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CENTER for DIPLOMATIC AFFAIRS and POLITICAL STUDIES

TURKEY-FRANCE RIVALRY in the EAST MEDITERRANEAN

Prof.Dr. Mesut Hakkı CAŞIN
Ellen WASYLINA

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[Panel Notes](#)

“Turkey-France rivalry in the Eastern Mediterranean” as an online panel was held on 17.09.2020 at 19.30. In the online panel, under the moderation of DİPAM President Tolga SAKMAN, Prof.Dr. Mesut Hakkı CAŞIN (DİPAM Advisory Board Member, Yeditepe University Lecturer)

and Ellen WASYLINA (CEO, Transatlantic Global Advisory) participated as speakers. Although Turkey and France are NATO members, the crisis situation is surprising for both speakers. Wasylina pointed out that the transition to multipolar and multicenter governance in a global sense has occurred in the balance of power, the

balance of politics, and the sphere of influence. All of them that the hardest part of all this is energy, Wasylina said "Energy is the key to our national security and national sovereignty. For example, when we see that most of the resources for all EU countries come from Russia, the EU of course wants to diversify these energy sources." Emphasizing the importance of energy resources in the Eastern Mediterranean for the EU, Wasylina said that efforts to reduce energy dependence on Russia and diversify energy supplies are in an important position within the EU. It was stated that Turkey is in a critical geography for the security of Europe's energy supply, and along with the TANAP project, Azerbaijani gas is transferred to Greece and Italy via Turkey. It was emphasized that the conflict in the Eastern Mediterranean will not bring profit for any side and the 33rd Article of the UN Agreement has been reminded.

Both speakers stated that Turkey maintains its partnership with the attitude of responsible cooperation in NATO and the Western alliance. Therefore Wasylina stated that the competition between Turkey and France have military way. Wasylina stated that Turkey, France and other NATO members also need security, stability and peace in order to flourish and continue development, and the speakers agreed on this issue at the panel. Wasylina emphasizing the importance of economic balance between Turkey and France, Turkey's exports to 6.66 billion in 2019 in France, Germany and Italy has been a country that imports most Turkish goods. The speaker emphasized the importance of international trade and the need to be encouraged. She noted that all EU countries, not only France, have high trade

relations with Turkey, and trade is an antidote to relations between countries.

Wasylina said, about 400 French companies operate in Turkey as of the active and she stated that approximately 100,000 people in employment provided by these companies. She draw attention to the partnership between French companies and Turkish companies, the speaker said that Turkish Airlines is one of the largest customers of the French company Airbus.

Stating that the problem between the two countries is solvable and feasible within the scope of NATO, the speakers agreed that the leaders of both countries should not personalize the problem but focus on the issue. It was said by the speakers that "Leaders will come face to face and put the problem on the table, behave with the principles of mutual respect, reciprocity and pastability, and it will be of great benefit for both countries and international relations." Both countries' leaders of the latest NATO Summit and was made Quadruple Summit in Istanbul (Turkey-France-Germany-Russia) as speeches, is also highlighted as important to the region in the context of the concrete effects of continuing as face to face.

Prof. Caşın is stating that this rivalry may cause new opportunities to escape, the French energy company in the field of energy in Turkey's Black Sea and the Mediterranean area likely to be expressed worked with Total Company. In addition, it has been noted that trade and money are important for countries such as France and Turkey in the name of mutual diplomacy, and thus relations between Turkey and France and the EU can develop further. Prof. Caşın underlines For large

commercial operations that Turkey is a partner in a more rational, Turkey would be buyers in for French Rafale jets and trade said it would be of both international influence in both two countries, the establishment of partnerships in the defense industry, Turkey ahead than before and stated that increased opportunities.

Turkey's not being invited the meeting in MED7 criticize by Wasylina, she takes attention Turkey's participating international trade will improve the dialogue and participate in this process. Prof. Caşın also said that such a disregard for Turkey, a clear Mediterranean country, would affect relations.

The speakers, who said that international communication passes through trade, information, culture and education, noted that Turkey, as an actor in France's trade relations, energy, security and economic work will not be ignored, and agreed on cooperation and trade relations in general. Prof. Caşın speaking about the need to develop the diplomacy network between the two countries and he emphasized that mutual gain is possible with good will and that problems can be discussed and solved through diplomacy. Prof. Caşın pointed out that Turkey is ready for cooperation and that the duo can work together, especially for the defense industry and the automotive sector, and stressed that events should be looked at from realist and pragmatist perspectives. He also stated that the two countries can produce 6th generation warplanes with together. He added that through universities, academics, intellectuals and non-governmental organizations, relations can be further developed and misunderstandings can be eliminated.

Prof. Caşın stating that the relationship between the two should have a forward-looking and innovative structure together with sound ideas, he said that both countries are on the same ship and that they should act together. The speakers pointed out that there are countries that can act in a relationship of mutual interest with the end of existing challenges, especially speakers was discussed the possibility that the duo will be able to cooperate in terms of economic, trade, energy, education, research. Finally, as two nations that love each other, it was emphasized that bilateral problems can be solved within the scope of mutual interest.



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Prof. Dr. Mesut Hakkı CAŞIN is Advisory Board Member of DİPAM, Member of the Law Faculty of Yeditepe University in Istanbul and Member of the Turkish Presidential Security and Foreign Policy Board. In addition, he teaches in international law and international relations disciplines at some universities, especially National Defense University. He continued his education with American Constitutional Law at Texas San Antonio College and completed his PhD in 1994, on "International Security Strategies and Disarmament" at Istanbul University Faculty of Political Sciences.

Ellen WASYLINA is CEO of Transatlantic Global Advisory and Former President of the International Geostrategic Maritime Observatory based in Paris, France. Expert to EUROPAID in Algeria (2014-2015) she has more than 20 years of business leadership experience in both France, Europe and the United States. She possesses two Masters degrees done in France: First, Defense Strategy and Policies from HEI-CEDS (2005) and second Master degree in Conflict Resolution from the Institut Catholique de Paris (2006). She has written 4 books (2 of them in French and 2 in English). Also her latest study is a chapter for the book under the direction of Prof. Dr. Nursin Atesoglu Güney.