

*ISTANBUL POLICY CENTER-SABANCI UNIVERSITY-STIFTUNG MERCATOR INITIATIVE,
the CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STRATEGIC STUDIES
and
the EUROPEAN UNION AND GLOBAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
cordially invite you to the panel discussion*

Bridging Troubled Waters – The Future of Turkey in Europe

Welcoming remarks

Tuğrul Arat

(TOBB University of Economics and Technology, European Union and Global Research Association)

and

Fuat Keyman

(Istanbul Policy Center)

Speakers

Hannes Swoboda

(Former Member of the European Parliament, Mercator-IPC Senior Fellow)

Afif Demirkıran

(Co-chair of the Turkey-EU Joint Parliamentary Commission)

Chair

Şaban Kardaş

(Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies)

Date: November 18, 2014, 16.30-18.00

Venue: TOBB-ETÜ Sosyal Tesisler

Turkey and the EU share a series of common challenges that go beyond the scope of membership negotiations. The implosion of the political order in the Middle East deeply affects national security interests in Turkey and the EU member states. The Syrian refugee crisis poses a massive challenge to Turkey that requires EU commitment. The economic crisis puts prosperity and social peace in Europe and Turkey at risk and calls for a political strategy that includes Turkey. Finally, the interlinkage of Turkish and European societies comes with a shared interest in democratization and the reappraisal of diversity and concepts of living together in Europe and Turkey.

The speakers will discuss ways to overcome the current stalemate in Turkey-EU relations and explore ways to tackle these challenges within and beyond Turkey's accession to the Union. The event is organized within the framework of Hannes Swoboda's Mercator-IPC Senior Fellowship and will be held in English with simultaneous translation. Please **RSVP to Firuze Gökler** from ORSAM (e-mail: firuzegokler@gmail.com) by November 14, 2014.