



# ANKASAM bulletin

3 December 2023  
ISSUE: 2023/48



## Japan-China Dialogue: Building the Future Together

**13** What Does  
Finland's Border  
Closure with  
Russia Mean?

**19** EU'S Growth Plan:  
Trust, Reciprocity  
and Partnership

# CONTENTS

## ANKASAM ANALYSIS

- 03 North Korea Sends “Spy Satellite” to Space**  
Hatice ÇİFTÇİOĞLU
- 07 The Win-Win Situation of China**  
Zeynep Çağla ERİN
- 11 The Power of Cultural Diplomacy: The Case of South Korea and the UK**  
Zeynep Çağla ERİN
- 15 Recession in the German Economy and Future Forecasts**  
Zeki Talustan GÜLTEN
- 19 EU’S Growth Plan: Trust, Reciprocity and Partnership**  
Veli Can AKKAŞ
- 23 The Belt and Road Initiative’s Harmony among Civilisations**  
Ömer Faruk PEKGÖZ
- 05 Japan-China Dialogue: Building the Future Together**  
Zeki Talustan GÜLTEN
- 09 China-US Competition: APEC Summit and Growth Rates**  
Zeki Talustan Gülden
- 13 What Does Finland’s Border Closure with Russia Mean?**  
Sena BİRİNCİ
- 17 Germany’s decision to increase military aid to Ukraine**  
Zeki Talustan GÜLTEN
- 21 The Role of the West in the Foreign Policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
Veli Can AKKAŞ

## JOURNALS

- 29 Journal of International Crisis and Political Studies**
- Journal of Regional Studies**

## ANKASAM INTERVIEW

- 25 Head of the Asia-Pacific Department of the Centro Studi Internazionali (CeSI) Tiziano Marino: “IMEC will also complete the Global Gateway project.”**  
Tiziano Marino  
Dilara Cansin KEÇİALAN



## ANKASAM ANALYSIS

# North Korea Sends “Spy Satellite” to Space



**Hatice ÇİFTÇİOĞLU**

Since the beginning of this year, North Korea has said that they were planning a fleet of satellites to monitor the movements of the United States’ (US) and South Korea’s troops, and finally has succeeded in its third attempt to place a military spy satellite into orbit. On 21st of November, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) announced that the reconnaissance satellite named Malligyong-1 was launched from the launch site in Tongchang-ri with the new type Chollima-1 rocket.

The day after the launch, North Korea said that it has successfully placed a spy satellite into orbit and will launch several more satellites “in a short span of time” to secure its reconnaissance capabilities against South Korea.<sup>[1]</sup> It has been remarked that Kim Jong-un’s visit to Russia was also influential behind this launch. Whereas, such launches are banned under UN Security Council sanctions designed to curb nuclear-armed North Korea’s ballistic missile programme, and it was swiftly condemned by South Korea, Japan, the US and the United Nations.<sup>[2]</sup>

The Comprehensive Military Agreement (CMA) was signed at the Summit in 2018 between North Korean Leader Kim Jong-un and Former South Korean President Moon Jae-in as part of an attempt to reduce tensions on the peninsula and build trust between the two countries. However, North Korea has increased security measures on the border with South Korea after the launch of the spy satellite. In this regard, Pyongyang took action when Seoul vowed to increase intelligence and surveillance along the demilitarized zone (DMZ).

North Korea’s Defense Ministry said that its army will “never be bound” by the military agreement, vowing to deploy “more powerful armed forces and new-type military hardware in the region along the Military Demarcation Line,” according to KCNA.<sup>[3]</sup> Leif-Eric Easley, Professor of International Studies at the Ewha Womans University in Seoul, emphasized that risks would likely increase as a result of canceling the agreement. “Seoul’s military intelligence and operational readiness were not seriously hampered by the CMA, and without the agreement, North Korea may be less restrained about its weapons deployments and maneuvers near the DMZ, which could increase the risks of miscalculation and conflict escalation on the Korean Peninsula,”<sup>[4]</sup> according to Prof. Easley.

North Korea argues that the launch of the spy satellite is for security purposes. According to them, the increasing military cooperation of the US-South Korea-Japan alliance poses a threat to the country's defense. Thus, the Pyongyang administration denounced that the United States' potential sale of missiles to Japan and South Korea, calling it a dangerous act that raises tension in the region and brings a new arms race.<sup>[5]</sup> North Korea, which said it would display "more aggressive and overwhelming capabilities," citing what it called "military threats" from the United States and its allies, carried out a successful satellite launch in the following days.

A few days later, the South Korean Army announced that it was organizing joint naval exercises with Japan and the USA in international waters near Jeju Island. They announced that the three countries carried out the exercise to bolster their close cooperation and operational capabilities amid North Korea's rising nuclear and missile threats.<sup>[6]</sup> North Korea's willingness to use nuclear weapons has also reached an alarming level. In September of this year, North Korea's nuclear force policy was enacted in a law that specifies defensive objectives and conditions for preemptive nuclear strikes. The law states that a nuclear strike will be automatically initiated if the leadership, including Kim Jong Un, is believed to be in danger. Particularly alarming is the potential use of nuclear weapons due to misperception and misjudgment.<sup>[7]</sup>

Images from spy satellites may cause a real war to start in the near future and these images can also be cited as a reason to end the agreement with South Korea. Furthermore, the recent China-Russia talks may also have an impact on the increasing tension in the region. However, China's economic need for South Korea, Japan and the USA should not be underestimated. It could be thought that China would pursue stronger political policies if there were alternatives to its economic relations with these countries.

In the long term, increasing military tensions in Northeast Asia due to North Korea's armed provocation will pose an obstacle to China's cooperation with the international community. The United States will strengthen its massive containment network against the China-Russia-North Korea coalition in the Indo-Pacific region to prevent Pyongyang's military provocations. Particularly, China could find itself isolated, with its economic growth engine potentially stalling, especially as NATO's Asia expansion theory gains momentum and China-U.S. hegemonic competition intensifies.<sup>[8]</sup> In addition, it should be taken into consideration that the ongoing wars in both the Middle East and Europe trigger global political tension.

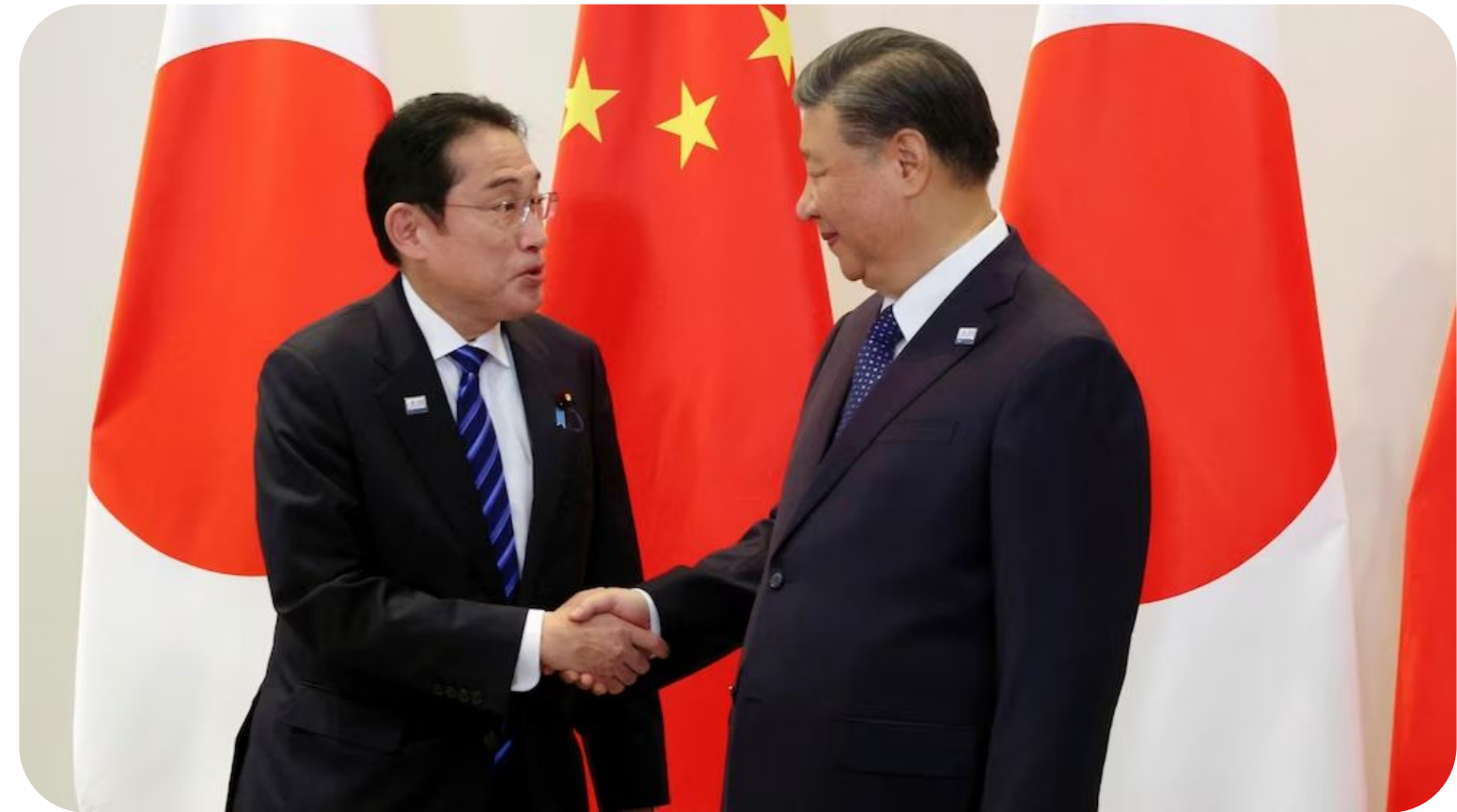
It should be noted that North Korea's dependence on China and Russia narrows the range of action of Kim Jong-un's military capacity, too. Although China is defined as a powerful state on the world stage, it is not possible for it to be deprived of the global supply chain solely for political reasons. As a matter of fact, at the China-Japan-South Korea meeting, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi stated that he wanted to help denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. Accordingly, the presence of nuclear weapons on the peninsula also poses a major threat to China.

