

One of the new competitors in Africa: Turkey

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The following article is going to summarize the past few years' Turkish–African relations. Turkey's interest and appearance in the economy and politics of Africa has been increasing recently. The study will discuss this in details by separating the region into two geographical areas considering political relations; the mainly Muslim populated North-African region and the Sub-Saharan Africa. The North-African region is clearly a focus point for the Turkish foreign policy, mainly because of an existing historical background. However, due to the increase of the military and medical equipment demand the importance of the Sub-Saharan region is developing. The article will also describe in details the functions of TUSKON,¹ IHH,² and TIKA³ as these organizations play the most important role in Turkey's representation (economical cooperation, humanitarian aids, educational programs etc) in Africa. The article states that if the recent economic tendencies are going to continue, Turkey will have the chance to build up well functioning bilateral relations throughout the whole African continent.

Turkey politics in Africa

Today's politics in Turkey most likely concerns in every aspect politics from a global point of view. On one hand, if we consider the internal affairs, the present government originates from a Muslim oriented conservative group which has several connections to the so-called political Islamism. On the other hand, the goal of the foreign affairs is very similar to the recreation and reorganization of the Ottoman Empire and its political heritage. Nevertheless the economic field of the country has been growing constantly since 2009.⁴ In the upcoming study we will describe the reasons of a less-known

¹ Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists of Turkey

² Turkish name: İnsan Hak ve Hürriyetleri ve İnsani Yardım Vakfı, in English: The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief

³ Turkish name: Türk İşbirliği ve Koordinasyon Ajansı Başkanlığı, in English: Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency

⁴ In 2009, the economy had a demolishing period, in which the total GDP of the country decreased with approximately 4.7%. Economic development Africa, 2010
http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/aldcafrica2010_en.pdf (last downloading: 2012. 01. 20)

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phenomena happening in the past 6–8 years; Turkey’s economic-political expansion on the black continent.

Historical background

The Turkish (Ottoman)-African relationship is at least four hundred years-old. To be able to see the political relations we have to separate the region into two geographical areas. On one side, there is the mainly Muslim populated North-African region, while on the other side; we have the so-called Sub-Saharan Africa. The first one is historically slightly interesting, and that is of course from the Turkish point of view. It is not surprising that the Sub-Saharan countries in all aspects have had negative political judgment all over the world.

The three historical periods we are going to focus on are the Ottoman era, the period between 1923 and 1998, and last but not least the time from 1998 till today.

By the end of the 16th century most of the territories of North-Africa partially or totally had been controlled by the Ottoman Empire. In 1517 the well known pirate, Oruç took control over Algeria. In the same year the troops of the Sultan managed to take control over Egyptian territories. Today’s territory of Libya became part of the empire in 1551, while in 1574 finally Tunisia became part of the Caliph’s state. However, the inner territories of the continent never belonged to the empire in the way the northern ones did. Nigeria, Chad, Sudan and Somalia more than once have been partially controlled and occupied by the Ottomans for a shorter period of time but this condition never lasted long enough to consider them as part of the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman power only managed to be presented indirectly. For instance in 1575 Murat III. was only able to become the ally of the Kanem-Bornu Empire against the Portuguese colonization aspiration.⁵ In the year of 1863 the Muslim citizens of Capetown requested an imam from the Ottoman Empire. The arrival of Ebubekir Efendi to the South-African city helped to amend the bilateral relations. Although the financial help that came from the South-African Muslims while building a new railway line in the Hejaz region indicates that the connections were not only limited to religion.⁶ By the end of the 19th century, by the general decadence of the Ottoman Empire the dependence of the mentioned African territories are already not as strict as they were before. Egypt was

⁵ MEHMET ÖZKAN, Türkiye’nin Afrika politikası In: http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1134&context=mehmetozkan&sei-redir=1&referer=http%3A%2F%2Fscholar.google.hu%2Fscholar%3Fhl%3Dhu%26q%3DAfrika%2527da%2BOsmanlilar%26as_ylo%3D%26as_vis%3D1#search=%22Afrikada%20Osmanlilar%22 (last downloading: 2012-01-13)

⁶ MEHMET ÖZKAN, Türkiye’nin Afrika politikası

finally colonized by Great Britain. However namely Egypt belonged to the Ottoman Empire until 1914, from 1882 the government was in British hands.

