



SHOULD TÜRKİYE

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE EU ?





INTRODUCTION

TÜRKİYE IN 2025, GENERAL INFORMATION

Approximatly 85 millions people

Ankara is the capital of the country

A bridge between Europe and Asia

A young population, a median of 32 years old

99% of the population is muslim and their is a majority of Turkish (70-75%) and a minority of Kurdish (15-20%)



BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY OF TÜRKİYE

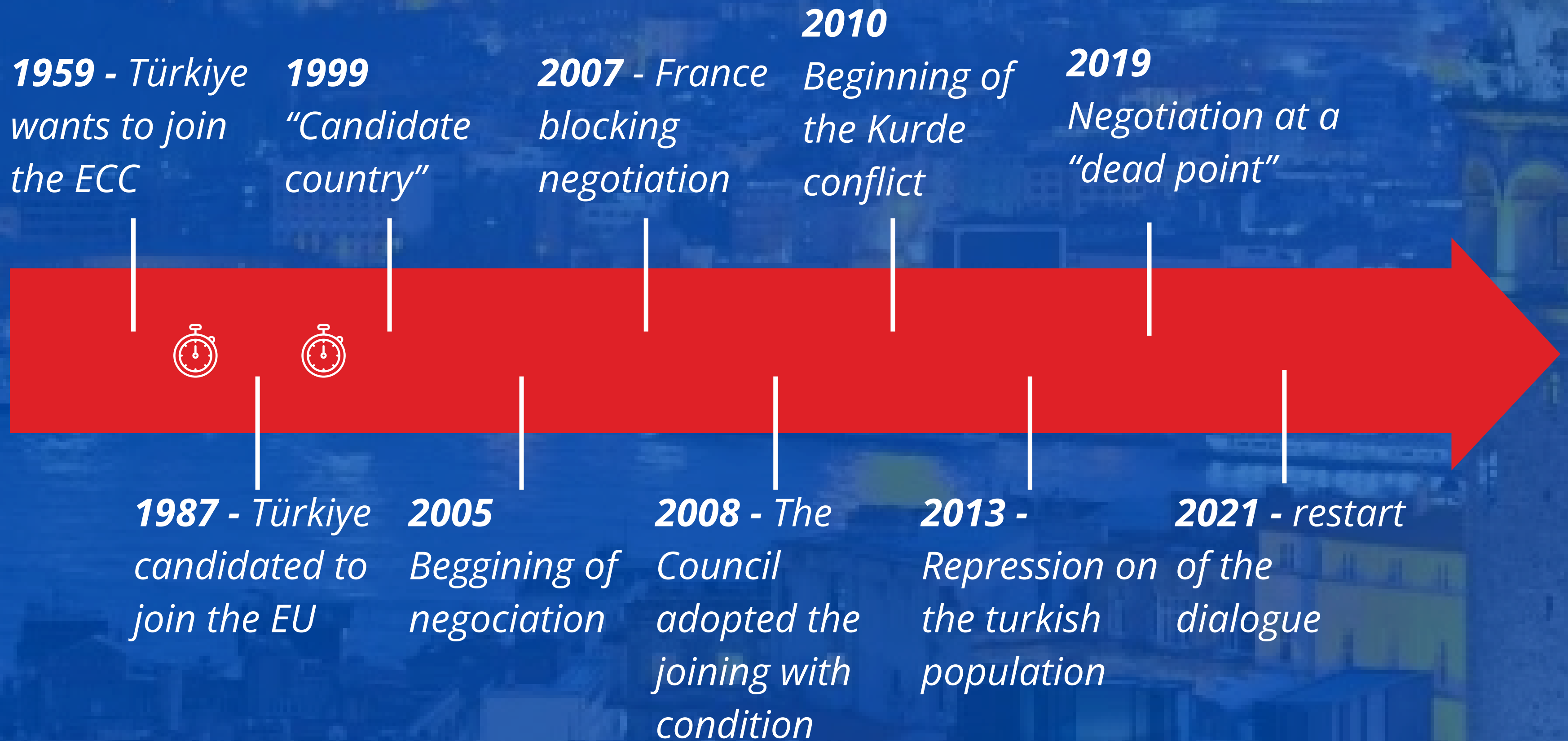
The creation of the Ottoman Empire in 1299 and the fall of the Byzantine Empire in 1453

The fall of the Ottoman Empire at the end of the WWI and the creation of Türkiye in 1923 by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

*18 february 1952,
Integration of Türkiye in
the NATO*

*The Arrival to the
presidency of Recep
Tayyip Erdogan in 2014*

THE RELATION BETWEEN EU AND TÜRKİYE



WHO IS EDOĞAN AND WHAT IS THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN 2025 ?