Threats from North Korea increase the importance of Japan's Self-Defense Forces. In this context, Japan is increasing its spending on defense. Bu durum, Tokyo hükümeti ve Japon This situation is evaluated differently by the Tokyo government and the Japanese people. According to the majority of the public, the threat from North Korea has been ongoing for a long time but increasing military expenditures is against the pacifist and peaceful nature of the country. Japan's development of military and political relations, especially with the USA, strengthens the country's economic relations with the West. On the other hand, this situation also limits Japan's rapprochement with China.

Point:

- North Korea's desire to use nuclear weapons has also reached an alarming level.
- [1] Song Sangho, "(3rd LD) N. Korea Says It Successfully Placed Spy Satellite into Orbit, Will Launch More", Yonhap News Agency, <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN2023112010054315?section=nk/nk>, (Date of Access: 26.11.2023).
- [2] "North Korea Suspends Seoul Military Agreement, Restores Troops at Border", Aljazeera News, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/23/north-korea-suspends-seoul-military-agreement-restores-troops-at-border>, (Date of Access: 26.11.2023).
- [3] Brad Lendon-Gawon Bae, "North Korea to Deploy 'New' Weapons on Border with South Korea", CNN, <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/11/23/asia/north-korea-weapons-south-korea-border-intl-hnk-ml/index.html>, (Date of Access: 26.11.2023).
- [4] "North Korea Suspends Seoul Military Agreement, Restores Troops at Border", a.g.e., (Date of Access: 26.11.2023).
- [5] "North Korea Criticizes Potential Sale of U.S. Missiles to Japan, South Korea", The Asahi Shimbun, <https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/15061772>, (Date of Access: 26.11.2023).
- [6] "Japan, US, S. Korea Stage Joint Drills Amid NKorea's Nuclear And Missile Threats", NHK World-Japan, [https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20231127\\_01/](https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20231127_01/), (Date of Access: 26.11.2023)
- [7] Lee Minyong, "China Ignores North Korea's Provocations at Its Own Risk", The Diplomat, Threats from North Korea increase the importance of Japan's Self-Defense Forces. In this context, Japan is increasing its spending on defense. Bu durum, Tokyo hükümeti ve Japon This situation is evaluated differently by the Tokyo government and the Japanese people. According to the majority of the public, the threat from North Korea has been ongoing for a long time but increasing military expenditures is against the pacifist and peaceful nature of the country. Japan's development of military and political relations, especially with the USA, strengthens the country's economic relations with the West. On the other hand, this situation also limits Japan's rapprochement with China, (Date of Access: 26.11.2023).

[8] Same source.



## ANKASAM ANALYSIS

# Japan-China Dialogue: Building the Future Together

On November 25, 2023, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met in South Korea. They expressed their hope to hold security talks in the 'near future.'<sup>[1]</sup> Yoko Kamikawa said in a statement: 'We confirmed that we are on the way to closer communication on several issues and hope to hold security talks in the near future.' Wang Yi, for his part, stated that both sides 'pose no threat' to each other and emphasized the need to 'respect each other's legitimate concerns.'<sup>[2]</sup>

Yoko Kamikawa said that she hoped China would lift its ban on all Japanese seafood exports. Japan's Foreign Minister added that the two countries will hold high-level economic talks, but the date has not yet been set.<sup>[3]</sup> In response, China expressed its opposition to 'Japan's irresponsible practices' and emphasized the need to 'establish a long-term monitoring mechanism for all stakeholders.'

On November 17, 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida met at an international conference in the United States of America (USA). This meeting took place amidst a series of diplomatic disputes affecting bilateral relations, highlighting issues such as the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant issue and the detention of a Japanese citizen in China. Nevertheless, both sides declared that they attach importance to economic interests.<sup>[4]</sup>

Emphasizing that she raised some disagreements and that the two countries will communicate closely, Yoko Kamikawa said, 'We also discussed issues that require bilateral cooperation. We also had meaningful exchanges on climate change, international insurance, development finance, and the North Korea issue.'<sup>[5]</sup>

The meeting between Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa and her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi shows that diplomatic relations tend to strengthen, and communication deepens. The meeting seems to have focused on regional security issues. The parties' willingness to hold 'security talks' could emphasize potential threats in the region and the protection of common interests. This shows the parties' efforts to build a shared security vision.



**Zeki Talustan  
GÜLTEN**  
ANKASAM Asia-  
Pacific Research  
Assistant

Japan's request to China to lift the seafood ban shows that economic cooperation and trade are on the agenda. Releasing wastewater from Japan's Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant into the sea raises environmental concerns. China's proposal for a 'long-term monitoring mechanism' can be seen as an effort to monitor environmental impacts. The outcome of the talks could shape the two countries' future relations. As a result, deepening diplomatic relations, assessing commitments on regional security and economic cooperation, and exploring joint solutions to environmental issues are noteworthy. Spot:

- The parties' willingness to hold 'security talks' could emphasize potential threats in the region and the protection of common interests.

[1] "Japan, China Foreign Ministers Agree Plan to Hold Security Talks, Improve Ties", Reuters, <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/japan-china-seeking-security-talks-near-future-says-japan-foreign-minister-2023-11-25/>, (Erişim Tarihi: 27.11.2023).

[2] Aynı yer.

[3] Aynı yer.

[4] Aynı yer.

[5] Aynı yer.



## ANKASAM ANALYSIS

# The Win-Win Situation of China

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a letter to the sixth China International Import Expo (CIIE), which opened in Shanghai on November 5, 2023.<sup>[i]</sup> It is emphasized in the letter that this event serves as a window to the world. Advocating the promotion of high standards and a win-win approach, Xi Jinping stated that platforms such as CIIE are a "good service" for global economic development.

While CIIE reveals China's high development goals, it also emphasizes the importance of encouraging small-scale countries to participate in the Belt and Road Initiative, winning together and building the future.

At the CIIE held this year, approximately 442 new products, new technologies, and services were introduced, showing the importance that businesses operating in the domestic and foreign markets attach to the Chinese market. The fact that the sixth edition of the fair has attracted more participants from around the world shows that the business world has confidence in the rising potential of China's consumer market and its continued commitment to high-standard expansion.

China has proposed several measures at this year's event, such as expanding imports, implementing the national version and free trade zone version of the cross-border services trade negative list, and building higher-level opening-up platforms. All of these present opportunities for multinational companies.

CIIE is also becoming a reliable platform for underdeveloped countries to access the world market. Of the 72 states featured in CIIE's national exhibition, 64 are members of the Belt and Road Initiative and 16 are underdeveloped countries. Companies from 29 less developed countries participate in CIIE's corporate exhibition. All stands and services offered during the fair are free of charge. CIIE's role as a global "public good" is indisputable.<sup>[ii]</sup> In the future, CIIE and China will build on the successes they have already achieved in promoting inclusive and shared development. This event means that China will always adhere to the win-win understanding and multilateralism, and will be the flag bearer of being open, fair, and inclusive in trade and economic relations between countries.