Between the period of 1923 and 1945 Republic of Turkey did not have the capacity to be involved in the politics and economy of Africa. After 1945, when the bipolar world order has occurred, the roles of the African countries started to change quickly. Not just the USA, but the other superpower, USSR also paid special attention to the regions of third world. In the 1960's and 70's Turkey tried to build a stable relationship with all the new, independent countries. It is worth to mention that there were some exceptions, for example, Algeria, as a traditional friend of Turkey. During the independence war of the North-African country, the Turkish foreign policy refused to support the uprising against France.⁷ After the collapse of the USSR, in the forming new world order Turkey had to find its place. As the result of the new foreign relations policy, the government issued an Africa plan, called "Opening up to Africa" in 1998.⁸ Despite of the detailed action plan, the implementation of the new ideas were only started by AKP,⁹ the present governor party of Turkey. The most important action points of the plan are the following:

- To improve political and economical relations.
- To open three new consulates as soon as possible.
- Turkey to support and initiate every investment, aid and programme that is highly important for Africa in the UN.
- High level cooperation in the field of trade, health care, agriculture.
- To improve the education related relationship

Below we are going to introduce the Turkey's Africa relations policy.

Turkey on the continent

As soon as Turkey confirmed the year 2005 as 'the year of Africa', the observer status of Turkey has been declared and accepted by the African Union (AU).¹⁰ At the same time an official Turkish embassy opened in Addis-Ababa. Since 2008, in the official statements of the African Union, Turkey occurred as a strategic partner. Most probably it is in connection with the fact that Turkey became a member of the Africa

⁷ http://www.bilgesam.org/tr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=742:tuerkiyenin-afrika-aclm&catid=80:analizler-afrika&Itemid=141 (last downloading: 2012-01-13)

⁸ <http://worlddefensereview.com/pham052710.shtml> (last downloading: 2012. 03.22)

⁹ Turkish name: Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi, in English: Justice and Development Party

¹⁰ Africa cooperation with new and emerging development partners: Options for Africa's development http://www.un.org/africa/osaa/reports/emerging_economies_2009.pdf (last downloading: 2012. 01.19)

Development Bank and the Africa Development Foundation.¹¹ Due to the outstanding activity of the Turkish foreign policy and the success of the I. Turkish-African Cooperation Meeting by the end of 2008 Ankara managed to open 24 embassies in Africa (19 of these were opened in the Sub-Saharan region).¹² In 2010 the Turkish government adopted the 'least developed countries' concept and invested, approximately 200 million USD into several scholarships.¹³ It is important to mention that the efforts of the government were supported by TİKA as well.¹⁴ This organization was formed to maintain the connection between the Turkish speaking states, especially focusing on Middle-Asia, Balkan and the Caucasus. Before 2009 the high level Turkish delegation's main target was definitely not Africa. For example in 2005 only Morocco and Tunisia were the two states visited by the Turkish prime minister. In 2006 Recep Tayyip Erdoğan visited Algeria; Libya came only three years later. From that point of view Mauritania is an exception as there no official Turkish visit ever happened so far.

Politics and economy within North-Africa

Until the visit of the Turkish Prime Minister to Libya – in details below – the foreign relations did not get to high level. Except for some informal common statements, no official meetings were organized. In 2009 Köksal Toptan, head of the TBMM¹⁵ was invited by his colleague, Abd al-aziz Ziyari to Algeria. As a result of Toptan's travel the Turkish side had official discussions not only with Abd al-aziz Ziyari, but also with the state minister, Abdelaziz Bouteflika. After the successful negotiations the states decided to create a stronger cooperation plan and a free trade agreement. After a few months Toptan visited Tunisia as well and emphasized the importance of the North-African country. The main areas to focus on were: trade, health system, city planning and transportation. The same year in March Ankara hosted Mustafa Mansuri from Morocco. Mansuri expressed his gratitude towards Turkey for not encouraging the separatism of Western Sahara. In return Mansuri ensured Ankara that Morocco is supportive regarding Cyprus.¹⁶

¹¹ Economic development Africa 2010 http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/aldcafrica2010_en.pdf (last downloading: 2012. 01. 20)

¹² The Istanbul declaration on Africa <http://www.iss.org.za/uploads/TURKEYAFRIDECAUG08.PDF> (last downloading: 2012. 01. 13)

