CIES is organizing its second annual International Neighbourhood Symposium to be held in Heybeliada, Turkey near Istanbul on 26 June - 01 July 2012. This year’s Symposium will focus on “Security and Democracy in the wake of the Arab Awakening.” Last year’s symposium, Understanding the Common Neighbourhood - The Black Sea Region in Focus,” included 33 participants from 18 countries with 20 speakers and 7 observers from the Black Sea Region, Europe and the United States. The International Neighbourhood Symposium aims to promote further understanding and cooperation in the Eastern Neighbourhood and the Mediterranean South and beyond by providing a forum for study, dialogue and networking in a multicultural and interdisciplinary environment. Young professionals and graduate students primarily from the countries of the Eastern Neighbourhood, the Mediterranean South, EU member states, and the United States are the Symposium target group. In addition, applicants from the fields of public policy, politics, journalism, and business are especially encouraged to apply. The target age group is 22-35 years of age.

This year’s theme comes as a result of the recent changes in the Southern Mediterranean in mind, we move to the Eastern Neighbourhood, where similar challenges exist however; which have not been addressed with as much enthusiasm or support. Both regions face security challenges with energy concerns looming large in the equation. As the democratization process takes root in some contexts and remains a distant concept in others, we look at what role NATO and the European Union might play in both regions. Additionally, we look at whether the business community has a specific added value that can present new opportunities for progress. All of these points will be discussed further during the Symposium through Structured Dialogue Workshops. Presently, the CIES project enjoys the support of numerous international partners and sponsors including the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation; the Harvard University Black Sea Security Program; the International Relations Council of Turkey (UIK); Kadir Has University, the Corporate Social Responsibility Association of Turkey; the Center for Governance and Responsibility Association of Turkey; the European Studies Institute of Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO-University); Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar; the International Institute for Peace; Vienna and the Open Ukraine Foundation, Kyiv.

The deadline for applications is 15 April 2012. For further information please visit our website at http://www.khas.edu.tr/en/ciesindex.php?id=64 or send an email to info@khas.edu.tr.
CIES has established a Task Force, comprised of key experts, to address pressing challenges to freedom and security in connection to the recent economic and political developments in the Southern Neighborhood of NATO. The Task Force, which met for the first time in December 2011, discussed future prospects for action by the Alliance. At the end of a series of meetings to be held during the year, the Task Force will produce a policy report that will be the basis of a public debate on NATO and its role in its Southern and Eastern Neighborhoods. The Task Force will also focus on Turkey’s involvement in the Middle East since the Arab Spring by evaluating the benefits of Turkey’s NATO membership and analyzing how Turkey can utilize NATO in the context of its foreign and security policy. Specific focus will be given to hard and soft security issues of interest and concern to Turkey and NATO in both the Southern and Eastern Neighborhoods under the rubrics of collective defense, crisis management and cooperative security as per the Alliance’s Strategic Concept. In addition, the Task Force will tackle issues on NATO-Russia relations and the shared security interests of both sides. Attention will also be given to NATO’s Mediterranean Dialogue and the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative countries, NATO’s relations with the MENA region and the common challenges. Through this project CIES hopes to raise awareness and create visibility on the need, opportunities and benefits of transnational cooperation in the Middle East region and the Eastern Neighborhood.

This project is made possible by a NATO co-sponsorship grant for Public Diplomacy Projects.

CIES PARTNERS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SECURITY NETWORK (ISN)

CIES has partnered with one of the world’s leading open access information services for international relations and security professionals, the International Relations and Security Network (ISN). ISN’s mission is to facilitate security-related dialogue and cooperation within a high-quality network of international relations organizations, professionals and experts, and to provide open-source international relations and security-related tools and materials in accessible ways. You may access CIES publications and other publications relating to international relations and security by visiting the ISN website at http://www.isn.ethz.ch/isn.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY PAPERS