**Zeynep Çağla  
ERİN**

**1. Win-Win Relationship:** The China International Import Expo (CIIE) has the potential to create a mutually beneficial relationship for participating countries and businesses. The introduction of around 442 new products, technologies, and services indicates that both local and international businesses have faith in the growth opportunities offered by the Chinese market. This demonstrates that trade can be profitable not only for China but also for other countries.

**1. Transformation of International Trade into a Market of Chinese Origin:** China International Import Expo (CIIE) plays a vital role in making China's position as a central player in the world trade more prominent. It also aids in the establishment of a market in China. China's import expansion and high-standard policies for opening up to the world market have caught the attention of the international trade community towards China. This presents significant opportunities for businesses worldwide to explore and benefit from.

- **The Growth of Small Countries through the Belt and Road Initiative:**

The China International Import Expo (CIIE) plays a significant role in the growth of small-scale countries by means of the Belt and Road Initiative. The inclusion of underdeveloped nations in CIIE and their assistance with free stands enables them to have a greater involvement in global trade. This helps to achieve a more equitable distribution of economic growth worldwide.

**The Decline of American Cultural Dominance and An End to Cultural Imperialism:**

With China's increasing economic power, the China International Import Expo (CIIE) is presenting itself as an alternative to American imperialism. Additionally, China's emphasis on cultural exchange promises a more positive and mutually beneficial process as opposed to the cultural and financial domination that American imperialism envisions. China's policy of opening up to the world and the global impact of the CIIE can be seen as a step towards a more just and fair global trade order, challenging the traditional economic hegemony.

In the next five years, China is expected to exceed \$32 trillion in foreign trade of goods and \$5 trillion in foreign trade of services. The China International Import Expo (CIIE) is the first import-themed national and global exhibition, and it will continue to support China's efforts in opening up and achieving high-quality development.<sup>[i]</sup> The CIIE aims to promote high-standard opening-up that is more open, inclusive, balanced, and holistic, and ensures that economic globalization benefits all parties involved.

The contribution of CIIE to the transformation of international trade has resulted in a model that can promote sustainable and fair growth, not only for China, but for the global economy as a whole. This, along with increased cooperation and mutually beneficial trade strategies, can help advance economic globalization in a more inclusive, open, and balanced way.

**Spot:**

CIIE aims to promote open, inclusive, and balanced economic globalization that benefits all parties involved.

[i] "CIIE Public Good For Win-Win Cooperation: China Daily Editorial", China Daily, <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202311/07/WS654a2b6fa31090682a5ecf28.html>, (Date of Access: 11.11.2023).

[ii] "CIIE 2023: More Attractive, More Influential", China Daily, <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202311/11/WS654ee0f9a31090682a5edae4.html>, (Date of Access: 11.11.2023).

[iii] The same place.



## ANKASAM ANALYSIS

# China-US Competition: APEC Summit and Growth Rates

The economic growth among the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries is anticipated to decline, remaining below the global average. This downturn can be attributed to various factors, including the high interest rates slowing down the growth in the United States, sustained recovery in China, and the trade tensions between the two nations hindering commerce.

Ahead of the APEC Leaders Summit in San Francisco, the Policy Support Unit of APEC Secretariat released its latest forecasts, indicating a decrease in the growth rate for the 21-member region from 3.3% in 2023 to 2.8% in 2024.<sup>[i]</sup>

It is expected that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of APEC will persist below the global average of 3.2% and the rest of the world's 3.5-3.6%, averaging around 2.9% in 2025 and 2026. Notable downward risks for the Pacific coastal region encompass enduring inflation associated with weather conditions driving up prices of rice and other agricultural products, coupled with disruptions in the fertilizer supply chain. Additional tightening of monetary policies might be necessary to control inflation, potentially further decelerating growth.<sup>[ii]</sup>

The causes of this decline are primarily outlined as the high interest rates impacting U.S. growth, sustained growth in China, and ongoing trade tensions between the U.S. and China.

Following a relatively stagnant year in 2023 due to China's subdued growth, it is anticipated that the volume of trade in goods among APEC countries will rebound next year, with a 4.3% increase in exports and a 3.5% rise in imports. However, the growth in both exports and imports is forecasted to peak in 2025 at 4.4%, subsequently experiencing a slight decline in 2026 due to geopolitical fragmentation disrupting longstanding supply relationships.<sup>[iii]</sup>



**Zeki Talustan  
GÜLTEN**  
ANKASAM Asia-  
Pacific Research  
Assistant

Carlos Kuriyama, Director of the Policy Support Unit at APEC, emphasized the importance of reconciling differences between the U.S. and China following years of trade competition and export restrictions stemming from national security concerns. Notably, President Joe Biden of the U.S. and President Xi Jinping of China met face-to-face for the first time a year after their last meeting on November 8, 2022.<sup>[iv]</sup>

Kuriyama highlighted that national security-oriented export controls and other limitations between the U.S. and China have increased costs within optimized supply chains for productivity pre-COVID-19. While a complete return to pre-COVID-19 trade models may not be feasible, avoiding further fragmentation is crucial.

The data underscores the significance of the "re-engagement, de-risking, and avoidance of decoupling between the U.S. and China economies." Kuriyama opined, "I believe a stable relationship between the U.S. and China is a win-win situation for everyone."

[i] In conclusion, the economic growth forecasts for APEC countries are poised to decline in the coming years due to various internal and external factors. High interest rates, the slowdown in U.S. growth, stable growth in China, and U.S.-China trade disputes stand out as primary limiting factors. Additionally, risk factors such as export restrictions, weather conditions, and supply chain issues could exacerbate the challenges faced by the region. In this context, appropriate policy measures may be necessary for APEC countries to stimulate and sustain economic growth. Moreover, stabilizing relations between the U.S. and China and fortifying supply chains will be crucial for the region's economic future.

Spot:

- APEC countries may need to take appropriate policy measures to stimulate and sustain economic growth.

[i] "APEC's Growth to Slow as Persistent Inflation, US-China Tensions Weigh-Report", Reuters, <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/apecs-growth-slow-persistent-inflation-us-china-tensions-weigh-report-2023-11-13/>, (Date of Accession: 13.11.2023).

[ii] Ibid.

[iii] Ibid.

[iv] Ibid.



## ANKASAM ANALYSIS

# The Power of Cultural Diplomacy: The Case of South Korea and the UK

King Charles III of the United Kingdom celebrated 140 years of diplomatic relations by inviting South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and First Lady Kim Keon Hee.<sup>[1]</sup> King Charles made an unexpected reference to South Korean popular culture during a state visit to Buckingham Palace on November 22, 2023.<sup>[2]</sup> Distinguished guests, including Hallyu (Korean Wave) and Blackpink, were at the center of the ceremonies.

Charles' welcome speech included references to BTS and the cult Netflix series Squid Game. In his banquet speech, the King praised the ability of South Korean culture to captivate people in the context of public diplomacy. The King's speech also mentioned South Korea's strategic role as a "stronghold of democracy, human rights and freedom".<sup>[3]</sup>

One of the important tools of South Korea's public diplomacy is K-pop. As stated in the 2012, 2013 and 2014 Korean Diplomatic White Paper, Hallyu is an important part of Korea's public diplomacy, including K-pop. The Korean Wave has expanded with the popularity of Korean movies and the spread of K-Pop music worldwide. With the expansion of Korean pop culture, South Korea's national brand has been elevated and the importance of promoting the Korean Wave as a vital part of public diplomacy policy has emerged.

King Charles, along with the President and First Lady of South Korea, awarded Blackpink an honorary Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE).<sup>[4]</sup> According to a report from The Royal Family, King Charles said that the K-pop group was presented with the decoration for its role as an advocate at the COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow.<sup>[5]</sup> Recognizing the fact that K-pop has become a global phenomenon, the Seoul Government is using it effectively to promote Korea to foreigners. Due to its worldwide popularity, K-pop has been positively received in many countries around the world.