¹³ <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkiye-afrika-iliskileri.tr.mfa> (last downloading: 2012-01-13)

¹⁴ <http://www.tika.gov.tr/tika-hakkinda/tarihce/1> (last downloading: 2012-01-13)

¹⁵ Turkish name: Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi, in English: Turkish Grand National Assembly

¹⁶ Mehmet Özkan

The above mentioned negotiations regarding Libya (24th November 2009) have historical aspects. First of all the deteriorated relations between the two countries finally started to change.¹⁷ Second of all, since 1997 when Necmettin Erbakan visited Qaddafi none of the Turkish Prime Ministers traveled to Libya. Nevertheless not only the Prime Minister, but Ahmet Davutoğlu and the former minister of foreign affairs Zafer Çağlayan were also part of the delegation. The outcomes of the negotiations were important agreements. For instance no visa is needed for the travelers between the two countries any more, in addition the economic relations are going to be extended. Erdoğan emphasized that with the help of Libya, Turkey is willing to open as many consulates and embassies on the continent as possible. The importance of Libya can be measured by the following details; since 2009 building industry, agriculture, mining sectors have more than 60 billion USD investments in the African country. Also, in the field of port, road, canal system and building constructions the Turkish investments reached the 26,4 billion USD.¹⁸

As mentioned before, since 1958 the bilateral relationships with Algeria were on a freezing point. In 1985 Turgut Özal was the first person, who apologized for voting 'no' in the Security Council of UN. The present head of the government signed the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. From economical point of view, the relations are certainly extending. The Turkish export exceeded 1,5 billion USD, while the import reached about 2,3 billion USD. Nevertheless approximately 200 Turkish companies are functioning and around 5000 citizens are living in the country.¹⁹

In case of Tunisia, the bilateral relations are limited in cultural field. An official agreement that points out the characteristics of the cultural relations exists since 1964. The three hundred years of the Ottoman rule did not disappear without any trace. Hundreds of camii, medrese, and fortress remind us of the former Ottoman Empire.

Turkey plays a quite important role in the export of Morocco. Since the free-trade treaty was signed in 2006, the circulation of commodities reached the amount of 1 billion USD. Almost two third of that refers to the Turkish export, while the remaining part shows us the export of Morocco.²⁰

¹⁷ In 2005 the Libyan armed forces murdered 2 Turkish citizens. In: http://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkiye-libya_siyasi-iliskileri.tr.mfa (last downloading: 2012-01-14)

¹⁸ http://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkiye-libya_siyasi-iliskileri.tr.mfa (last downloading: 2012-01-14)

¹⁹ http://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkiye-cezayir_siyasi-iliskileri.tr.mfa (last downloading: 2012-01-14)

²⁰ http://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkiye-fas_siyasi-iliskileri.tr.mfa (last downloading: 2012-01-14)

Turkey and the “Arab spring”

It is quite obvious that the Northern part of Africa has an outstanding role in the Turkish foreign affairs. If we also take into consideration Egypt – which now will not be detailed due to the fact that Cairo belongs to another geopolitical structure – the significance of North Africa is absolutely conspicuous. Because of the geographical, historical and political reasons the level of the negotiations is a lot more intensive than it is with the Sub-Saharan countries. Nevertheless, these countries have significant connections with the Anatolian state. In 2002 two countries which participated in the so called Arab spring – Tunisia and Egypt – declared that the Turkish state model and its implementation by AKP would not only be acceptable but they see Ankara as a kind of ideal state organization. In the meantime, in order to demolish the power of the Islamic powers, the Western countries are flurrying for the two states. However, the same Western countries were also afraid of the Islamic political power in Turkey just a few years before.²¹ Despite of the fact that when the Arab spring commenced Turkey’s reactions were very moderate – mainly because of the ‘no conflicts with the neighbour countries’ strategy – after a while they decided to take part of the affairs. Turkey asked the Mubarak regime to resign and supported the NATO with the military intervention in Libya. According to us, as a result of the past years – the spectacular falling out with Israel, the revival of neo-ottomnism, the falling down of Egypt in the Arabic world, etc. – Turkey’s importance regarding world politics could be much more significant in the near future.

