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Turkey and EU enlargement: Problems and prospects

Introduction

Turkey accession to European Union (EU) has always been a contentious issue. There are huge volumes of research papers, articles and journals have been published but this debate is still on and need, in my opinion, more contributions. Unlike previous contributors of this debate, this paper has endeavoured to argue that EU needs Turkey vice-a-versa and Turkey with its vibrant economy, military might, geostrategic position and European identity can greatly contributes to EU's image and role on global scale. With this idea and intention I have attempted to argue that Turkey accession process should be speed up and should be rewarded with full membership. The core ideas of this paper are that Turkey has strong military capacity and hence it is a security maximizer for EU, Turkey can play decisive role in changing perception of Muslim fraternity in the Middle East, Turkey with vibrant economy, military power can greatly contributes to EU aspiration to emerge as global actor and finally, I have demonstrated that Turkey with the series of reforms is prepared for full membership.

However, the seeds of Turkey's involvement in EU enlargement process were sown in 1959, when it applied for European Economic Community (EEC) associate membership. As a result, association agreement (Ankara agreement) was signed between EU and Turkey in 1963. The aim of the agreement was to include Turkey into custom Union with the EEC and ultimately translates this agreement into full membership later. With this intention, Turkey applied for the EEC's full membership in 1987. In response from EEC, it has been asked to comply with the Copenhagen criteria for full membership. This was foremost thing a state needs to meet in order to become a member. In 1997; it was the first time EU member states favoured Turkey's membership claim positively. Luxemburg summit (1997) declared its eligibility to become EU member and in Helenski summit (1999), European council declares Turkey a candidate country. During these periods, Turkey underwent through several institutional reforms. After a gap of six years, in 2005 European Council in its annual report declares that Turkey fully satisfies all criteria and hence, formalized negotiation agreement with Turkey. However, in 2006 Turkey refused to extend the Ankara agreement's additional protocol with Cyprus due to tension over the ethnic Turkish administration which is only recognized by Ankara. This protocol allows Cypriot traffic to pass through the ports and airport of Turkey. EU, eventually, freezes the accession process. In 2012, EU and Turkey launched "positive agenda". It was an attempt to put the derailed relationship on track. The aim of the agenda was to bring new energy into the relationship. It has certainly reinvigorated the dynamics of EU-Turkey relationship. However, in comparison to other EU candidate countries, Turkey accession process is going at snail's pace. EU leadership has

apparently considered and offered EU membership to other states (relatively weaker in all aspects) over Turkey. The aims of this paper is to build strong arguments to support Turkey accession into EU by placing major emphasis on its fitness into EU security and defense architecture as well as highlighting its readiness for EU membership against the member states growing antipathy. The flow of the paper is like, initially, I have attempted to established security dimension of EU and Turkey relations and concluded that Turkey's military strength could be greater assets to EU. Thereafter, I have argued that Turkey has potential to greatly contribute the EU aspiration to emerge as a global actor and in subsequent section, I expounded that how Turkey can supplement and compliment EU's role in Middle East and changes the perception of Muslim fraternity. Finally, I have demonstrated that Turkey, with its European Identity and series of constitutional and economic reforms, is prepared to take up the full membership.

Security dimension of Turkey accession to EU

Turkey accession to EU has several angles, security is one among them. Turkey is a member of US led NATO and EU is not, but several EU states are member of it. However, EU has complete reliance over NATO assistance and apparatus for its security and defense. It is interesting to note that EU has contemplated Common Security and Defense Policy but they have yet to develop its own military capability for the growing security threats. Also, post 9/11, the rise in (Islamic) terrorism has led to the paradigm shift in the security dimension internationally. Muslim countries at Southern and South-Eastern border are knocking its door for membership. I have only analyzed Turkey's candidacy from security perspective for the scope of this paper. In this section I have attempted to analyze that is Turkey, a Muslim dominant country, threat to the EU or would it be ancillary to EU security and defense policy. I would begin the discussion by analyzing firstly, Turkey's role into EU security architecture.

