

Evaluation of the Turkish accession to the European Union, the structural changes and the European cohesion.

Yiannos Charalambides DProf Candidate

The Euro Turkish relations constitute one of the main issues prevailing on the European political landscape, placed at the top of the European agendas. The Turkish accession to the EU is a complicated matter, strictly connected to the coming Enlargements and their resulting consequences. In this context, a number of questions emerge. One of them focuses on whether the EU is capable of absorbing new member states, especially Turkey. Another relevant question is similar to that of the German matter, which was intensely raised again just after the collapse of the Soviet Block under the following form: Are we going to have a European Germany or a German Europe? Similarly, the question on the Turkish membership to the EU is whether we will have a European Turkey or a Turkish Europe.

In light of these, the main question that this research will attempt to tackle is whether the Turkish accession to the EU will threaten or not the cohesion of the EU. This question is to be answered in the context of the various theories of International Relations and more precisely by taking on board as the basis of my work, Gilpin's model on whether the changes, which occur in the International System bring about the rise and decline of the International System.

Therefore, my aim is to analyse the European Union -Turkey relations in the context of the Enlargement of the EU taking into consideration the policy of the USA, which is the dominant actor of the International System in the current Post Cold War era. This study will attempt to investigate the reasons triggering problems and identify the factors influencing the policy of the EU on the Turkish accession to the European Union and vice versa. Taking into account the reasons of the problems in the Turkish accession, I will investigate the cohesion of the EU in relation to the Euro-Turkish relations by establishing a 'model of cohesion' upon which one can be based in order to find out whether the European system as it is at the legal, institutional, economic and social field can be threatened or not by new member states.