CIES, working jointly with the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation, published the first two of a series of papers called the Neighbourhood Policy Paper. The series is meant to provide the policy, research and professional communities with expert input on many of the important issues and challenges facing the Eastern and Southern neighbourhoods of the European Union today as they are written by relevant experts. You may read “The Role and Potential of the Organization of the BSEC” by Sergiu Celac and “Black Sea Regionalism in Perspective” by Panagiota Manoli by visiting our website at http://www.khas.edu.tr/en/ciesindex.php?id=55.
Published by the Razumkov Centre, this book presents a collection of analytical material developed by the Razumkov Centre and CIES, with the support of the Arseniy Yatsenyuk Foundation Open Ukraine and the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation, as a result of the international conference held at Kadir Has University, Istanbul on 13 May 2011 on “Enhancing security in the Black Sea Region and prospects for the Turkish-Ukrainian bilateral cooperation.” The volume contains the edited versions of the main presentations at the conference and articles written by Turkish, Ukrainian and other experts. The book aims to evaluate the complex processes at play in the Black Sea Region; to assess the interests of the key regional and extra-regional players in the region; to highlight the current state of Turkish-Ukrainian relations; and to develop scenarios on the prospect of enhancing the partnership between Ankara and Kyiv. To access this publication written in English and Ukrainian please visit our website at http://www.khas.edu.tr/en/ciesindex.php?id=67.

This book is a compilation of the best papers presented by participants of the first “Euro-Mediterranean Forum for Young Researchers” in the following two categories: “Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue” and “Euro-Mediterranean Relations.” The event, which took place in Istanbul between 13-15 April 2011, was jointly organized by CIES, the Global Political Trends Center (GPoT Center) of Istanbul Kultur University, the Chios Institute for Mediterranean Affairs (CIMA) and the Hellenic Centre for European Studies (EKEM).

To access this publication, published by the GPoT Center, please visit our website at http://www.khas.edu.tr/en/ciesindex.php?id=63.

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CIES PUBLISHES FIRST POLICY BRIEF

CIES published its first Policy Brief, “The Democratization of the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly and the Implications for Conflict-Resolution in the Wider Black Sea Region” by Carol Weaver and Mukhtar Hajizada. CIES Policy Briefs are short and informative expert analyses and commentary on some of the contemporary and pressing international relations challenges. They are designed to bring background and recommendations to policy-makers, government officials, academics, journalists and the general public. To read our Policy Briefs please visit our website at http://www.khas.edu.tr/en/ciesindex.php?id=54.
CIES, in partnership with the Turkish-Greek Studies Division at Istanbul Bilgi University and the International Relations Council of Turkey (UIK), organized a panel discussion on “Deciphering the Greek Political and Economic Crisis” on 30 November 2011 at Kadir Has University to discuss the latest developments in Greece. Turkey-based Greek experts - Professors Dimitrios Triantaphyllou, Harry Tzimitras, Dimitris Tsarouhas, and Ioannis Grigoriadis - and the journalist Alkis Kourkoulas took part in the panel discussion. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the different aspects of the crisis in neighboring Greece from the perspective of Greek academics and journalists based in Turkey. The experts all agreed that one of the major contributing factors to the current crisis stems from the country not undertaking the necessary reforms during its integration into the European Union and the Eurozone. In more general terms, according to the experts, the crisis Greece faces today can be traced to a lack of requisite institutional reform and obsolete political leadership.

A head of the 60th Anniversary of Turkey’s membership in the North Atlantic Alliance, NATO’s Public Diplomacy Division (PDD), in close collaboration with Turkish authorities, launched a dedicated effort to engage the Turkish public, promoting a wider debate in Turkey about NATO’s transformation and Turkey’s role in NATO. As part of this effort NATO is conducting a series of Video Teleconferences (VTCs) for university students. CIES, with support from the Kadir Has University Political Science and International Relations and European Union Student Clubs, hosted one of these VTCs on 07 February 2012 at Kadir Has University with His Excellency Ambassador Hüseyin Dirioz, NATO’s Assistant Secretary General for Defence Policy and Planning. During the VTC students had the opportunity to hear about such topics as NATO’s transformation, Turkey’s role in the Alliance, and missile defence issues among other issues. After his talk, Ambassador Dirioz answered questions from students. The event was attended by students from Kadir Has University, Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Dokuz Eylül University, Middle East Technical University, Trakya University, Anadolu University and YATA-TURK (Turkish Euro-Atlantic Youth Committee).
EXPERT WORKSHOP ON SECURITY AND STABILITY IN AFGHANISTAN: THE REGIONAL DIMENSION

CIES and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in cooperation with the International Relations Department of Kadir Has University held an International Conference on “Security and Stability in Afghanistan: The Regional Dimension” on 18-20 November 2011 at Kadir Has University.