However, it is important to understand that how EU perceive security and defense aspects of the integration. The evolution of EU from EC through several stages of development itself speaks about its purpose i.e. EC, which was established on the principle of economic cooperation among war torn countries with a belief to prevent future occurrences of war. It was the aftermath of World War II, the two major events Cold war and Economic Integration of European States, defining the world politics. One side, the Cold war was dominating and shaping the world politics; the ideological division (communism and capitalism) of the world had shifted the battle ground to other parts of the world for instance Asia and Middle East. Also, most countries of the world were either belongs to capitalist (led by USA) or communist (led by USSR) block. On the other side, EC was coming into shape with its enlargement process primarily

based on economic cooperation. Due to capitalistic influence on the Western Europe, its defense and security was taken care by NATO. Thus, EC has not any independent security policy until cold war. However, it was at the end of cold war, EU attempted to formulate European security and Defense policy independently due to tectonic shift (end of bipolarity, emergence of new states and new players) in Europe as well as global security configurations. The aforementioned explanation clearly reflects that EU has never prioritized security and defense aspect until the end of cold war. With the dissipation of USSR, the dynamics of global politics changed completely. EU envisaged potential threat from newly independent nations at Eastern border. Also, US involvement in Gulf war (1990), invasion of Kuwait (1990-93), 9/11, Afghanistan war (2001), invasion of Iraq (2003) signaled EU that US may be less interested in Europe due to other growing dynamics of the world politics and its involvement. These major events have given birth to the new kind of threats namely Islamic terrorism, radicalism/fundamentalism, state failure (Middle East Crisis), Economic slowdown and inequality, growing discontent among people etc. Eventually, EU has begun considering security and defense policy with due diligence and striving to bring consensus of member states over it. However, the distant possibility of EU 'common' security and defense policy gave space to other non-EU state (namely Turkey) to participate and play decisive role to reduce the rising security concerns of EU.

Before carving out the Turkey role into EU security and defense architecture, I shall analyze the different dimensions of potential threats EU perceives from different actors i.e. state and non-state. Robert Cooper in his book, *The Breaking of Nations, Order and Chaos in the Twenty-First Century* (2003), has classified states and its success and failure in three categories namely Pre-modern, Modern and Post-Modern. Pre-modern states identifies as the chaotic world of the failed states. Modern states are characterized by nation-state that are driven by "national interest and interests of territorial sovereignty" (Dörfer) for instance, China, India and Post-modern states are characterized by states choosing peaceful means of cooperation, putting individual's right before right of the nations and believe in openness and transparency for instance EU (Pestana, 2013). Ingemar Dörfer, in his essay *Old and New security Threat*, has mentioned that all three categories of states are posing threat to Europe. He also listed out new threats to Europe which are terrorism, proliferation of WMD, Regional conflicts, state Failure and organized crime. However, these threats are related to each other and they too have spillover effects, albeit in negative sense, for instance organized crime led to terrorist activities, which eventually lead to state failure and that would result into regional conflict too. But these rising threats in the form of instability, regional conflicts (in Middle East) and state failures (Afghanistan, Syria) on the periphery of Europe is affecting the EU member states. He argued that potential old threat from modern states and new threats are incessantly waxing and Europe must develop "defense culture and capabilities" (Dörfer). Many of EU member states are part

of NATO umbrella and fall into the zone of peace created by NATO. But Dorfer believed that the zone of peace created by USA may no longer be continue since it is getting challenges from the outside player. The rise of new actors (non-state actors) is throwing challenges to the any existing safety net. Nonetheless, I would categorize these all threats into two categories: internal threats and external threats. Internal threats are economic inequality, radicalism and external threats are terrorism, regional conflict, and state failure. Due to scope of this paper, I would limit my analysis to external threats mainly. Apart from this categorization, this section argue role of Turkey in resolving internal threat (partially) and external threat mainly.