**Zeynep Çağla  
ERİN**

The popularity of K-pop has helped to make Korea more recognizable worldwide, especially among young people. K-pop has contributed to promoting Korea's tourism in many ways, such as making music videos to promote Korea or becoming an honorary ambassador for a particular department or sector. However, artists who are globally recognized as "Korean promotional ambassadors" are promoted to "global goodwill ambassadors", as seen in the case of the United Nations. K-pop has also contributed to the economy of the Republic of Korea, helping to promote Korean tourism and export sectors in particular. The popularity of K-pop and its contribution to the Republic of Korea has made it one of the most valuable tools of the country's public diplomacy.

Following this visit, Yoon Suk Yeol held talks with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, focusing on trade, technology and defense. The defense agreement envisages the two countries' navies working together to enforce United Nations (UN) sanctions to prevent smuggling and limit North Korea's nuclear weapons ambitions. UK and Korean officials have formally launched talks on an "updated free trade agreement", with existing agreements largely reflecting arrangements in place before the UK left the European Union.<sup>[6]</sup>

Since leaving the EU in 2020, the UK has entered into trade negotiations with a number of countries, but has only reached agreements with Australia and New Zealand. The UK is also a member of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), an Asia-Pacific trade bloc that includes Japan and 10 other countries.<sup>[7]</sup>

The state visit of King Charles II, inviting South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and First Lady Kim Keon Hee to the UK, not only celebrated 140 years of diplomatic relations, but also highlighted South Korean popular culture, especially K-pop. This visit is an impressive example of Korea's public diplomacy.

Güney Kore popüler kültürünün, özellikle K-pop'un, Kore'nin ulusal markasını yükseltmekte ne kadar etkili olduğunu görmekteyiz. Kral Charles'ın ziyafet konuşmasında yaptığı atıflar ve onursal ödülleri Blackpink'e verilmesi, Güney Kore'nin kültürel etkisini ve popülerliğini vurgulamıştır. K-pop'un küresel bir fenomen haline gelmesi, Güney Kore'nin genç nesiller arasında daha tanınır and strengthened its national brand at the global level.

As one of the important tools of South Korea's public diplomacy, K-pop is not only a tool for cultural interaction but also makes tangible contributions in the economic and trade spheres. K-pop's role in revitalizing Korean tourism and export sectors enhances South Korea's economic power in the international arena.

The agreements reached during Yoon Suk Yeol's meetings with Rishi Sunak on trade, technology and defense are expected to further strengthen strategic ties. This reflects South Korea's steps towards becoming a more effective actor in the international arena, not only in the cultural but also in the economic and defense fields.

In conclusion, South Korean President Yoon's visit to the UK strengthened Korea's public diplomacy, ranging from cultural interaction to strategic cooperation. This is an important example of the use of culture as a powerful diplomatic tool.

#### Spot

- The popularity of K-pop has helped to make Korea more recognizable worldwide, especially among young people.

[1] "Key Moments From King Charles' State Welcome for South Korea", TIME, <https://time.com/6338761/king-charles-speech-south-korea-banquet-highlights/>, (Erişim Tarihi: 27.11.2023).

[2] "King Charles Deploys K-Pop At South Korea State Banquet", BBC, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-67492559>, (Erişim Tarihi: 27.11.2023).

[3] Aynı yer.

[4] "King Presents Mbcs To K-Pop Stars Blackpink", BBC, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-67495892>, (Erişim Tarihi: 27.11.2023).

[5] "Key Moments From King Charles' State Welcome for South Korea", TIME, <https://time.com/6338761/king-charles-speech-south-korea-banquet-highlights/>, (Erişim Tarihi: 27.11.2023).

[6] "King Charles Welcomes South Korea's President with Banquet", VOA, <https://www.voanews.com/a/king-charles-welcomes-south-korea-s-president-with-banquet/7365410.html>, (Erişim Tarihi: 27.11.2023).

[7] Aynı yer.



## ANKASAM ANALYSIS

# What Does Finland's Border Closure with Russia Mean?

Despite its geographical proximity to Russia, Finland and Russia have had relations with each other at different periods throughout history, at times in close cooperation and at other times in conflict. Relations between the two countries have been shaped not only by their geographical location but also by historical, cultural and strategic factors.

Recently, these relations have again come into hot conflict with the refugee problem on their borders. Finland has announced that it will close its last border crossing due to concerns that Moscow is using migrants as part of a "hybrid war".<sup>[1]</sup>

Hybrid warfare combines traditional and modern methods to weaken the enemy's resistance and poses a new security threat in international relations. Finland's decision to close its borders against Russia is a concrete example of hybrid warfare strategies today.

In November 2023, Finland closed 7 out of 8 checkpoints on its border with Russia. As of November 29, 2023, it was announced that all checkpoints would be closed. The justification for this was that Russia was directing refugees from the Middle East and Africa to the border crossing. Until December 13, 2023, checkpoints will not be opened.

Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo said that his country was facing an exceptional situation:<sup>[2]</sup>

"This is a Russian influence operation and we do not accept it. We do not accept any attempt to undermine our national security. Russia caused this situation and only it can stop it."

Speaking in Brussels, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said that Russia is using migration as another tool to put pressure on its neighbors:<sup>[3]</sup>

"I think this is another example of Russia using many different tools to put pressure on its neighbors. We've seen them use energy, we've seen them use cyber attacks, we've seen them use different kinds of covert operations to try to undermine our democracies."

According to Finland, more than 900 asylum seekers from countries such as Somalia, Yemen, Iraq and Syria entered the country from Russia in November. This is considered to be a very high number for Finland.



**Sena BİRİNCİ**

Russia may have directed asylum seekers to the border to punish Finland's cooperation with the US. Bilateral relations have deteriorated in recent months, especially since Finland joined NATO in April 2023. The EU believes that recent incidents at the border could be part of a hybrid war being waged by Russia, which is using non-military weapons, including disinformation, to destabilize Europe.

Before joining NATO, Finland imposed sanctions on Moscow as a result of a joint EU resolution on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Finnish authorities have warned that Russia might retaliate by seeking ways to destabilize the country, such as cyber-attacks and luring migrants to its borders. A similar situation occurred in Finland in 2015-2016. In October 2023, Russia allegedly launched cyber-attacks on Finland.

In conclusion, these incidents suggest that differences of opinion are not only on the ground, but also in many ways. It requires a delicate balance between national security, human rights and international law. Finland's decision demonstrates the need to focus not only on relations between the two countries, but also on a broader perspective of regional and global security dynamics. It also reveals the complexity of methods of attack that go beyond traditional military methods in an evolving world.

#### Spot

- Finland's decision to close its borders against Russia is a concrete example of today's hybrid war strategies.

[1] Jari Tanner, "Finland Will Close Its Entire Border With Russia Over Migrant Concerns.", AP News, In conclusion, Mongolia is a state that seeks to maximize its national interests through a policy of balance between East and West. In this context, the growing interest of the West and the East in Mongolia creates new opportunities for the Ulaanbaatar administration. The fact that Mongolia's underground resources, mainly uranium and coal, are attracting increased interest from regional and global actors solidifies Mongolia's position in global politics. On the other hand, the issue of energy security in the context of the West-China rivalry remains on the agenda. It is possible to say that Western states are both resorting to producers such as Mongolia in order to cut energy imports from Russia and taking various steps to make it difficult for China to meet its coal needs., (Erişim Tarihi: 29.11.2023).

[2] Same place.

[3] Miranda Bryant-Lisa O'Carroll, "Finland Closes Entire Border With Russia After Tensions Over Asylum Seekers.", The Guardian, In conclusion, Mongolia is a state that seeks to maximize its national interests through a policy of balance between East and West. In this context, the growing interest of the West and the East in Mongolia creates new opportunities for the Ulaanbaatar administration. The fact that Mongolia's underground resources, mainly uranium and coal, are attracting increased interest from regional and global actors solidifies Mongolia's position in global politics. On the other hand, the issue of energy security in the context of the West-China rivalry remains on the agenda. It is possible to say that Western states are both resorting to producers such as Mongolia in order to cut energy imports from Russia and taking various steps to make it difficult for China to meet its coal needs., (Erişim Tarihi: 29.11.2023).



## ANKASAM ANALYSIS

# Recession in the German Economy and Future Forecasts

Germany; The United States of America (USA) is the fourth largest economy in the world after China and Japan.[i] Despite this, the German Federal Government has confirmed that the economy has been in recession for three consecutive quarters.[ii] This presents a problematic projection for the German economy.

A recent report by London-based financial advisory firm Capital Economics stated, "We suspect that household and government consumption in Germany will continue to be very weak, and we think investment will contract." [iii]

According to financial website Trading Economics, the data has not shown growth since the end of the third quarter of 2022.[iv] It can be said that this is not a huge drop. However, it can still be argued that it brings with it pessimistic scenarios.