The Sub-Saharan region

However, the collapse of the colonizer powers brought the independence for many regions in Africa, the Cold War period heavily effected the political structure of the new born states. The main affairs such as civil wars, ethnic conflicts, and religious intolerance had a great impact on the judgment of the continent. Between 1945 and 1994 all together 194 wars were registered in the South of the Sahara. These can be aggregated into three periods: 1960–64, 1975–79 and 1990–94.²²

The interest of the Turkish foreign policy has started in the 1980’s. At that time Ankara began to cooperate with states like Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania,

²¹ Turkey and the Arab Spring http://www.iai.it/pdf/mediterraneo/GMF-IAI/Mediterranean-paper_13.pdf (last downloading: 2012. 01. 24)

²² http://www.hhrf.org/kisebbsegkutataskk_1999_01/cikk.php?id=49 (last downloading: 2012-01-14)

Senegal, Somalia and Sudan.²³ In the recent years the intensity of political activities highly increased. In 2008 Turkey decided to establish 15 new embassies in the region. In the next year they managed to accomplish 8 of these, therefore Africa had all together 20 Turkish embassies. In the same year the head of the Turkish State visited Africa. The destinations of his trip were Kenya and Tanzania. It's worth to mention, that approximately hundred business men and investors joined the delegation. Besides the politicians decided to encourage the direct flight connections between the countries and agreed on an easier visa application process. We also have to mention the planned 78 km long motorway and the healthcare system's improvement with Turkey's 55 million USD support. The military related business treaties are about 300 million USD.²⁴ In the past few years the Turkish investors started to discover the markets of Guinea, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Benin, Malawi, Angola, and Central African Republic.²⁵

In April 2009, Mehdi Eker the Minister of Agriculture in Turkey visited Khartoum and signed an agreement regarding tourism and free-trade zone. After that Turkey contracted to provide an approximately 27 million USD support in the field of health care and medication for the citizens of Sudan. Therefore with the amount of 248 million USD, Sudan is the third biggest destination of the Turkish export going to the Sub-Saharan region.²⁶

In 2008 despite of the international arrest warrant²⁷ against Omar al-Bashir, the president of Sudan, Abdullah Gül invited him to an international, Muslim oriented conference hosted in Istanbul.²⁸ The diplomatic incident finally ended with Omar al-Bashir's own cancellation.²⁹

²³ http://www.ecocci.com/DC/PDF/19.04.201017_34Presentation%20of%20TIKA.pdf (last downloading: 2012. 01. 17)

²⁴ Mehmet Özkan

²⁵ Africa cooperation with new and emerging development partners: Options for Africa's development http://www.un.org/africa/osaa/reports/emerging_economies_2009.pdf (last downloading: 2012. 01.19)

²⁶ <http://www.ekonomi.gov.tr/index.cfm?sayfa=index> (last downloading: 2012-01-15)

²⁷ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-16010445> (last downloading: 2012-01-15)

²⁸ Mehmet Özkan.

²⁹ Other question, that al-Bashir, two times visited Turkey in 2008. It seems that Ankara didn't care about the role of Bashir in the Darfurian genocide. – BESENYŐ JÁNOS, *Újabb szereplő az afrikai versenyben: Törökország*. http://www.regiment.hu/hirek/kulfoldi_hirek/afrikai_verseny_torokorszag (last downloading: 2012-01-15). Quite interesting, that prime minister Erdoğan was defending al-Bashir: "because a Muslim can't make genocide" <http://www.todayszaman.com/news-192402-prime-minister-erdogan-reiterates-no-genocide-in-darfur.html> (last downloading: 2012-01-15)

In connection with the balance of the Turkish trade, we have to mention two additional countries, Nigeria and Republic of South Africa.³⁰ In 2009 Nigeria's export to Turkey exceeded 600 million USD. Additionally the Turkish export is about 258 million USD. Regarding the Republic of South Africa compared to the 1.1 billion of USD Turkish export the size of the import reaches 867 million USD. The Nigeria-Turkey relations have a long history. Two years after the proclamation of independence in 1962, Turkey opened its embassy in Lagos. The proof of the development of the relationship is the visits of Turkish diplomats in 2010 and Goodluck Jonathan's travel to Istanbul. From 2006, Turkish Airlines has weekly direct flights to the capital of Nigeria. Not to mention that Lagos is the 10th biggest oil exporter among the OPEC countries, its export (94%) depends on gas and crude oil mining.³¹ In order to avoid the possible bankrupt of this sector and to decrease the priority of the state in the economic field, the government of Abuja decided to start the privatization process on the field of telecommunication, energy, oil and gas mining and some infrastructural investments.³²