Born in Beyoglu the 26 February 1954

Mayor of Istanbul in 1994

Prime Minister from 2003 to 2014 then served as president until now

Leader of AKP (Justice and Development Party)

High control of the media

Reduce political opposition and Journalism (but opposite party still remain)

Parliamentary system to a presidential system

FOCUS ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION

GDP = 900 billion

GDP per Capita = 13 235 \$

Inflation = 30-40% in the recent years

Unemployment = 12%

↑ **Export** des biens en % du total



↓ **Import** des biens en % du total



SO, SHOULD TÜRKİYE BECOME

A MEMBER OF THE EU ?



SURVEYS ABOUT İNTEGRATION

OF TÜRKİYE İN EU

ORC Institute Survey

35%

January 2015

22.7%

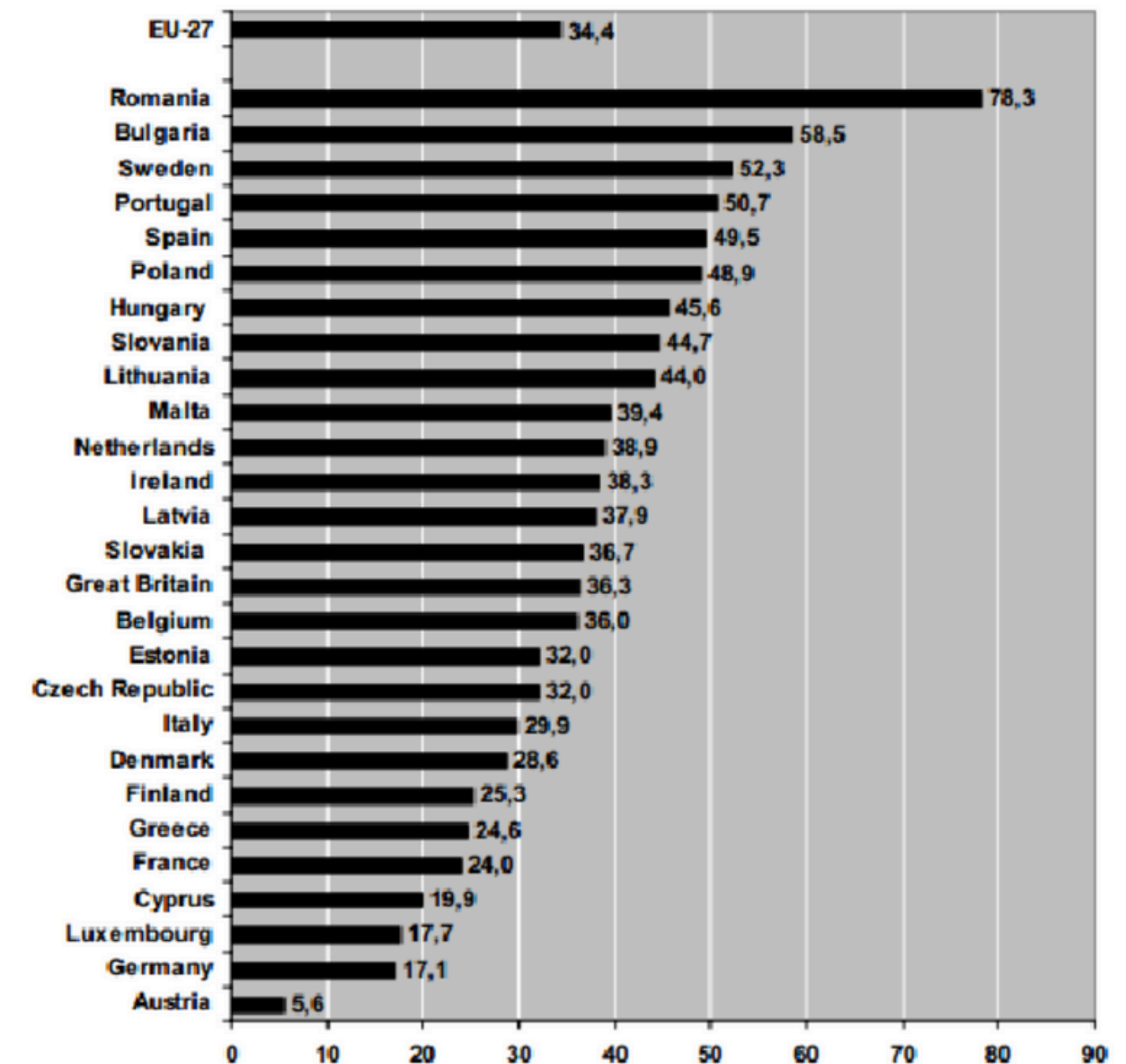
October 2017

68%

2005

Survey from University of Berlin

Figure 1: Support of Turkish membership in the EU in 27 countries (per cent)



YES

Social Impact

*The question of religion,
diversity and social
integration in the EU*

- > Better circulation of
people*
- > Better communication*

- > Big country
with more than
85 millions
people*
- > Population
increasing*

YES

Geopolitical Impact

Can lead to “de-escalation” between Türkiye and EU countries on sensible questions

Importance of defense, military force and geographical aspect

YES

Economic Impact

*Access to the Unique
European Market*

*Facilitate the
investments from and in
European Union*

Benefits on...