Turkey and EU relationship has been a rollercoaster ride since 1963. The conspicuous existence of difference of opinion between Turkey and EU member states has created, time and again, pushes and pulls in the relationship. However, Turkey has assumed its stronger ties with Europe since the time it became member of NATO in 1952. But on October 3, 2005, the relationship ushered into new phase with the opening of accession agreements (Gasparini, 2007). And post-cold war and post 9/11 event has dramatically changed the international environment. The uncertain nature of international environment expected that Turkey and EU have a convergence of their security interests (Gasparini, 2007). Post 9/11 period, the divide between Islam and Europe has greatly increased. This divide led to the rise of Islamic fundamentalism and terrorist activities in EU, which would have present severe security threat to EU in the future. Turkey, a Muslim dominant nation, has potential to narrow down the chasm. Turkey's on-going adaptation to the European culture, values and norms signals to Middle East and Arab world that Islam and Europe is compatible (Gasparini, 2007). The two can co-exist. Simultaneously, it could enhance EU capability to deal with such threats and moreover, it could as a broker between Middle East and Europe. Turkey shares good relationship with these countries substantially due to cultural proclivity and Muslim population and therefore, Turkey's inclusion into EU signals them European attitude towards Muslim states and eventually, reduce the security threat.

In addition, after the post cold war era and the major international developments in 21st century has created environment of uncertainty and has drastically altered the security dimensions of international relations. Also, in the multi-polar world EU has been recognized as a critical player. To win the position of global actor, it is mandatory to establish its role and contribution in the realm of global security. However, in order to attain such role in security realm, it is pre-requisite to develop capabilities to deal with internal security threats. The difference of opinion and reluctance of member states does not allow it to have consensus over security policy. And thus far, EU aspiration to emerge as a global actor seems distant possibility. But, Turkey, a member of NATO, has well proven capabilities to deal with any unwarranted situations. Turkey military might and its experiences to participate in NATO led operations would be greater assets for the EU. Also, Turkey's geo-strategic position at the crossroads of "the Caucasian, Central

Asian and Middle Eastern energy routes is important in assessing the strategic value of Turkey for European security” (Gasparini, 2007). Its strategic locations places major emphasis on its importance as a critical player .Since, 1999, Turkey has been actively participating and contributing to all NATO led operations. EU member states have different voices over Turkey accession into EU. Simultaneously, they are well aware of the fact that Turkey military strength and modern security policy have potential and competent to save them from future security threats. Hence, on the name of security, the member states must reduce the differences of opinion and grant Turkey membership status. Turkey would, in turn, enhance EU military capability and help realizing EU a global player in the realm of security (Gasparini, 2007).

The rising Islamic fundamentalism is posing major security threat to EU. The spillover effect of Arab spring has destabilizes the Middle East region. The continuous instability has spurred the fundamentalist activities. US endeavor in line with aspirations of Arab Spring to install rule of law and democracy to these states did not materialize. These states perceive democracy is a western concept and incompatible with Islam and thereby, display reluctance towards democratic establishment. Since, Turkey has dominant Muslim population and a democratic state. In-spite of several coups in past it has yet maintained its democratic character. Therefore, it’s inclusion into EU, a western world, testifies its democratic model with dominant Muslim population. That could be signal and later on exported to the Middle Eastern region to establish democracy. Turkey could play a major role to export its democratic model to these warring states, wherein US and other global power fails to do such thing. The establishment of rule of law and democracy automatically reduce the emerging threats. Even if it tries to head-up, it would be dealt by the democratic state themselves and therefore, the spread of terror would be curbed by exporting the democratic model of Turkey.

Furthermore, Turkey has world’s third largest army. It has been actively participating in US led NATO activities since 1999. Besides this it’s geostrategic position and dominant Muslim population makes decisive player for European Security policy. Turkey’s ineffectiveness as a competent regional player is the byproduct of its lingered internal weakness and its history. With the onset, Turkish republic has been witnessing unstable polity and eventually failed to formulate sustainable economic policy that derailed the governance process and allowed military to take control. The role of military in Turkish polity has long history. Turkey, a reminiscent of Ottoman Empire, has been founded on the roots military means and might. Attaturk, the father of Turkey, left with no option other than using military to drive out the foreign invaders after the World War II .He established republic of Turkey on the European values and norms. Since then military has special place and role in Turkey’s politics and nation-building. Their self-acclaimed role of observer of Turkish government which is also supplemented with the constitutional provision place them sui-generis position in Turkish society. They have been critically observing and monitoring every development of Turkish polity and

government functioning led by elected leaders and overthrow them unhesitatingly if found any misappropriation in governance. Since the establishment of Turkey, fractured politics gave every possible room to Army to intervene and control. Besides this, Turkish imperfect inclusion in EU, relations with Russia and Arab world is perhaps due to Ottoman dominant legacy. Therefore, it has yet to come out from the shadow of its historical and cultural past and renewed its ties with rest of the world. Nonetheless, if it resolves its problems it might emerge as a dominant global actor and particularly a decisive player for European Union (Euro-Atlantic Security initiative, 2012).

