

From the Editor

In her article “*Cooperation between the European Union and Türkiye in Context of Security*”, Elif Özdilek aims to investigate the concept of state security in the context of contemporary imperatives by analyzing the security management strategies and various dimensions of security cooperation between Türkiye and the EU. She argues that in an era characterized by rapid globalization and advances in science and technology, the importance of state security has intensified, compelling countries like Türkiye to establish relations with international political formations. In this context, the EU has consistently emphasized Türkiye’s fundamental role in European security; however, the turbulent nature of Türkiye-EU relations is evident in defense and security cooperation. Moreover, inconsistencies in threat perception and policy have led to differences between Türkiye and the EU on security and defense issues. Particularly after the Arab Spring uprisings, regional security priorities have diverged between the two parties. While the EU has struggled to maintain a unified internal stance, it expects that Türkiye will align its actions with its own policies. However, as Özdilek argues, Türkiye, a NATO member that has intermittently established relations with Eurasia since 1952, is trying to integrate into European security frameworks in line with its predominantly Western-oriented foreign policy. As a result, Türkiye sees a strategic opportunity in the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) project. It is believed that the problem could be addressed if NATO members outside the EU were given the right to consult within the Council on the policy direction of PESCO and full participation in its capability and operational modules. Türkiye should seek to increase the opportunities for deep integration into potential Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) structures, including PESCO. This approach is considered one of the most pragmatic ways to establish a viable and effective cooperation model with the European Union. For the EU, Türkiye should not be seen as an incompetent neighbor, but as a strong partner in the field of security and defense, capable of contributing to the ongoing development of the EU’s Strategic Compass and Defense Union.

In her article “*Armenia’s Geopolitical Exclusion in the Context of Energy Competition in the South Caucasus*”, Merve Demirkol analyzes the political, economic, and strategic dynamics that have led to Armenia’s systematic exclusion from major energy projects in the South Caucasus. She argues that after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the newly emerging regional order saw the construction of energy transit routes shaped not only by economic rationality, but also by broader geopolitical interests, alliance structures, and security considerations. Within this context, Armenia has been consistently bypassed by key regional energy projects due to the strategic preferences of regional actors—particularly Azerbaijan and Turkey—as well as the geopolitical calculations of global powers. Demirkol’s study provides a comprehensive examination of infrastructure projects such as the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline, the Southern Gas Corridor (TANAP and TAP), the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline, and the proposed Zangezur Corridor, all of which

reinforce Armenia's geopolitical marginalization. It reveals that Armenia's exclusion from energy projects is linked not only to historical conflicts with Azerbaijan but also to the regional energy security strategies of actors such as Russia, Turkey, the US, and the EU. The author concludes that Armenia's geopolitical exclusion is a result of the multi-layered structure of power balances and energy competition in the South Caucasus.

In his article "*Exploring OECD Countries in Terms of Government Artificial Intelligence Readiness with Multidimensional Scaling*", Mehmet Hakan Özdemir states that Artificial intelligence (AI), impacting all sectors today, is employed to enhance production processes and increase business efficiency through advanced algorithms and big data analysis. AI-powered decision support systems and autonomous devices transform healthcare, finance, education, and production. Özdemir argues that AI also helps governments serve citizens faster, better, and more efficiently. Big data analytics and automation can cut public service costs, speed up bureaucracy, and improve quality. Citizens can get instant answers from AI-powered chatbots and automated response systems. Countries are competing to advance the use of AI and become leaders in its benefits. The 2024 Government AI Readiness Index (GAIRI) investigates the AI readiness of countries by analyzing forty indicators across ten dimensions, which make up three fundamental pillars (government, technology sector, and data and infrastructure). In his study, Özdemir aims to visualize the thirty-eight member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) according to their similarities in terms of AI readiness using the three pillar scores of the 2024 GAIRI with multidimensional scaling. As a result, the author claims that OECD countries that are similar to each other in terms of AI readiness are identified.

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