

Visits from both sides strengthen bilateral relations

Visits by heads of state

After 1989, the first of many high-level meetings took place on Sept. 18, 1991 when late Turkish President Turgut Özal paid an official visit to Romania. On this occasion the Treaty of Friendship, Good Neighborhood and Cooperation between Romania and the Republic of Turkey was signed.

This visit was followed by a number of visits by the heads of state of Romania and Turkey:

Visits from the Turkish side:

Former President Süleyman Demirel visited Romania March 23-25, 1994; March 7, 1995; April 18, 1996; Nov. 24, 1997; and Dec. 3-4, 1998.

High-level meetings continued with visits from President Ahmet Necdet Sezer June 21-22, 2001 and July 8-9, 2004.

Visits from the Romanian side:

Former Romanian President Ion Iliescu visited Turkey on Sept. 9-11, 1993; Sept. 17, 1994; Nov. 23, 1995; May 2002; and December 2003. In addition, in June 2004, President Iliescu attended the NATO summit in Istanbul.

Former Romanian President Emil Constantinescu visited Turkey on April 29-30, 1997; April 16-17, 1998; July 28, 1998; July 6-7, 1999; and Nov. 17, 1999.

In September 2005, current President of Romania Traian Basescu paid an official visit to Turkey at the invitation of President Ahmet Necdet Sezer.

Visits by Parliament speakers

Former Turkish Parliament Speaker Ömer İzgi visited Romania in 1999. From July 11-14, 2004 Romanian Senate President Nicolae Vacaroiu made an official visit to the Republic of Turkey at the invitation of current Parliament Speaker Bülent Arınç.

From Nov. 15-18, 2005 Turkish Parliament Speaker Bülent Arınç paid an official visit to Romania at the invitation of Romanian Senate President Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu.

Visits by prime ministers

The following visits at a prime ministerial level have been made since 1998.

Turkish prime ministers' visits to Romania

Mesut Yılmaz, June 18-19, 1998, Bülent Ecevit, Feb. 12, 2000 Recep Tayyip Erdoğan May 20-21, 2004

Romanian prime ministers' visits to Turkey

Petre Roman Jan. 24-26, 1991 Adrian Nastase Feb. 19, 2002 and May 7, 2003

In June 2004 Adrian Nastase attended a NATO summit in Istanbul and in July 2004 he also attended the wedding of the daughter of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Istanbul.

Today and tomorrow current Romanian Prime Minister Calin Popescu Tariceanu is on an official visit to Turkey.

Ministerial visits

Foreign ministers In 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1998, there were bilateral contacts at between foreign ministers and after 2000 the Romanian foreign minister visited Turkey twice, on Feb. 28, 2001 and April 4, 2003.

In June 2004, the Romanian foreign minister attended a NATO summit in Istanbul.

Romanian Foreign Minister Mihai Razvan Ungureanu visited Turkey from March 24-25, 2005.

Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül visited Romania between July 8-9, 2004 and participated in the Bucharest South-East European

Cooperation Process (SEEC) summit, May 10-11, 2005.

From zero to \$4.2 bln-plus: Turkey and Romania's growing bilateral economic and commercial relations since 1989

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Turkish-Romanian relations have undergone exceptional evolution in recent years, marked by an unprecedented dynamism in all fields of bilateral collaboration, including cooperation at the regional and international levels.

Romanian-Turkish relations in brief

In November 1878, independent Romania and the Ottoman Empire established diplomatic relations. D. Bratianu, plenipotentiary minister and extraordinary representative of Romania, presented his letter of accreditation in Istanbul to Sultan Abdul-Hamid the Second. In December 1878, Süleyman Sabit Bey was appointed as his counterpart in Bucharest

The two countries' diplomatic legations in Bucharest and Istanbul were raised to embassy status in 1938.

The relationship between Romania and the Ottoman Empire had its origins in the two people's common



Scenes from the signing of the Balkan Treaty in Athens. On the photo, P. Tsaldaris, archbishop Chrysostomos and the Foreign ministers of Turkey Tefik Rüştü Aras Beis, of Romania Titulescu and of Yugoslavia Getic. (February 1934.)



Romanian Prime Minister Calin Popescu Tariceanu.



history, having lived together in the same geographical area for centuries.

Over the years since 1878, when Romania and Turkey moved from being adversaries to a model of friendly relations, both countries have built a strong partnership centered upon their common experience, which has facilitated an understanding of issues confronted by the region as a whole.

In 1934, a time when Turkey was led by the great statesman Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, Romania together with Turkey, Yugoslavia and Greece set up the Balkan Entente, one year after Romanian Foreign Minister Nicolae Titulescu and Turkish Foreign Minister Tefik Rüştü Aras signed the Treaty of Friendship, Non-aggression, Arbitration and Conciliation between Romania and the Republic of Turkey.

This tradition was reflected in and lent influence to a revitalization of Romanian-Turkish relations in 1989, a time since which they've seen ever-increasing improvement.

Turkey was a constant supporter of Romania's NATO candidacy and Romania participated for the first time as a NATO member at the 2004 Istanbul Summit, which had symbolic significance for the level of relations between the two countries; in turn, Romania supports Turkey's aspirations for European integration.

Regional and international cooperation

At an international level, Roma-

nia and Turkey cooperate within the United Nations and its agencies and in many other international organizations and forums.

As members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Romania and Turkey are actively involved in a number of OSCE actions in the Balkans and other regions.