The reform process that has paved the way for Turkish social, political and economic development has created its image and influence in the volatile region around it (Euro-Atlantic Security initiative, 2012). It has emerged as an important player in the Euro-Atlantic region. Browne, Ischinger, Ivanov and Nunn (2013) defined that Euro-Atlantic region is an area that “ includes six of the world’s 10 largest economies, four of the five declared nuclear weapon states, and more than 95 percent of global nuclear inventories” (Browne, Ischinger, Ivanov and Nunn, 2013, p.1). The Turkey is a decisive player in the security of the Euro-Atlantic region. And it can ultimately curb any threat emerging from this region.

Furthermore, Turkey’s role can’t be ignored in the context of growing new threats – terrorism, drug trafficking, illegal migration, emerging from its neighboring states. EU has been unable to deal with these threats in the past. Also, a major objective of ENP (European Neighborhood Policy) and EMP (European Mediterranean Partnership) is “to reduce the danger of terrorism, Constrain the operations of transnational organized crimes, stem the flow of narcotics, and manage the impact of migration” (Euro-Atlantic Security initiative, 2012). But, EU does not develop competence and thereby they have failed to devise any policy to face these threats. However, Turkey’s geostrategic position and institutional capability to deal with these threats effectively highlights its importance and eligibility as member state for the EU.

Moreover, it is a critical player for European the energy security. It stays on the transit route of oil and gas that flows to Europe from South. Turkey is world’s largest gas importer. Oil and gas are lifeline EU member states. In the recent row over Ukraine Crisis, where Russia plays its energy (gas) card that has brought Ukrainian authority to its knees, is a lesson to learn that excessive dependence has its hidden cost to pay, in future. It is also important for EU to secure its energy route to avoid being hostages of any particular country in future. Turkey will play significant role in decisions of constructing pipelines from Caspian to Europe based on cooperation as well as competitive pricing. That will result into to competitive price for the European consumer (Euro-Atlantic Security initiative, 2012). Besides this, it would help to discover new avenues of the gas reserves i.e. be it from Azerbaijan or Iran. It would not only discover but it would. If the economic sanctions on Iran lifted in near future, the

abundant gas and oil reserves would be transported to Europe via Turkey. But, this demands smoother relationship of Turkey and Iran. As the later see former's inclusion into EU as a testimony of European attitude towards Middle East in general and Muslim country in particular. Nonetheless, Turkey can secure the free flow of energy on competitive price to Europe.

However, EU does not favor such deep rooted role of Turkish Army and want them to relinquish its role and promote civilians role in the all governing bodies. The benefits of Turkey's membership particularly pertinent to the security dimension have every potential to influence the member states preferences and to turn the anti-Turkey waves into its favor (Gaspirini, 2007). Apart from this, the increasing role of EU in global poitics needs to be supplemented by Turkey. EU aspiration to emerge as superpower can be well supported by Turkey.

EU as an emerging superpower and role of Turkey

In the recent past, Mr. Putin received loads of applaud from international community when he pleaded for diplomatic means to resolve the Syrian conflict. His preferences to dialog over use of military means established him as a "peace lover". However, the ongoing Russian-Ukraine crisis has shocked and surprised the entire international community. Mr. Putin's deliberate attempt to annex Crimea by military means is something unexpected and unseen in 21st century global politics. Russia is the responsible nation and an important global player. But its advertent act of aggression (use of military) squarely violated the sovereignty of Ukraine. One can argue without compunction that this incident has punctured Russian credibility as a responsible nation. However, it is too early to predict that they would, in my opinion, no longer be a superpower but it has certainly created vacuum in a global leadership.