Given that Germany is Europe's largest economy,[v] it can be argued that this economic downturn is similar for the European Union (EU). While other countries in Europe have also been hit economically, economically weaker countries like Greece have suffered disproportionately.

Moreover, a 0.5% drop in Germany's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated to have a much larger negative impact on other fragile European economies.

According to Capital Economics, Germany's economic turmoil and recession will probably last for another six months or so. Capital's latest report said, "We are comfortable with our below-consensus forecast that the economy will contract further in both the third and fourth quarters." [vi] In other words, Capital predicts that the recession in Germany will last at least five quarters.

It can be argued that the current economic situation is not as bad as it was during the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated government lockdowns. Indeed, when the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic were clearly felt, the German economy was in a complete collapse. It is stated that the situation is better now compared to that period.



**Zeki Talustan  
GÜLTEN**  
ANKASAM Asia-  
Pacific Research  
Assistant



It can be argued that the current economic situation is not as bad as it was during the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated government lockdowns. Indeed, when the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic were clearly felt, the German economy was in a complete collapse. It is stated that the situation is better now compared to that period.

In this context, it can be said that Berlin's economic stagnation is closely related to the Russia-Ukraine War. Due to the Russo-Ukrainian War, many sanctions have been imposed on Russia by Western countries, especially the United States. "Therefore, the Russian economy was negatively affected, the ruble suffered a significant fall against the dollar"<sup>[vii]</sup> and more than a thousand companies withdrew from the Russian market.<sup>[viii]</sup> However, Europe's energy dependence on Moscow should also be taken into account.

Europe's dependence on Russian natural gas and its multi-state system also create vulnerabilities and raise doubts about the indefinite applicability of sanctions. As is well known, European countries import around 40% of their natural gas from Russia, and Gazprom's supply cuts have a negative impact on the economies of European states. In July 2022, European heads of state decided to reduce natural gas consumption by 15%.<sup>[ix]</sup> In the long term, European states can build new gas terminals and sign new gas agreements with new suppliers. But this will take quite a long time. In the short term, economic stagnation seems inevitable. As a result, as long as the Russian-Ukrainian War continues and the Western Bloc's sanctions against Moscow persist, the stagnation of the German economy in particular and the European economy in general can be predicted to continue.

[i] "The World's Largest Economies", World Data Info, <https://www.worlddata.info/largest-economies.php>, (Eriřim Tarihi: 28.08.2023).

[ii] "Germany's Epic Recession Continues: Economy Still Can't Catch A Break", Forbes, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/simonconstable/2023/08/28/germanys-epic-recession-continues-economy-still-cant-catch-a-break/?sh=4269af782bd2>, (Eriřim Tarihi: 28.08.2023).

[iii] "Germany GDP Growth Rate" Trading Economics, <https://tradingeconomics.com/germany/gdp-growth>, (Eriřim Tarihi: 28.08.2023).

[iv] "Germany's Epic Recession Continues: Economy Still Can't Catch A Break", Forbes, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/simonconstable/2023/08/28/germanys-epic-recession-continues-economy-still-cant-catch-a-break/?sh=4269af782bd2>, (Eriřim Tarihi: 28.08.2023).

[v] "The World's Largest Economies", World Data Info, <https://www.worlddata.info/largest-economies.php>, (Eriřim Tarihi: 28.08.2023).

[vi] "Germany's Epic Recession Continues: Economy Still Can't Catch A Break", Forbes, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/simonconstable/2023/08/28/germanys-epic-recession-continues-economy-still-cant-catch-a-break/?sh=4269af782bd2>, (Eriřim Tarihi: 28.08.2023).

[vii] "Russian Ruble Plunges Nearly 30% Against the Dollar Amid Sanctions over Ukraine Invasion", CNBC, <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/02/28/russian-ruble-dives-nearly-30percent-against-the-dollar-amid-sanctions-ukraine-crisis.html>, (Eriřim Tarihi: 23.08.2023).

[viii] "Over 1,000 Foreign Companies Left Russia since Feb. 24: Report", Alarabiya News, <https://english.alarabiya.net/business/2022/05/31/Over-1-000-foreign-companies-left-Russia-since-Feb-24-Report>, (Eriřim Tarihi: 23.08.2023).

[ix] "EU Asks Member States To Cut Natural Gas Demand 15% By Next Spring", Anadolu Agency, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/eu-asks-member-states-to-cut-natural-gas-demand-15-by-next-spring/2641445>, (Eriřim Tarihi: 23.08.2023).



## ANKASAM ANALYSIS

# Germany's decision to increase military aid to Ukraine

Germany's coalition government chancellor, Olaf Scholz, has agreed to increase the country's military aid to Ukraine to 8 billion Euros next year. According to this information shared by a political source, Germany plans to increase its defense expenditure above its GDP target. If this plan is approved, the rate at stake would go beyond the 2% committed by members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).<sup>[1]</sup>

If approved by parliament, this would increase Germany's defense spending to 2.1% of its GDP. MPs from Scholz's Social Democrats, Free Democrats, and Green party agreed to increase military aid to Ukraine during negotiations on the 2024 federal budget proposal. This agreement took place before the official meeting of the budget committee of the Bundestag, the lower house of parliament, on November 16, 2023.<sup>[2]</sup>

German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said in an interview with ARD that military aid to Ukraine will be doubled. "This is a strong signal to Ukraine that we will not let them down", said the Minister of Defense, adding that this budget would be enough for Ukraine for a year.<sup>[3]</sup>

Germany's Bild am Sonntag newspaper also reported that the committee must approve an additional 4 billion euros. Member of Parliament Andreas Schwarz, who serves as SPD military budget officer, said: "Doubling military spending is right and important. This step means that we will underline our commitment to Ukraine with the necessary funds. Also, the fact that we can fulfill our NATO commitment is a great success of the coalition" he said. The European Union's (EU) plan to spend up to 20 billion euros on military aid to Ukraine was met with opposition from diplomats this week.<sup>[4]</sup>

Germany's decision to increase its military aid to Ukraine appears as a major development that may have considerable repercussions both at the national and international levels. This decision reflects Germany's efforts to increase its military capacity, strengthen its support for Ukraine, and fulfill its NATO commitments.

This situation can be analyzed both politically and militarily. From a political perspective, Germany's increasing military aid aims to strengthen its strategic relations with Ukraine because Ukraine plays an important geopolitical role in Eastern Europe, and further German support to this country could serve EU interests and increase stability in the region.



**Zeki Talustan  
GÜLTEN**  
ANKASAM Asia-  
Pacific Research  
Assistant

This decision highlights Germany's compliance with NATO commitments. NATO members have committed to allocate 2% of their GDP to defense spending. Germany's efforts to achieve this goal could affect the military balance within NATO.

Germany's decision to increase its military capacity is also related to domestic policy dynamics. The coalition government's agreement on this issue reflects the support of different political parties for the increase in military spending

When evaluated from a military perspective, the amount of military aid provided by Germany to Ukraine is significant and can strengthen Ukraine's defense capacity. This could help Ukraine become more influential in its conflict with Russia.

This aid from Germany reflects unity and solidarity in the face of threats to the security of Europe. The conflict in Ukraine is a source of general instability in Europe, and Germany's decision to intervene in this situation has the possibility of contributing to regional security.

This increase reflects Germany's need to reconsider its defense policies and update its security strategies. As the geopolitical environment changes, Germany updates its defense and security policies and re-evaluates its role within NATO.

**Spot:**

- This aid from Germany reflects unity and solidarity in the face of threats to the security of Europe.

[1] "Germany set to Double Ukraine Military Aid", Reuters, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/germany-set-double-its-ukraine-military-aid-under-scholz-plan-bloomberg-news-2023-11-12/>, (Erişim Tarihi: 13.11.2023).

[2] Aynı yer.

[3] Aynı yer.

[4] Aynı yer.



## ANKASAM ANALYSIS

# EU'S Growth Plan: Trust, Reciprocity and Partnership

From the economic and diplomatic perspective, European Union (EU), is accepted as one of the Pioneer actors in the international system. Thus, the EU facilitates European integration, it not only helps the economic development of European actors, but also strengthens the political existence of the regional states. While international system evolves to multi-centred structure, Brussels pursues expansionist policies towards West-Balkans for protecting its political and economic influence. As Slovenian Foreign Minister Tanja Fajon stated, the EU's expansion to the Western Balkans and the East is seen as a geostrategic necessity<sup>1</sup>.

