

Brexit and Its Potential Impact on EU-Turkey Defense and Security Relations



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Turkey has been a partner of European countries for decades in Western security structures, thanks to its geopolitical position, military capabilities, and membership of NATO. Nevertheless, there were at times tense periods between Turkey and some of the European countries due to clashes of interests. More recently, rising tensions in the Aegean Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean over

the continental shelf and exclusive economic zones have challenged the development of a positive agenda for cooperation. Turkey's military capabilities and potential to act as a gatekeeper in connection with migratory waves toward Europe from the Middle East and the east in general are some of the more prominent assets in the current EU-Turkey cooperation efforts. After the UK's exit from the Union, Turkey's military capabilities are once again perceived as beneficial to strengthen the EU's security and defense policies. These characteristics of Turkey will no doubt continue to shape the relations between Turkey and Europe in the security and defense realms in the coming years.

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