Thus created vacuum in global leadership should be filled. Albeit, there are several actors attempting to establish themselves as a responsible global leader for instance China, France, UK, Japan and India. However, if we observe the behavior pattern of these states particularly in dealing with its neighbors, each of the mentioned states are at loggerheads with its neighbors. Their alacrity to participate in issues which largely fall in line with their national interests is the testimony of vacuum in global leadership. Moreover, the problems of 21st century are complex in nature. I can convincingly argue that war is unthinkable alternative in this era of interconnectedness and interdependence. It is inevitable for a state to resort to the peaceful means to resolve issues i.e. diplomacy should be the best and the only feasible option for a state. For instance, U S and Russia blazed a trail for diplomacy over military means in Syrian conflict; the waxing situation in South China Sea also resorted to dialogue with the disputants. It can be inferred from this that albeit the state may have military might to

resolve disputes but they are also aware of the repercussion of such wishful act. It should not be inferred that I am waning the importance of military capability of a state. Undoubtedly, a state must build and upgrade its military capability to protect its citizens from non-state actors and other disasters. Samuel Huntington in his book, the clash of civilizations and the Remaking of World Order argued that unlike today's changing international relations structure earlier the global politics was for the power and by the power. Today's global politics is more about human values, justice, equality and democracy. There is paradigm shift in nation's priority.

Thus problems of 21st century require endogenous solutions rather exogenous. It requires to prioritizing respect for human values, equality and justice, democracy and cooperation over confrontation. The goal of EU is to promote cooperation and bring peace and prosperity to the continent. EU membership criteria are unique way of resolving conflict of candidate countries. Its deliberate promotion for democracy, human rights and economic competitiveness are providing everlasting solutions to the rivalry between nations. For instance, Turkey once a tumultuous nation has virtually adopted Western life style and democracy. It is pushing hard to improve human rights records. It has 99% Muslim population but a secular country. Sooner or later, if Turkey membership application is approved then it would be a testimony of European way of resolving conflict. EU can then further extend such model around the world and emerge as global super power.

Nonetheless, there is an important lesson EU, can learn from recent crisis. Firstly, EU needs to understand how to pursue and protect its interest as a whole. Secondly, how to protect its (particularly tiny) member states by peaceful means. Whether or not EU should build military capacity, I would not extend that debate for the sake of this article. But I would construct my arguments that EU must capitalize on this issue by responding in a responsible manner. It has brought great opportunity for EU to establish itself as a major international actor in resolving international crisis. EU has certain chance to emerge as an alternative to superpower. The road is not easy to ride. It is apparent that member state has difference of opinion and different national interest to pursue. However, EU response is petulance slap on Putin's wrist. It may be due to its endogenous persistence struggle after 2008 economic crisis.

EU is gradually coming out of 2008 economic crisis. "The Euro Area is the second largest economy in the world and if it was country it would fourth most populous with 300 million inhabitants "(Euro area GDP growth rate). It has world's largest common market. Turkey's entry into EU will be beneficial for Greece and most of southern Europe facing illegal immigrants' problem causing security threats. Turkey share boarders with Middle Eastern countries and has military might to deal with such problems. It is also an important regional power. Turkey would bring its vibrant economy to the EU derailed economy. Turkey has young and growing population which

would perhaps pros for the EU ageing and shrinking population. It has “youngest population in western Europe by median age largely due to high birth and fertility rate which have been added by impressive economic expansion” (Turkey’s population young and rapidly Expanding, 2012).

Turkey a key player to support EU’s role in Middle East

The Great Middle East Region project (Achcar, 2004) was launched by US after its invasion into Iraq. The aim was to capitalize on its natural abundance, fight against terrorism and to bring regional stability. However, US tied down by its domestic resentments could not afford to keep its footprint longer. This allows other major international actors to fill the gap and play an active role in the region. EU is one of such actor willing to play active role. As the article points out that since EU is struggling with its own internal economic crisis, problems of mass immigration from Middle East, terrorist activities originating from these regions, drug trafficking etc (Achcar, 2004). Hence, it is inevitable to be part of the solution rather the victim of the problems. The Great Middle East Region has abundance of natural resources (Achcar, 2004). Middle East has three fourth of world’s oil reserve. They are largest producer and supplier of the oil. Moreover, the Great Middle East has exceptional diversity among different states in terms of political instability and state structure. Political instability brings instability to region and has spill-over effect on the neighborhood. Most of the state is either ruled by dictator or authoritarian. Such state structures are averse to any social reform. They consider reform process a threat to their authority. Despite of these all issue, EU has its part of motivation in this region.