The dynamics of the global politics changes every day. Especially, West have concerns about the economy and in terms of security. In this context, reactions against the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which undertakes to address security concerns, and the increasing economic presence of different actors in the Balkans increase these concerns. In particular, the free trade agreement signed by Serbia with China in October 2023 was seen as a "strategic concern" for the EU in the annual report of the European Commission (EC)<sup>2</sup>. This statement shows that EU is temperate about China and Russia being in Europe.

One of the main aims of the West Balkan expansion of EU is ending the continuous problems between Kosovo and Serbia. However, tension between the sides carries risk of conflict which has a chance to affect the security in the region. So, it can be said that Brussels is especially, focusing on this problem. Along with the security problem, this problem is seen as the biggest drawback for integration of these two actors with Europe. So, EU President Ursula von der Leyen stated that for Serbia normalizing the relations with Kosovo is carrying a vital importance in the road of EU<sup>3</sup>.

Even though there are several problems, the main point that must be dwelled on is the aim of the EU. It can be said that Brussels aims a welfare setting based on trust mutuality and partnership. In this context, it is possible to express that EU's steps prioritize protecting its influence area and economic interest. Brussel is trying the creating a peace environment in its mediation with annihilating the possible risks. EU Spokesperson Peter Stano's statement<sup>4</sup> that a "balanced" proposal was presented to the parties at the meeting with the leaders of Kosovo and Serbia demonstrates this effort.



**Veli Can AKKAŞ**

The balanced proposal in the question is about Union of Serbian Municipalities. It must be stated that the problems between the two actors are fundamentally shaped by unrecognition. In fact, the result of Kosovo Serbs not participating in the elections held in four municipalities in the north of Kosovo feeds the tension in the region. In addition, statements<sup>5</sup> about there are almost no Serbian representatives left in Kosovo institutions due to recent developments makes EU's efforts to maintain the sustainability of political stability by providing an environment of trust in the region more understandable.

It is seen that Brussels interest towards West Balkans is rising in the last period, which is not a one-sided interest. In fact, Serbia's interest towards EU cannot be seen even though having strong relations with China and Russia. Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic seeing EU as "country's most important economic partner" shows this interest. In addition, the resignation of Security and Information Agency (BIA) Director Aleksandar Vulin, who was included in the sanctions list by the United States of America (USA), can be interpreted as Serbia continuing its balance policy and trying to prevent the parties' aggressive approach towards itself.

EU is remarkable in the region both economic and diplomatic views. On one hand, Kosovo, on the other hand Serbia shows interest to Brussels, the approach of parties towards each other makes the process uneasy. So that, with foundation of Union of Serbian Municipalities, in the short-term local election can be made earlier than planned in North Kosovo. In this situation, Serbia continues its efforts to decreasing the tension would be suitable. As matter of fact, the election in the question can be seen as the first step of the normalization. EC President Løyen; He emphasized the parties' support for the Union of Serbian Municipalities, that this is the only way forward, strengthening for the security of the continent and the expansion of the EU for strengthening<sup>5</sup>.

As a result, there is a mutual tendency between Brussels and Serbia. However, one of the topics that should be examined is Belgrade-Moscow relations. Thus, there is deep relation between two actors. In fact, this situation become one of the topics of the EC's Serbia report. In the report in question, the EC pointed out that Serbia is in line with the EU in foreign policy, that progress is not at the desired level, that relations with Kosovo are the biggest obstacle on the road to the EU, and that strong reforms are needed in the areas of rule of law and freedom of expression<sup>6</sup>. Even though there are several obstacles in front of the wished result, it is obvious that Brussel will not allow other actors to expand their influence in the area. In this context, EU is pressuring the states in region on one side and on the other side supporting them with giving them many incentives.

It should be noted that the EU has recently accelerated its expansion policy towards the Western Balkans. In this context, the 6-billion-euro growth plan published on November 8, 2023, is quite remarkable. The plan aims to increase economic growth and accelerate socio-economic convergence. The plan in the question, includes, integration of EU's only market with west Balkan countries, increasing the economic integration with common regional market, accelerating the basic reforms, and increasing financial support for the reforms<sup>7</sup>. It can be said that expansion towards west Balkans will accelerate, and Brussels is trying to side regional states near itself with the plan in question. It is possible to say that the step-in question is made especially as an incentive for ending the conflict between Serbia and Kosovo

The EU wants to maintain its presence on the continent both economically and in terms of security. Brussels, which took the initiative for the integration of Europe, turned to the Western Balkans as a geostrategic necessity. Because the power struggle in the region and the risk of tensions turning into conflict have been the driving force for Brussels. The EU has put forward an economic integration plan to encourage the Western Balkan countries. It can be claimed that the plan in question is expected to be a motivation, especially in ending the tension between Kosovo and Serbia. It can be argued that Brussels wants to see the Western Balkans in the picture of a prosperous Europe based on trust, reciprocity, and partnership.

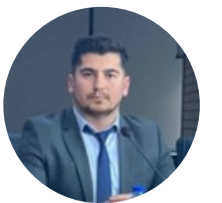
#### Spot

- Brussels, which took the initiative for the integration of Europe, turned to the Western Balkans as a geostrategic necessity.



### ANKASAM ANALYSIS

# The Role of the West in the Foreign Policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Veli Can AKKAŞ

The Balkans have gained a place in the foreign policy of global actors due to its demographic structure and geopolitical position. Although the cosmopolitan structure of the states in the region has led to a rich cultural legacy, the orientation of different groups can overshadow on political stability. In this context, Bosnia and Herzegovina comes to the fore. Indeed, when the political structure of the country is analysed, the sides have different orientations. On November 1, 2023, Denis Becirovic, Member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who met with the President of European Commission Ursula von der Løyen sees country's path towards Euro-Atlantic integration as the "only alternative" <sup>[1]</sup>.

In spite of that, on 9 November 2023, Milorad Dodik, the President of Republika Srpska, uttered that Serbians in the Balkans have an opportunity to their own unmatched state.<sup>[2]</sup> These two phases could be seen as the reflection of different orientations in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the political arena. From this point of view, while Sarajevo is striving to consolidate itself in the West, it is also trying to stabilise the Serbian presence. Because the relationship between the Republika of Srpska and Russia and the expressions of the dream of a Greater Serbia cause of security concern.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, sees its future in the West and accordingly seeks to deepen its relations with both Washington and Brussels. Indeed, even though it is not a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), it has been in the partnership for Peace Programme since December 14, 2006. In this context, Sarajevo's interest in both defence and integration into the West is obvious. Zukan Helez, Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Brigadier General Pamela Mcgaha, Commander of NATO Headquarters Sarajevo, met on November 3, 2023 to discuss cooperation between the two actors.<sup>[3]</sup> This meeting shows Sarajevo's interest in the West, especially due to security concerns.

The relations between the West and Bosnia and Herzegovina are based on several issues, but it can be said that they are primarily shaped on the basis of security. Indeed, the sides are in various contacts under different umbrellas. The participation of a delegation led by Zoran Sajinovic, Bosnia and Herzegovina's Deputy Minister of Defence for International Cooperation, in the NATO meeting in Brussels on November 10, 2023 is an example of such contacts.<sup>[4]</sup> Furthermore, the United Nations (UN) Security Council's decision to extend the mandate of the 700 person European Union Peacekeeping Force Mission (EUFOR) for one more year <sup>[5]</sup>, which is expected to end on November 5, 2023 shows that global actors are closely related to the security equaions in the region.

EUFOR is mainly deployed to maintain peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina within the framework of the Dayton Peace Agreement. However, it isn't the only actor considered suitable for ensuring peace and political stability in the region. Indeed, Christian Schmidt, the High Representative of the International Community for Bosnia and Herzegovina, was appointed to monitor and ensure compliance with the Dayton Agreement. Schmidt, like his forerunners, was expected to submit regular six monthly reports presented his usual report to the UN Secretary General on the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace for the period April 16, 2023- October 15, 2023.<sup>[6]</sup>

In that report, High Representative Schmidt noted the negative attitude of the Bosnian Serb authorities towards the Dayton Agreement and pointed out that the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina was deteriorating and that Serb leader Dodik had deliberately caused two major political crises in the country.<sup>[7]</sup> According to Schmidt, leader Dodik's behaviour casts a shadow on peace. These statements will be effective in the West's approach to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Indeed, there is an interest in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The geopolitical-geoeconomic importance of the country is seen as one of the strategic factors in the European Union's (EU) opening out to the Western Balkans. At this point, Brussels continues its contacts with Sarajevo. The main reason for these contacts is that Sarajevo sees the future of the country both economically and politically with the West. Moreover, the West is seen as a balancer in terms of allaying concerns about Serbian-Russian relations.