The purpose of this conference was to assess the state of play in Afghanistan today; the role of neighboring countries in the state building and reconciliation processes; the different approaches to cooperation; the security transition; and the outlining of a road map for the future. Participants included prominent analysts with high level policy experience from around the globe.

A DISCUSSION WITH ALEXANDER GRAF LAMBSDORFF (MEP)

CIES and the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung organized a discussion on “The European Union and Turkey from a Liberal Perspective” on the occasion of the visit of Alexander Graf Lambsdorff (MEP), a leading parliamentarian from the Free Democratic Party (Freie Demokratische Partei) in Germany, to Istanbul.

DISCUSSION ON “THE ARAB SPRING AND THE CHANGING MUSLIM WORLD” WITH US CONGRESSIONAL GROUP

CIES welcomed a delegation composed of current and former members of the United States Congress and senior staff to a discussion on “The Arab Spring and the Changing Muslim World” with a select group of Turkish and Turkey-based experts. The delegation visit was organized by the United States Association of Former Members of Congress.

13th INTERNATIONAL SECURITY CONFERENCE

The 13th International Security Conference titled “Turkey’s Security in the 21st Century: Established Structures, Emerging Opportunities and Evolving Challenges” was held on 14-15 October 2011 at Kadir Has University. The Conference was co-organized by the ARI Movement, NATO’s Public Diplomacy Division, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, CIES and the International Relations Council of Turkey (UİK). This annual conference aims to create a discussion platform that brings together international experts, opinion leaders, politicians, official authorities and academics to discuss and debate important issues related to Turkey and its region. This year’s conference consisted of four panels: “Security in Turkey’s Region: Old Neighbors, New Challenges for Stability”; “Continuity or Change? The Future of Turkey-Euro-Atlantic Ties”; “Turkey’s Role in an Arab World in Transition: Mediator or Enforcer”; and “Security in New Terms: Emerging Security Challenges (Cyber, Energy, Maritime).”
THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND’S TRANSATLANTIC TRENDS 2011

The German Marshall Fund of the United States and CIES organized a public debate on “Turkey and the West: The Role of Public Opinion” held at Kadir Has University on 15 September 2011. The event began with the public presentation of Transatlantic Trends 2011 - a public opinion survey in its tenth consecutive year that measures broad public opinion in the United States, Turkey, and 11 European Union countries and gauges transatlantic relations through interviews with more than 13,000 people. The presentation was followed by two discussion panels on “Turkish Foreign Policy and Public Opinion During a time of Transformation,” which focused on the evolution of the mindset among Turkish elites and the general public on foreign policy issues over the last decade and “Turkish Public Opinion towards the West and Western Institutions,” which addressed the reasons for the failing support for Western institutions in Turkey.


HARVARD UNIVERSITY’S BLACK SEA SECURITY PROGRAM PARTNERS WITH CIES

The 10th Harvard Black Sea Security Program Regional Workshop took place at Kadir Has University from 2-6 October 2011. The event was held in partnership between Harvard University’s Black Sea Security Program, CIES, and the International Relations Council of Turkey (UIK) with generous grant support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation, a Project of the German Marshall Fund of the United States. The primary topics of discussion focused on security challenges in the Black Sea and its greater region. The event was a follow-up to the eleventh annual Black Sea Security Program, which took place in April 2011. The Istanbul conference was the tenth annual gathering of alumni and regional experts affiliated with Harvard’s Black Sea Security Program which takes place annually in April at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

CIES UPCOMING EVENTS

- 03 April 2012: Roundtable discussion with Prof. Yezid Sayigh, Senior Associate, Carnegie Middle East Center, Beirut, on “The challenges of democratic transition in the wake of the Arab uprisings”
- 11 April 2012: Presentation by Dr. Katerina Dalacoura, Senior Lecturer, London School of Economics and Political Science, on “Islamist Terrorism and Democracy in the Middle East”
- 26 June - 01 July 2012: 2nd International Neighbourhood Symposium on “Security and Democracy in the wake of the Arab Awakening”

CIES Newsletter

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