \$128.7 billion, 11% higher than in the same period last year.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/economy/2017/11/01/turkeys-exports-rise-156-percent-in-october-reaching-decade-high-pm-yildirim-says>

<http://aa.com.tr/en/todays-headlines/turkey-to-increase-support-for-exports/954919>

- **Turkey Spends \$30 billion on Syrian Refugees**

-FM says Turkey will remain at forefront in dealing with humanitarian crises, and has currently spent \$30 billion on the Syrian refugee crisis since 2011.

-Turkey hosts more than 3.2 million Syrians, which is the more than any other country.

-Turkey is also working to ensure access to education for all Syrian refugee children.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/turkey/back-school-expanding-access-disaster-resilient-schools-turkey-syrian-children-and>

<http://aa.com.tr/en/todays-headlines/turkey-to-continue-responding-to-humanitarian-crises/957456>

- **US Supports Turkey's Fight Against PKK, Daesh & Other Terror Groups**

- Secretary of Defense Mattis met with Turkey's Defense Minister Canikli at the NATO Defense Ministers Meeting.
- Mattis says the US will always stand with Turkey in the fight against all terrorist, including the PKK. He thanked Turkey for their critical contributions to global security and in the fight to defeat ISIS.
- Both men reiterated the importance of maintaining bilateral defense activities and look for ways to cooperate.
- Resolution 581 congratulated the Republic of Turkey on Turkish Republic Day, and in their fight against Daesh. President Trump reiterated the importance of our alliance with Turkey.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2017/11/08/us-pledges-full-support-for-turkeys-fight-against-pkk-other-terror-groups>

<https://news.az/articles/world/126759>

<https://www.dailysabah.com/diplomacy/2017/10/31/us-representative-praises-turkeys-contribution-to-global-fight-against-daesh>

- **US Resumes Visa Issuing**

- US Embassy announces that it has partially resumed processing visa applications, prioritizing medical, humanitarian, and student visas.
- Turkey's embassy in Washington said it will process visa applications from US citizens on limited basis.

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/11/275326.htm>

<https://www.dailysabah.com/diplomacy/2017/11/08/positive-steps-taken-visa-appointments-in-turkey-to-be-scheduled-in-limited-manner-us-state-dept>

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/11/06/politics/us-visa-processing-turkey/index.html>

<https://www.ft.com/content/cb8f464-c31c-11e7-b2bb-322b2cb39656>

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/nov/7/us-lifts-visa-ban-against-turkey-ahead-key-diploma/>

<http://theweek.com/speedreads/735650/embassy-turkey-processing-visas-again-limited-basis>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-41886522>

- **Turkish PM and VP Pence Pledge New Ties**

- In a meeting between Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim and US Vice President Pence, the two men pledged a new era for US-Turkey relations.
- Pence praised Turkey for its strong will in the problems that emerged after the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government independence referendum.
- They agreed on a constructive dialogue as friends and allies on bilateral challenges, and highlighted the US' and Turkey's mutual interest in the stability and security in the Middle East, and agreed to work together to achieve those goals.
- Pence thanked Turkey for its contributions to global security and the fight to defeat ISIL, and said he understood the importance for the US to stand behind Turkey in the fight against the PKK and other terror groups.
- Former Ambassador to Turkey, James Jeffrey praised Turkish efforts to try to reset relations with the US.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/11/turkey-prime-minister-yildirim-pence-gulen-syria-iraq.html>

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-us-pledge-to-improve-ties-in-yildirim-pence-meeting-122225>

- **Turkey's EU Minister Works for Peace in Region**

-Turkish EU Minister Celik said that Turkey is going to great lengths to re-establish peace and stability in the region, but cannot do it alone.

-Celik also said that Turkey has reduced the pressure on Europe by hosting a majority of the Syrian refugees and that it is the most generous country in the world.

-He added that international cooperation is necessary in the fight against terrorism.

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-puts-in-great-effort-for-peace-in-region-minister-122282>

- **Trump Underlines Alliance with Turkey in Republic Day Message**

-President Trump stated, "On behalf of the American people, I would like to extend my best wishes to the Turkish people for the 94th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Turkey."