In Pretoria Turkish embassy has been functioning since 1993, but Cape Town also has a honorary embassy.³³ Turkey has all together in three cities (Istanbul, Mersin and Izmir) honorary embassies of the Republic of South Africa. The Republic of South Africa has outstanding role in the Turkish trade system as 40% of the revenues coming from Africa are connected to the former British colony. Gold and coal mining are the core sectors of the trading. According to the data of the year 2010 1,25 billion USD is coming from South Africa, as Turkey exports approximately 900 USD to the same country. However, Turkish investors mainly prefer the area of textile production and mining parts of the cultural and educational field are also impacted by them. Approximately 2.200 students are studying in the schools of Johannesburg, Durban and Port Elisabeth supported and maintained by Turkish financial help.³⁴ Turkey's economic role is rising in importance from an African point of view. In 2005, the amount of the Turkish export was around 3,6 billion USD. 5 years later this amount duplicated and reached 9,3 billion USD. 2,3 billion of the total amount flowing to the Sub-Saharan region. To all intents and purposes the import is not expending as the quickly as the export. Turkish expansion is not similar to the Chinese, Indian or

³⁰ Suleimaniye Minarets on the Midrand: Turkey's Economic Incipience in Africa
<http://www.pambazuka.org/images/Emerging%20Powers%20newsletter%20May%202011/Issue%209%20May%202011.pdf> (last downloading: 2012. 01. 17)

³¹ <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/nijerya-ekonomisi.tr.mfa> (last downloading: 2012-01-15)

³² <http://www.nigerianbestforum.com/generaltopics/?p=52011> (last downloading: 2012-01-15)

³³ More information about the relations between Turkey and South Africa: Tom Wheeler: Turkey and South Africa: Development of relations 1860–2005

³⁴ <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkiye-guney-afrika-siyasi-iliskileri.tr.mfa> (last downloading: 2012-01-15)

Brazilian one, as those are mainly interested in purchasing the raw materials from the black continent. Turkey is rather trying to find new markets for its growing industrial capacity.³⁵ In 2005 Turkey imported 6 billions of USD from all the African countries, and while it did not exceed the 6,5 billion USD by the end of 2010, the growing rate is not as significant as the export rate. The Turkish owned companies are mainly active in building and food industry, healthcare services, tourism, agriculture and mining sector.³⁶ Due to the increased trading activity, Turkey became one of the best 20 economical partners of the continent. After the government realized the success of the former planned strategy, the New Economic Neighborhood (NEN programme) has been implemented.³⁷

Regarding the humanitarian aids Turkey wants to increase the scale of the former efforts.³⁸ After UN adjured, the Red Crescent has started to support the migrants and refugees of Somalia. Besides food suppliace, in order to be more efficient, a logistical service center has been also established in the region of Cezire. Apart from Somalia, the Turkish department of Red Crescent has been involved into the similar problems of Sudan, Mauritania and Ethiopia. 52% of the total humanitarian aids provided by Turkey were received by the mentioned countries.³⁹ This amount means the 6% of the whole amount of money, including almost every developed countries spent on humanitarian activity in Africa. Cameroon,⁴⁰ Djibouti, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal and the Republic of South Africa⁴¹ have also taken part of the mentioned Turkish aid campaigns. To summarize; the Sub-Saharan region is clearly a focus point for the Turkish foreign policy. The Turkish-African negotiations have not just been focusing on diplomacy related questions but economical, trade cultural and humanitarian aspects as

³⁵ Economic development in Africa 2010

http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/aldcafrica2010_en.pdf (last downloading: 2012. 01. 20) and Africa cooperation with new and emerging development partners: Options for Africa's development

http://www.un.org/africa/osaa/reports/emerging_economies_2009.pdf (last downloading: 2012. 01.19)

³⁶ MUSTAFA GUNAY: Turkey Africa relations

<http://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/public/Meetings/Meeting%20Transcripts/140411gunay.pdf> (last downloading: 2012. 01. 17)

