



GAZETECİLER VE YAZARLAR VAKFI
JOURNALISTS & WRITERS FOUNDATION
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Identities, Demands and New Citizenship

1. In any official text, there should not be any sociological definition of Turkish citizenship. Instead, the only reference must be focused on 'citizenship of the Turkish republic'.
2. The state should not try to formulate any overarching identity.
3. Turkey's multicultural reality including but not limited to different sects, religions, and ethnicities should be officially acknowledged.
4. The state should be in equi-distance to all beliefs and non-beliefs.
5. The names of local places should be reinstated to their original names and some names that have dark connotations and are linked to negative historical memories should be changed.
6. The educational curriculum should reflect the above-mentioned points.

Turkey's Regional Role and Foreign Policy

1. The Arab Awakening constitutes the biggest challenge for Turkey's foreign policy.
2. The regional dynamic in the triangle Turkey/Iraq/Syria has given urgency to a new settlement of the Kurdish issue in Turkey.
3. Turkey needs to reconcile the requirements of realpolitik and idealistic commitments.
4. Turkey's sensitivity to the plight of the Syrian people seeking refuge is commendable. Turkey should continue to co-operate with the international community for a peaceful resolution in Syria.
5. At the intersection of major regions in Eurasia, and in a period of momentous change and geopolitical realignment, Turkey plays a significant role in the emerging multipolar world.
6. A stable Turkey with a consistent foreign policy is essential for the security of Europe, and is indispensable for peaceful co-existence between the Muslim World and the West.



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EU Negotiation Process and the Current Situation

1. The EU process is hindered by a severe lack of trust on both sides. There is lack of leadership on both sides, and politicians have not done a good job informing the public of the benefits of membership and shaping public opinion.
2. Prejudices, rising Islamophobia in Europe and the hostile attitudes of some European leaders have caused much frustration in Turkey.
3. The visa liberalization roadmap to end the current discriminatory visa policy, conditional upon Turkey signing the readmission agreement, provides an important opportunity to rebuild confidence and revive the accession process.
4. EU membership is a peace project based on values and democratic standards, as well as an economic project. It therefore maintains its importance for Turkey's future. While it is normal for Turkey to look for various international co-operations, notwithstanding some problems in the process, the EU remains indispensable for Turkey.
5. No chapter has been opened since June 2010 and the status quo cannot be maintained forever. Unblocking some chapters would give new momentum to the process.

Problems and Difficulties for the New Constitution

1. The new constitution should reflect general expectations of the citizens like democratization, human rights, equal citizenship, rule of law, accountability of the state, civilian control of the military and decentralization.
2. As promised by the all major parties before the last general elections, the current constitution should be replaced.
3. The latest government initiative to solve the Kurdish problem in a peaceful way should be supported. That should include guarantees for equal citizenship in the new constitution.
4. Presidential system debate should not put in danger the needed political consensus on the need for a new constitution.
5. The state should be in equal distance to all religions and sects. The status of the Directorate of the Religious Affairs should therefore be re-defined.



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Inclusive Democracy

1. Women's participation in public life and politics should be stimulated. This should include strategies
2. Democratization should not be limited to institutional reforms, but it is also linked to certain issues such as the right of dissent, freedom of press, inclusive participation, academic freedom and criticism of state practices.
3. The current political parties and election laws should be democratized towards strengthening local politics. The 10 percent threshold should be lowered to enhance the inclusive characteristic of democracy.
4. In order to achieve social justice and enhance democracy, the rights of workers should be strengthened. It should be recognized that the unjust income distribution is a major threat to democracy.