Another important issue to be underlined is the EU's approach to Bosnia and Herzegovina. In particular, Brussels sees the Balkans as a part of Europe and seeks to accord the region with EU policies. In this context, the relations between Sarajevo-Brussels are deepening. As a matter of fact, on November 8, 2023 Council of Europe (CoE) met to discuss the position of the EU counterparts and although the report on the progress of Bosnia and Herzegovins didn't reach an agreement on the launch of negotiations, Sarajevo was given the green light on the issues to be fulfilled by March 2024.<sup>[8]</sup>

In the upcoming termi dooperation on various issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina-EU relations is likely to be ensured. Because, %20 of the EU's 6 billion Euro package for the Western Balkans has been dedicated to Bosnia and Herzegovina. This may be seen as a serious incentive for Sarajevo to consolidate in Europe despite of security concerns.

In conclusion, the Balkans is an important geography in geopolitical and geoeconomic terms. Therefore, the West wants to deepen its relations with the Balkan states. In this context, Bosnia and Herzegovina is of interest to Brussels. It can be mentioned that the EU is striving of the increase influence in Sarajevo with various incentives despite of the negative aspects cause of Bosnia and Herzegovina's cosmopolitan structure. Although Republika of Srpska causes concern due to its separatist expressions and relations with Russia, there is a weak possibility that the West will easily give up Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the last instance, it can be stated that Bosnia and Herzegovina's priority in foreign policy is the EU as it wants to become a consolidated actor.

#### Spot:

- The West wants to deepen its relationship with the Balkan states.

<sup>[1]</sup> "Becirovic on the Meeting with the President of the European Commission: A new Dose of Optimism", Sarajevotimes, <https://sarajevotimes.com/becirovic-on-the-meeting-with-the-president-of-the-european-commission-a-new-dose-of-optimism/>, (Date of Access: 01.11.2023).

<sup>[2]</sup> "Dodik 'compared' the Conflict in Gaza with BiH", Sarajevotimes, <https://sarajevotimes.com/dodik-compared-the-conflict-in-gaza-with-bih/>, (Date of Access: 10.11.2023).

<sup>[3]</sup> "Good Cooperation between BiH Ministry of Defense and NATO", Sarajevotimes, <https://sarajevotimes.com/good-cooperation-between-bih-ministry-of-defense-and-nato/>, (Date of Access: 03.11.2023).

<sup>[4]</sup> "The Text of the PARP Assessment for BiH was adopted in Brussels", Sarajevotimes, <https://sarajevotimes.com/the-text-of-the-parp-assessment-for-bih-was-adopted-in-brussels/>, (Date of Access: 10.11.2023).

<sup>[5]</sup> "Vijeće sigurnosti UN-a proizvelo mandat EUFOR-a u BiH", Aljazeera, <https://balkans.aljazeera.net/news/balkan/2023/11/2/vijece-sigurnosti-un-a-produzilo-mandat-eufor-a-u-bih>, (Date of Access: 02.11.2023).

<sup>[6]</sup> "HR Christian Schmidt submitted his regular Report to the United Nations", Sarajevotimes, <https://sarajevotimes.com/hr-christian-schmidt-submitted-his-regular-report-to-the-united-nations/>, (Date of Access: 03.11.2023).

<sup>[7]</sup> "Schmidt upozorio Vijeće sigurnosti UN-a: Dodikov secesionizam prijeti miru", Aljazeera, <https://balkans.aljazeera.net/news/balkan/2023/11/1/schmidt-upozorio-vijece-sigurnosti-un-a-dodikov-secesionizam-prijeti-miru>, (Date of Access: 01.11.2023).

<sup>[8]</sup> "Leyen: Pregovori o članstvu BiH u EU kad ispuní određene uvjete", Aljazeera, <https://balkans.aljazeera.net/news/balkan/2023/11/8/leyen-pregovori-o-clanstvu-bih-u-eu-kad-ispuni-odredjene-uslove>, (Date of Access: 08.11.2023).



## ANKASAM ANALYSIS

# The Belt and Road Initiative's Harmony among Civilisations

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) organized the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC 23) on October 2-5, 2023, just before hosting the United Nations Climate Conference (COP28). Key topics of the conference included the climate crisis, rising energy prices, and companies' net zero emission roadmaps. COP28 Conference President Sultan Al Jaber encouraged oil and gas companies to become "solution centers" for climate change. While the sector is committed to ensuring the security of energy supply and demand and meeting global energy needs without interruption, questions remain about net-zero targets. <sup>[1]</sup>

Al Jaber is the CEO of the state-controlled Abu Dhabi Oil Company, which has the capacity to extract 4 million barrels of crude oil per day. The company plans to produce 5 million barrels of oil per day. This year's conference has been emphasized to focus on "faster decarbonization." However, the event was about drilling, processing, and selling carbon fuels that are driving climate change. Al Jaber has repeatedly stated that the world must rely on oil and gas to bridge this gap in the near term. <sup>[2]</sup>

As the world moves towards COP28, international security problems on a global scale have led to a renewed debate on energy security. At the pre-COP28 conference, climate activists expected a constructive roadmap to prevent climate change. ADIPEC 23 overshadowed these expectations and became an "energy security" conference.

Following the decision to hold the conference and COP28 in Abu Dhabi, the UAE has received intense criticism from climate activists. Among the main sensitivities is that the country's oil and gas production triggers global warming. However, Al Jaber's statement revealed the realities of the global sector: <sup>[3]</sup>

"The reduction of fossil fuels is inevitable. Indeed, so is climate change. Nevertheless, it must be part of a comprehensive energy transition plan that is fair, fast, orderly, equitable, and responsible."

The oil industry is on the rebound. Oil prices have currently continued to trade at around \$92 per barrel after briefly falling to negative levels during the woes of the coronavirus pandemic. Diesel prices are also expected to rise due to Russia's suspension of fuel exports. This will worsen global inflation by increasing transportation prices and will cause these costs to be passed on to consumers.

Secretary General Heysem Al Gays, representing the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) countries, said: "The foundation of today's global economic prosperity is energy security." On the other hand, addressing major oil and gas companies, Al Jaber explained that the energy sector is a crucial part of the climate crisis: <sup>[4]</sup>



Ömer Faruk  
PEKGÖZ

"This industry has been considered part of the problem for too long. In some cases, it was seen as blocking progress. This event is actually your opportunity to show the world that you are the center of the solution."

In the framework of ADIPEC 23, 20 oil and gas companies have declared their commitment to reach "carbon zero" on or before 2050 and to eliminate routine industrial gas flaring by 2030. However, ignoring the global supply-demand balance, a clear and sharp cut in production is called "chaos" for the markets. Instead of "oil and gas" companies, producers are now trying to complete their transformation in a hybrid way as "energy" companies that include renewable energy sources.

One of the technological highlights of the conference was VYMPEL Technologies, a leading provider of hydrogen energy solutions, presenting the company's latest hydrogen production and storage technologies. In particular, the company focused on zero-emission technologies such as the Dew Point Analyzer and Cong Prima. These featured companies represented just a sample of the many innovative businesses that came together at ADIPEC 23 to highlight green energy technologies. This event stands as a testament to the industry's commitment to a sustainable future. Showcasing the latest developments in green energy innovation made the platform even more effective. [5]

In light of this information, while carbon producers and green transformation contradictions continue before COP28, the role of base power plants in meeting energy demands continues. It is analyzed that with the development of hydrogen storage and capture technologies in the future, fossil fuels will decrease, and hydrogen will create a new market as a fuel. It was noted that the large-scale transition to renewable energy will not replace fossil fuels in the long term and will not achieve price stability. It was also emphasized that the new hybrid technologies exhibited at the conference will open a new page in the global energy sector for our future.

**Spot:**

- This year's conference has been emphasized to focus on "faster decarbonization".