³⁷ Turkey's Foreign Policy in a Changing World

<http://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/seesox/workshopreports/ReportfromTFPconf.pdf> (last downloading: 2012. 01. 17)

³⁸ Economic development Africa 2010 http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/aldcafrica2010_en.pdf (last downloading: 2012. 01. 20)

³⁹ Economic development Africa 2010 http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/aldcafrica2010_en.pdf (last downloading: 2012. 01. 20)

⁴⁰ <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sub.en.mfa?4be7cc34-c47c-4814-940a-de518162ff84> (last downloading: 2012. 01. 24)

⁴¹ Africa cooperation with new and emerging development partners: Options for Africa's development http://www.un.org/africa/osaa/reports/emerging_economies_2009.pdf (last downloading: 2012. 01.19)

well. This co-operation is clearly beneficial for both participants. The Turkish side can probably find a new and huge market, thus the economical dependence of Europe can be reduced. On the other side, in order to avoid the economical and humanitarian disasters and create reliable and safe economical circumstances, every help can be useful. Not to mention, that through the example of Sudan, we can also see that not just China, but also Turkey is an actor in the international environment who – if based on its interest, a trade agreement is needed – does not demand strictly the deficit of democratic and European laws. However, we have to also emphasize that the Erdoğan-cabinet is as a serious investor, whose aim is to create a long-lasting prosperity in economic sense.⁴² Therefore, not only ad hoc campaigns happened in the past years in Turkey regarding Africa, but with the help of the institutes and establishment in the background, Africa became a reachable destination for the Turkish capital.

On this map you can observe which African countries have cooperation with Turkey

Military existence, security policy

The Somalian pirate activity in the Aden-bay could have been dangerous for each trader in the region and the Turkish navy played quite an important role in solving it. After UN has proclaimed, the Turkish frigate called Giresun started its duty on 25th February of 2009. Its duty was later taken over by the frigates of Gediz and Gökova, with 267 people on its board.⁴³ Their Turkish political efforts were not only limited to the ocean, the government tried to claim general peace all over Somalia.⁴⁴ As mentioned before, Turkey sees the African Union as a strategic partner. Therefore, not only political, but military co-operation can also be a goal for both sides. Turkey provides education for gendarme in several African countries and a lot of Turkish policemen are participating in UN activity throughout Liberia, Congo and Ivory Coast. The number of already existing technical, scientific and military training related treaties (Egypt, Ethiopia, Mali, Ghana, Gambia) will most probably increase in the near future. Recently the Turkish military industry noticed the African markets.⁴⁵ For instance at the biyearly organized military exhibitions a lot of African deputize their homeland. Among the approximately 200 Turkish companies dealing with protecting military sector, Sub-Saharan Africa is a

⁴² <http://www.thenational.ae/thenationalconversation/editorial/turkey-leads-with-investment-in-north-africa>
(last downloading: 2012-01-15)

⁴³ Mehmet Özkan

⁴⁴ <http://www.haberler.com/turkiye-ile-afrika-arasindaki-stratejik-ortaklik-3197164-haberi/>
(last downloading: 2012-01-15)

⁴⁵ http://turkey.setimes.com/en_GB/articles/ses/articles/features/departments/world/2011/10/20/feature-01
(last downloading: 2012.01.24)

much more attractive market.⁴⁶ High level military delegates have already had several meetings about the form of potential co-operation in Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon and Kenya. Regarding North-Africa, after the stabilization process will be finished, Turkey would like to be a strategic military partner as well.⁴⁷

A TUSKON, İHH and the TIKA

After the proclamation of the Africa plan two NGO's are the main organizers of the whole program, the TUSKON and the İHH. The previous one was founded in 2005, in Istanbul. Nowadays, the organization has actually an agent system all over Turkey, which deputizes the interest of approx. 33.260 investors. In 2006, TUSKON organized the so-called 'Turkish-African Trading Bridge', a huge campaign and meeting for all the possible economical actors who are interested in bilateral relations. The success was obvious. Besides the 500 African, approximately 1700 Turkish businessmen appeared at the event. More than 20 ministers and 40 high level bureaucrats also participated.⁴⁸ The leader of the whole organization is the famous businessman, Rızanur Meral.⁴⁹ TUSKON could be also described as one of the main political and economical organization of the world's 16. biggest economy. Among the investors of both sides 40 000 business meetings and more than 200 business delegations were managed by TUSKON.⁵⁰

