



## **EDITOR'S NOTE / NOTA EDITORIAL**

**Antonio Marquina**<sup>1</sup>  
*UNISCI Director*

This issue of the journal coordinated by Professor Mustafa Aydin, Rector of Kadir Has University, can be considered an important contribution to our knowledge of current Turkish Foreign Policy. Several years ago in Istanbul, UNISCI had the opportunity to contrast its views on Turkish Foreign and Security Policy with the views of several relevant scholars selected by Professor Aydin. The outcome was the book entitled "Turkish Foreign and Security Policy. Its Environs in Euroasia and the Middle East". It was published in December 2006. Several of the Turkish co-authors make here another contribution to the topic. It can be said that in the last four years we have been witness to a sea change in Turkish Foreign Policy.

First, the changes introduced by the AKP party and the diminishing role of the Army in internal and foreign policies as well as its growing lack of cohesion should be noted. In second place the implications of the democratization process against a background of internal Islamization. In third place the new foreign policy designated, "New Ottoman", created by Foreign Minister Davutoglu which according to different articles, can be qualified on occasions as "grandiose", and implies a clear departure from the traditional Turkish Foreign Policies of the nineties and the beginning of this decade. The relationship with neighbouring countries, becoming an important player in the Caucasus, the populist criteria, the new approach to the Middle East, the possible implications and involvement in inter-Arab and intra-Arab-Iran disputes, the lack of progress in the Armenian dossier, the difficult negotiations on Cyprus, the asymmetries in the Turkish-US relationship, the implications of the energy agreements and finally the aspiration to membership of the EU in the new internal and external context are all interrelated issues in the new Turkish Foreign Policy. On occasions, the articles point out that it is difficult to identify internal coherence within some Turkish movements and approaches, including the theoretical approaches behind them.

These critical analyses contribute to opening up the horizon to the reader in order to facilitate an understanding of the deep changes affecting the Turkish political environment and the difficult process of adaptation that Turkey has to manage, balancing East and West in a clear departure from the Kemal Ataturk vision. Nevertheless, Turkey remains an important regional player.

This issue of the journal also includes an article on Central Asia, given the historic importance of the Kazakh Chairmanship of the OSCE.

---

<sup>1</sup> Antonio Marquina Barrio is Chair in Security and Cooperation in International Relations at the Complutense University (Madrid) and UNISCI Director. Research fields: European security, Mediterranean, Asia-Pacific and arms control.

*Address:* Departamento of International Studies, Faculty of Political Sciences and Sociology, UCM, Campus of Somosaguas, 28223 Madrid, Spain.



Finally, I would like to thank Professor Mustafa Aydin and his brilliant Turkish collaborators for giving us the opportunity to discover different approaches to the present Turkish Foreign Policy and enlightening us on the subject.