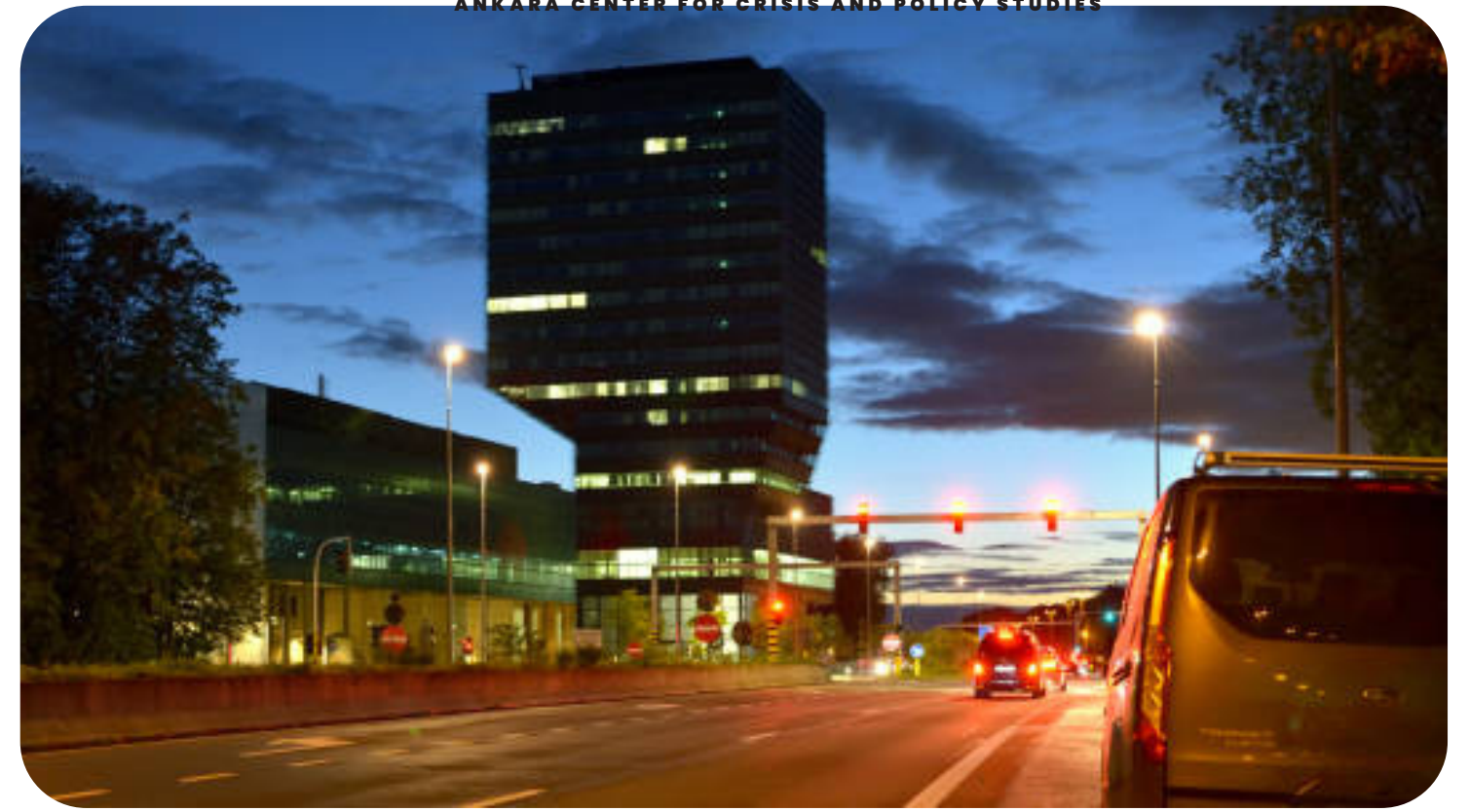
[1] "The UAE Holds a Major Oil and Gas Conference Just Ahead of Hosting UN Climate Talks In Dubai", AP, <https://apnews.com/article/uae-emirates-oil-conference-cop28-climate-7633ba2ae5f9ff3d234888548b4f5800>, (Erişim Tarihi: 03.10.2023).

[2] Aynı Yer.

[3] "UAE Holds Major Oil and Gas Conference Before Hosting COP 28 Climate Summit", ENERGY MIX, <https://www.theenergymix.com/2023/10/02/uae-holds-major-oil-and-gas-conference-before-hosting-cop-28-climate-summit/>, (02.10.2023).

[4] Aynı Yer.

[5] "Increased Focus on Green Technologies at ADIPEC 2023", EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY-WAM, <https://www.wam.ae/en/details/1395303204955>, (Erişim Tarihi: 03.10.2023).



## ANKASAM INTERVIEWS

# Head of the Asia-Pacific Department of the Centro Studi Internazionali (CeSI) Tiziano Marino: "IMEC will also complete the Global Gateway project."

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) is an important initiative aimed at creating strategic economic and trade links between West and East. This project launched in September 2023 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in New Delhi, is expected to offer great opportunities to increase stability in the Indo-Pacific region and improve trade and economic relations.

To discuss the global implications of IMEC, the Ankara Center for Crisis and Policy Studies (ANKASAM) presents the views of Tiziano Marino, head of the Asia-Pacific department of the Centro Studi Internazionali (CeSI) think tank in Rome.

### 1. What is the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and for what purpose was it established?

On the sidelines of the G20 summit in New Delhi on September 9 and 10, 2023, the heads of state and government of the United States of America (USA), India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the European Union (EU), France, Germany and Italy signed a Memorandum of intent to create an economic and trade corridor between the Indo-Pacific and Europe through the Middle East.

The project aims to facilitate the transit of goods and services between India, the Gulf region and Europe, possibly integrating existing sea and road transportation routes. The project will be divided into two parts: the 'Eastern Corridor', connecting India with the Arabian Gulf, and the 'Northern Corridor', connecting the Arabian Gulf with Europe.

"The so-called 'IMEC' project is expected to focus on rail links, shipping lines, high-speed data cables and energy pipelines. From a European perspective, IMEC will also complement the so-called 'Global Gateway' project, facilitating the achievement of some of the goals that the EU has set for the region, such as connectivity, sustainable and inclusive prosperity.



**Tiziano Marino**



**Dilara Cansın KEÇİALAN**

**2. Considering the participation of various countries, how will IMEC contribute to stability and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region?**

If the project is implemented, IMEC could strengthen the relations between India and the Gulf, and between India and Europe, and bring India even closer to the Indo-Pacific region. The EU, which does not have a security-based approach to the region, has the potential to be an important player in efforts to reduce the existing tensions between the US and China in this context.

Additionally, IMEC's economic and infrastructure projects aim to create wealth for the populations of the involved states, which is one of the key elements of stability. However, it should not be forgotten that in the region, at least since 2013, China's Belt and Road Initiative has also been under development, and IMEC aims to counter this. Therefore, paradoxically, the proliferation of competing infrastructure projects could, in the long run, promote divisions rather than cooperation among regional actors.

**3- What opportunities do you think IMEC offers to improve trade and economic relations between participating countries?**

The project undoubtedly has tremendous potential. For instance, from a trade perspective, IMEC could increase the total trade volume between the EU and India, which was only 88 billion euros in 2021. Additionally, the project will bring together countries that can offer technology, like the USA and EU, capital, and production capacity, like the Gulf countries, along with a vast market such as India. These mergers could also potentially make the corridor extremely profitable for participants, including states along the route like Greece and possibly Jordan or Israel.

However, the feasibility of the project is still unclear. Many of the involved countries lack sufficient railway connections, and it is not yet clear what the real scope for expanding trade among the partners is. Additionally, the role of IMEC in cooperation on submarine communication cables and energy matters is also uncertain. Therefore, at present, potentialities and critical issues coexist, and if the states that have signed the Memorandum want the project to yield the desired results, both aspects need to be addressed.



*The latest issue of the International Journal of Crisis and Politics Studies, an international peer-reviewed journal operating within the Ankara Center for Crisis and Politics Studies (ANKASAM), has been published. Academic Keys, ASOS Index, CEEOL, Cite Factor, DRJI, Index Copernicus, Ideal Online, Research Bible, Sindex and TUBITAK DERGIPARK databases are scanned by our journal can be accessed via the link below.*

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CRISIS AND POLITICAL STUDIES VOLUME VIII, ISSUE I

## JOURNAL OF REGIONAL STUDIES

*The latest issue of the Journal of Regional Studies, an international peer-reviewed journal operating within the Ankara Crisis and Political Research Center (ANKASAM), has been published. Our journal is scanned by Academic Keys, ASOS Index, CEEOL, Cite Factor, DRJI, Index Copernicus, Ideal Online, Research Bible, Index and TUBITAK DERGIPARK databases. You can reach our journal via the link below.*

ANKASAM JOURNAL OF REGIONAL STUDIES VOLUME VIII, ISSUE I.