İHH has a more complicated and extensive activity. Among their priorities are humanitarian campaigns, aids, and the aim of cultural and educational developments. Emphasizing the idea of voluntary, İHH officially try to give support to anyone suffering from any kind of disease or even poverty. According to their slogan, 'despite of the fast changing circumstances of today's world, the unchangeable, everlasting values must be maintained'.⁵¹ In their Africa related activities religion plays an outstanding role. Their aim is not only food distribution. Getting the Holy Koran

⁴⁶ <http://www.defpro.com/news/details/24353/> (last downloading: 2012. 01. 24)

⁴⁷ <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/default.aspx?pageid=438&n=turkish-defense-firms-target-africa-2011-09-19> (last downloading: 2011. 01. 24)

⁴⁸ The sending countries: Burkina Faso, Algeria, Chad, Ethiopia, Morocco, Ghana, South-Africa, Cameroon, Kenya, Congo, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Egypt, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Niger, Central-African Republic, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Yemen, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Equatorial-Guinea, Gabon, Mali, Togo and Tunisia

⁴⁹ Rızanur Meral was born in 1958, in the city of Elazığ in the military family. He was learning in Diyarbakir. More: <http://www.tuskon.org/basin/detay.php?id=305> (last downloading: 2012-01-13)

⁵⁰ MUSTAFA GUNAY: Turkey Africa relations

<http://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/public/Meetings/Meeting%20Transcripts/140411gunay.pdf> (last downloading: 2012. 01. 17)

⁵¹ <http://www.ihh.org.tr/misyonumuz/> (last downloading: 2012-01-13)

available for the supported people and financial help with constructions of camiis are also part of their activity.⁵² For instance during the period of Ramadan, Turkey has started to collect money and food aids for the thousands of suffering people all over the black continent.⁵³

TIKA, founded in 1992 is under the management of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. TIKA has strong relations to all kind of strategic institutions in Turkey, international organizations like UNIDO,⁵⁴ UNDP,⁵⁵ OECD,⁵⁶ and last but not least it has operational units mainly in the countries where humanitarian camps were established. The key regions of its activity are the following: Near East, Balkans, Eastern-Europe, Caucasus, Middle-Asia, Far-East and Africa of course.. However, in 2002 the organization has only spent 85 million USD on humanitarian campaigns, this amount reached 780 million USD by the end of 2008. In Africa, only 6,6% of the total amount – 51,73 million USD – has been spent in 2008, but in two years exceeded 967 million USD.⁵⁷ Among the supported countries, Sudan has a special role. The country earned 13,21 millions of USD and with that result, on the list of the most supported TIKA countries, Khartoum is on 13th position. At the moment TIKA has 26 offices in 23 countries all over the world, from which 3 can be found on the African continent: Ethiopia (2005), Sudan (2006) and Senegal (2007).⁵⁸ The African programs of TIKA mainly concentrated on agriculture, healthcare, supplying drinking water and other humanitarian fields.

Conclusion

If the present economic tendencies will continue, Turkey will probably be able to create a well functioning relationship-system throughout the whole African continent. As the number of unexploited opportunities are decreasing, the challenge will most probably paralelly increase. Although the potential of Turkish capital compared to China, India and Brazil is not so outstanding, especially if we take into consideration the economy

⁵² <http://www.ihh.org.tr/etiyopya-kur-an-i-kerim-dagitimi-projesi/> (last downloading: 2012-01-13)

⁵³ <http://www.ihh.org.tr/ihh-bu-ramazan-da-neler-yapacak-/> (last downloading: 2012-01-13)

⁵⁴ The United Nations Industrial Development Organization

⁵⁵ The United Nations Development Programme

⁵⁶ Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

⁵⁷ http://www.ecocci.com/DC/PDF/19.04.201017_34Presentation%20of%20TIKA.pdf

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⁵⁸ Africa cooperation with new and emerging development partners: Options for Africa's development http://www.un.org/africa/osaa/reports/emerging_economies_2009.pdf (last downloading: 2012. 01.19)

and population of the country.⁵⁹ In a wider perspective this also could cause some additional changes in the European and American economic tendencies as well.⁶⁰ As Ahmet Davutoğlu mentioned earlier ‘the common fate and history can easily shift the relationships in the future.’⁶¹

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