- > Imports*
- > Exports*
- > Customs Fees...*



NO

1

*Human Rights and
Democracy Issues*

2

*Geopolitical Conflicts
and Tensions with EU
Countries*

3

*Migration and
Demographic
Concerns*

4

*Economic Challenges
and Impact on the EU*

1 HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY ISSUES



153 TURKEY RANKS
IN THE PRESS
FREEDOM
INDEX.
OUT OF 180 (2023)

ARREST OF JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA CENSORSHIP



2015: Can Dündar jailed for exposing arms to Syria. 2016: Hundreds of journalists arrested, 180+ media outlets shut down.

REPRESSION OF POLITICAL OPPONENTS



2016: HDP leader Selahattin Demirtaş jailed despite European Court ruling for his release.

The government shut down 180+ media outlets and arrested hundreds of journalists

VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND MINORITY RIGHTS



2021: Turkey left the Istanbul Convention, sparking protests and harming its democracy and EU prospects.

NON-RECOGNITION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE



Turkey denies the Armenian Genocide (1915-1917), calling it wartime deportations.

2

GEOPOLITICAL CONFLICTS AND TENSIONS WITH EU COUNTRIES

Türkiye is involved in many tensions with members of the EU

France

Opposes Türkiye's military interventions
(Syria, Libya, Azerbaijan)

Naval confrontations in the Mediterranean
about weapon dealing

Islam & secularism clashes : Türkiye wants to
be a stronghold of Islam as shown by the
replacement of the basilica of saint sophie by
a mosque



Germany

Germany fears Erdogan political influence
on the 3 M of Turkish-Germans

Germany criticized Erdogan's crackdown
on democracy

Refused to sell weapons to Türkiye in the
conflict against Kurdish forces, which they
support

Cyprus and Greece

Türkiye refuses to recognize Cyprus as a country
(EU member)

Aegean Sea Conflict: Clashes over maritime
boundaries & energy resources

"Blue Homeland" doctrine: Türkiye claims parts of
the Aegean & Mediterranean

Greece & Cyprus can veto Türkiye's EU
membership



3

MIGRATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC CONCERNS

IMPACT ON EU POLITICAL BALANCE

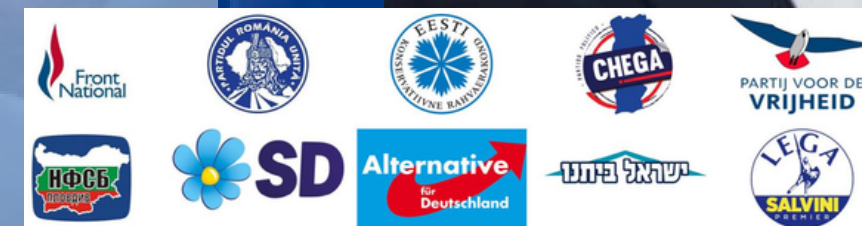
85

Million
people

- it would become the second-largest member
- shift the economic and geopolitical balance in the EU

CONCERNS OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

- Right-wing opposition
- Migration fears
- Cultural & political differences with EU values like democracy, secularism, and human rights



“ Turkey cannot become a member of the EU because it does not align with our fundamental values ”

— Sebastian Kurz, former Chancellor of Austria



4

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND IMPACT ON THE EU



ECONOMIC INSTABILITY

- High Inflation & Currency Crisis
- Turkish lira losing value, increasing cost of living
- Erdogan's interference in central bank decisions → Investors lose confidence
- High foreign debt → Turkey relies on external loans



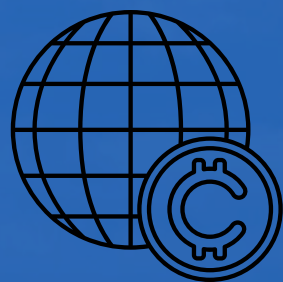
IMPACT ON THE EU BUDGET

- Turkey's GDP per capita is far lower than the EU average
- Would receive EU funds, competing with Poland, Hungary, Romania
- Potential bailout risk → Another Greece-style debt crisis?

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND IMPACT ON THE EU

TRADE & CUSTOMS UNION ISSUES

- Agricultural competition: Turkey's subsidized farms vs. EU farmers
- Regulatory mismatch: Turkey doesn't fully meet EU labor & environmental laws
- Tariff & market access disputes



CONCLUSION

Turkey Should Not Join the EU due to...

- Political Conflicts with member States
- Economic Instability
- Demographic & Migration Issues
- Geopolitical Risks => Turkey's military interventions, alignment with Russia, and differing foreign policy

Instead of full membership, Turkey and the EU should focus on alternative partnerships...

- *Economic cooperation*
- *Strategic collaboration*

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