

Revisiting the Cyprus Conundrum in Turkey-EU Relations



The establishment of the Republic of Cyprus (RoC) in 1960 led to a short-lived security arrangement among guarantor powers (i.e., Turkey, Greece, and the United Kingdom). Over the decades, the long-standing Cyprus problem remained contained, effectively as a Greco-Turkish backwater issue, at most a derivative consigned to the margins of NATO's southern flank. The accession of the divided island into the European Union (EU) in 2004 introduced a new regional and potentially disruptive geopolitical dynamic into the relations. While Turkey became officially an EU candidate member-state in 1999, diplomatic attempts to resolve the Cyprus problem in time for EU accession failed, and the internal and security dimensions of the Cyprus problem remain unresolved until today.

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