-President Trump, also said "The US once again underlines its unwavering support to the democratic institutions in Turkey and re-emphasizes that it condemns the July 15, 2016 coup attempt. We appreciate the bravery of committed Turkish citizens to defend their democracy on that tragic day."

-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, posted well wishes for the Republic of Turkey on its 94th anniversary, and said that Turkey has been a close American ally for more than 60 years and that they are a strategic partner of the US' in the mutual fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

<http://en.apa.az/world-news/america-news/trump-underlines-alliance-with-turkey-in-surprise-republic-day-message.html>

<https://www.dailysabah.com/diplomacy/2017/10/28/trump-underlines-alliance-with-turkey-in-surprise-republic-day-message>

<https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/10/275169.htm>

<https://frontnews.eu/news/en/16498/US-congratulated-Turkey-on-Republic-Day>

- **NATO Apologizes to Turkey**

-NATO Secretary-General Jen Stoltenberg apologized to Turkey after a NATO exercise where Turkey was depicted as an enemy.

-Stoltenberg said, "I apologize for the offense caused." He continued, "Turkey is a valued NATO ally, which makes important contributions to allied security."

-He also said that the incident was the result of an individual's actions and did not reflect the views of NATO.

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/nato-apologizes-to-turkey-for-military-exercise-scandal-in-norway-122591>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/18/nato-apologises-turkey-erdogan-ataurk-enemy-chart>

- **Turkey & US on Same Wavelength, to Speak Again This Week**

-“The telephone call which we had with Trump on Friday was the first in a long time in which we got on the same wavelength”, said President Erdogan.

-Erdogan said that discussions will continue this week on matters, such as, the YPG and defense industry cooperation.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-usa-turkey/turkey-united-states-on-same-wavelength-to-speak-again-this-week-erdogan-idUSKBN1DS0WZ>

- **Turkey's Erdogan, U.S. Trump Discuss Syria, bilateral ties and Sochi Summit: Turkish Sources**

-Trump and Erdogan discussed developments in Syria, bilateral ties, and fighting terrorist organizations together as a team.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-turkey/turkeys-erdogan-u-s-trump-discuss-syria-bilateral-ties-and-sochi-summit-turkish-sources-idUSKBN1D01G>

- **U.S. will Stop Arming Syrian Kurds, Turkey Says**

-Erdogan and Trump spoke on the phone to discuss a multitude of bilateral relations, and reaffirmed their strategic partnership, particularly when it comes to combatting terrorism.

-The White House affirms that the two, "underscored the need to end the humanitarian crisis, allow displaced Syrians to return home, and ensure the stability of a unified Syria free of malign intervention and terrorist safe havens."

-The morning of the call, President Trump tweeted, "Will be speaking to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey this morning about bringing peace to the mess that I inherited in the Middle East.."

-Trump told Erdogan that he plans to end the arming of Kurds in Syria.

-James Jeffery, former US Ambassador to Turkey says the decision to stop supplying weapons to the Kurds appears to be part of an evolving strategy, saying, "Fighting ISIS was such a priority, we had to focus on that before other things. Now that the conventional fight is over, we're trying to come up with a bigger policy. We can't do it without Turkey."

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/u-s-will-stop-arming-syrian-kurds-turkey-says/>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/turkey-us-to-stop-arming-syrian-kurdish-fighters/2017/11/24/20e928cc-d137-11e7-a87b-47f14b73162a_story.html?utm_term=.120be83253b8

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/11/24/trumps-thanksgiving-friday-talk-turkey-game-golf/892066001/>

- **Turkey's Chief of Staff Akar Attends Washington Counter Terror Conference**

-Akar attended an international counter terrorism meeting in DC, which was organized by NATO and hosted by the U.S. Department of Defense.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/diplomacy/2017/10/22/turkeys-chief-of-staff-akar-attends-washington-counter-terror-conference>

All the best,

The Honorable Robert Wexler