In spite of the abundance of natural resources, the distribution of wealth and growth is uneven. One sections of the society only accrue the fruits of development leaving rest in poverty. High level of un-employment along with rampant corruption forces people to migrate in search of livelihood. Due to geo-graphical proximity EU has been the favorite destinations for immigrants. The immigration of workforce has been a complex problem. EU has devise mechanism to deal with the problems. However, Turkey being the Muslim dominant nation with European identity has been key player in the Middle East politics. Turkey has played significant role in past for instance provide support the US in Iraq invasion, influence in Syrian conflict, and above all a relatively stable polity with military might makes it key regional player.

Copenhagen criteria and Turkey readiness for full membership

In order to understand the future and speed of its accession process, Turkish readiness for the full membership is worth analyzing. It began with the Copenhagen Summit in December 1993, which set reform guidelines for Turkey and criteria for a candidate country aspiring for EU membership also known as Copenhagen Criteria. It was, in fact, the Helsinki Summit of 1999, which declared Turkey as candidate country. This

declaration fastens its accession process. Also, there was a major shift taking place in Turkish political landscape. It was an important time in Turkish polity because the party (AKP) which was due to come into the power was pro-EU. Like the previous coalition government they were also pro-EU and bound to continue the reform process in order to get full membership. Their commitment and pace of reforms raised lot of hope among Turkish citizens for full membership. However, there has been series of reforms (constitutional and economic) process undertaken by the successive governments even then full membership was eluded them. Hence, I would try to assess the effects of reforms on Turkey's polity and economy on each indicator of Copenhagen Criteria.

There were seven harmonization packages introduced during 2001-03(Tocci, 2005). First two packages were devoted to improve the freedom of expression and association (Tocci, 2005). Third packages strongly advocated the abolishment of death penalty and strongly recommended for the removal of the ban on broadcasting and education in languages other than Turkish (Tocci, 2005). The fourth and fifth packages recommends for the amendment of Law on Political parties, expanded the freedom of the press and freedom of association, increase penalties for torture crime and allowed for retrials of case contrary to ECHR judgments (Tocci, 2005). Furthermore, the introduction of the two packages in July 2003 further extended the freedom of speech and expression along with cultural, religious and linguistic rights (Tocci, 2005). It also increased the number of civilians in previously military dominated National Security Council. This was, in fact, a wise attempt to curtail down the role of military in civilian bodies. In continuation the further set of constitutional amendments was passed in 2004. This set of constitutional amendments reiterated the previous recommended amendments like abolishment of death penalty, however, amendment for abolishment of infamous security courts. All reforms have its impact on Turkish orientation and outlook, which makes it closer to the EU membership. I would assess the importance of Higher Education sector reforms and its impact on Turkish society and the underneath aim of EU.

It is important to understand the aims of EU for recommending higher education reforms in Turkey. Hence, i would like to highlight the idea and intention beneath the Higher Education reforms in Turkey. I would also like to extend my analysis from, the production of quality human capital for the business world to, curbing the rise of fundamentalist and religious extremist from, security dimension of the higher education reform process.

The current framework of higher education is established during military rule in 1980(The Observatory on Borderless Higher Education, 2005) particularly to cater the needs of military. EU in its several recommendations emphatically said for the

curtailment of military role and to increase the role of civilians. It fears the military state of Turkey with some obvious reasons of securities. It is inevitable to replace military orientation of higher education with civil. It would have immediate and long term impact on Turkish young populations particularly and society in general. The immediate impact can be visualized in terms of producing more western oriented students and intellectuals who in return support and promote the democratization process. The long term impact can be envisaged by meeting the EU standard and norms which would perhaps make the full membership road less thorny. Moreover, before reform started, Turkey education system has been widely criticized for endorsing religious groups and its overt attachment with military. A report by, The Observatory on borderless higher education, also pointed out that the higher education council in past five years virtually forced close down more than 50 academics for supporting religious groups and their strong ties with military (The Observatory on Borderless Higher Education, 2005) . These supports to the religious group, in my opinion, may prone to translate into alleged religious fundamentalism. That may perhaps derail the Turkey's reform process for full membership. It would, also, endanger the EU security. Therefore, the reform became inevitable in order to check the rise of religious fundamentalism and extremism which may pose potential threat to EU securities and for the unhindered reform process that would result into full membership, ultimately. The existing system is unable to bridge the gap between demand (what industry demands) and supply gap (what the system produce and supply) of workers to its rising industry and thereby, substantially increasing unemployment rate (The Observatory on Borderless Higher Education, 2005). The unemployed youth in their 20's and 30's having no or little education prone to indulge in any evil activities. I have inferred this for two reasons. Firstly, Post 9/11 has dramatically changed the attitude (suspicious) of the rest of world towards Islam. Also, USA declared the global "war on Terror" has been wrongly received by the Muslim fraternity. Thereby it generated strong sentiments among the Muslim fraternity around the world. It was commonly perceived as an attack on Islam and hence, particularly, terrorist groups began mobilizing and embracing young peoples of early adulthood against West. These groups hunt for the young unemployed population who can easily convince and capture for terror activities. Therefore, the rising unemployed population of age group between 20's to 30's will be soft target for the terrorist in and around Turkey. Which neither suitable for Turkey nor for Europe. And the ultimate repercussion of their activities would only deter Turkey dream of EU membership and cause further delay in accession process to complete. Secondly, Turkey has dominant Muslim population and culturally pro-Islam society. Their covert support to Al-Qaeda fighters in Syria has been widely reported in recent past (Pikcampaign, 2013). Terror groups run terror camps and recruit young vulnerable youth of early adulthood to join. Young needy and unemployed people on the name pan-Islam can get trapped easily. There are many researches and reports published on the correlation between unemployment and rising terror activities in several parts of the worlds. Also, Turkey in-

spite of its Western orientation and outlook has been unable to curb the rising religious fundamentalism. But it could be said that Turkey has been able to check the growth of terrorist activities (relatively less number of terrorist activities in 2013) with its western orientation. Thus, these inevitable reforms are highlighting Turkish seriousness and readiness for the full membership.

The aforementioned series of reform process are the manifestation of Turkish seriousness for the EU membership. These reform processes has undoubtedly enhanced the political and economic dimension of Turkey. Simultaneously, it is also true that there are unethical attempts of banning Twitter, YouTube and failed attempts of altering provisions of the constitutions by the incumbent government for temporary gains. This, however, has been committed because of the weak opposition party. But I perceive that these political acts are not a long term exercise done by the government. It is surely short-lived exercise which anyway rejected by the enlightened (due to ongoing reforms) peoples in the upcoming elections. Also, I can argue that providing no clear roadmap of Turkey accession generated strong disaffection among people and their support for the reforms. This also led to the lackadaisical approach of policy makers towards policy making and necessary reforms. Thus, EU must assess the Turkish preparedness with due diligence and prioritize its accession with full speed.

Conclusion

Turkey has been struggling to get EU full membership. There is no clear roadmap set by the EU leaders yet. The apparent difference of opinion among member state creates obstacle for its accession process to complete and formal negotiation process to open. Furthermore, Turkey has been undergone through several constitutional and economic reforms and has demonstrated its preparedness for the full membership. Besides this, Turkey's vibrant economy with large consumer market, geostrategic position, strong military and secularism gives weightage over other candidate countries. Also, increasing international terrorism and religious fundamentalism emerging from Middle East can't be solved by EU alone. If EU has to play key role in global politics, then it is inevitable to get Turkey onboard. Also, Turkey would be proved to be great assets to EU. Therefore, with all the potential to play decisive role in and outside EU, Turkey accession process should be geared up and should be given full membership. Any further delay may cause serious damage to EU image and credibility's in the eyes of not only Turkey's people but Middle Eastern state also, which EU can't afford.

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