Romania is working together with Turkey in order to strengthen the stability, security and good neighborly relations in the region, to intensify economic and commercial cooperation, including trans-frontier cooperation, to improve transportation infrastructure, communications, and energy, to promote investment, to develop cooperation in humanitarian, social and cultural domains, and last but not least, to increase cooperation on issues related to justice and internal affairs in order to combat organized crime, illicit drugs and weapons trafficking, illegal migration and terrorism.

This cooperation is highlighted by active participation of both states in the South East European Cooperation Process (SEEC), the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), chaired by Romania up through this April, the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (SP SEE), and the South-Eastern European Cooperative Initiative (SECI).

Romania wishes to increase its cooperation with the Republic of

Turkey with a view to transform the Black Sea region into a zone of security, democracy and prosperity.

Bilateral economic and commercial relations

Since 1989, Romanian-Turkish economic and commercial relations have witnessed steady development, leading to a significant increase in commercial exchanges, especially following the signing of a free trade agreement in 1997.

Romanian-Turkish economic relations have displayed both steady increase and diversity since 1989. Total trade reached \$1.82 billion in

At an international level, Romania and Turkey cooperate within the UN, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, South East European Cooperation Process, Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and South-Eastern European Cooperative Initiative

2003, \$3 billion in 2004 and a volume exceeding \$4.2 billion in 2005.

In the summer of 2004 this dynamism brought Turkey to fourth place among Romania's trading partners, after Italy, Germany and France. This was from sixth place in 2003, behind Italy, Germany, France, Great Britain and the Russian Federation.

At present, Romania is Turkey's number one trading partner in the Balkans and second in the Black Sea region, behind the Russian Federation, while Turkey is Romania's leading trade partner in the Black Sea region.

Romania and Turkey are cooper-

ating in implementing strategic projects, mainly in the energy field, such as laying an undersea electric cable between Constanta and Istanbul and the Nabucco gas pipeline.

There are more than 9,600 Romanian-Turkish joint ventures registered in Romania, amounting to a total invested capital of nearly \$600 million, and both countries have established a target of \$1 billion for the near future.

The main fields of investment are banking, foodstuffs, electronics, textile industries, ball bearing production and road construction. Among the most important companies investing in Romania are Nokta, Arçelik, and Kombassan, which are the main shareholders in companies such as Azomures, Arctic Gaiesti and Rulmentul Barlad-Erdemir, Denta, Finans Bank and Yaşar, as well as the Efes and Pakmaya Groups involved in beer and yeast production.

Bilateral cultural and spiritual relations

Bilateral cultural and spiritual relations are covered by the 1966 Agreement Regarding Scientific and Artistic Exchange.

Good relations in these areas were underlined by a symbolic gift (a replica of Prince Stefan the Great's sword), offered by the Turkish prime minister to his Romanian counterpart on the occasion of his visit to Romania in May 2004, which is now housed at Putna Monastery.

The original sword belonging to

Prince Stefan the Great was on display in Bucharest during an official visit by Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer to Romania at the beginning of July 2004. The sword's display was part of a commemoration of 500 years since the passing on of Prince Stefan the Great.

Another symbol of the great cooperation in this area can be seen in the Turkish government's support in offering a part of Dimitrie Cantemir House in Istanbul following its renovation with a view to host a museum dedicated to the great Moldovan scholar.

Following a Turkish government agreement, the Saint Parascheva Church in Istanbul was placed at the disposal of the Romanian Orthodox community by the Greek community. The handover took place in May 2004 and was attended by the Patriarchs Teoctist and Bartholomeos.

The governments of Romania and Turkey are also examining plans to build a Romanian church in Istanbul and a Turkish mosque in Bucharest, based on a reciprocal exchange of



Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

land, in Bucharest and Istanbul.

Last June saw on the stage of the ancient theatre in Efes an extraordinary concert performed by maestro Gheorghe Zamfir and the Madrigal Choir. The concert was attended by the Romanian and Turkish ministers of culture and enjoyed by an audience of more than 5,000 people.

On Sept. 29, 2005, the opening of an exhibition entitled "Art Nouveau and Romanian Contemporary Architecture" took place at the Hagia Sofia Museum in Istanbul. The opening was attended by President of Romania Traian Basescu. The exhibition was visited by over 300,000 art lovers and Turkish and foreign tourists.

Representation of Romania in the Republic of Turkey

As an expression of the excellent partnership between Romania and Turkey, the Consulate General of Romania was opened in Izmir in October 2004, and in January 2005, Romania's Cultural Institute in Istanbul.

This makes Turkey the third European country, after France and Germany, in which Romania has two consulates general and one cultural center.

In Turkey, there are also Honorary Consulates of Romania in Edirne and Bursa.

The Honorary Consulate of Romania was inaugurated in Antalya last year and an Honorary Consulate of Romania in Konya is to be opened early this year.

Bilateral Legal Framework

Treaty of Friendship, Good Neighborhood and Cooperation between Romania and the Republic of Turkey, signed in Bucharest on Sept. 19, 1991, entered into force on Oct 10, 1993

Agreement between Romania and the Republic of Turkey for the Elimination of Double Taxation, signed in Bucharest July 1, 1986, entered into force on Sept 15, 1988

Agreement between the government of Romania and the government of the Republic of Turkey for the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments, signed in Ankara on Jan 24, 1991, entered into force April 7, 1996

Agreement between the government of Romania and the government of the Republic of Turkey regarding Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Traffic, signed in Ankara on Feb 26, 1992

Agreement on Free Trade between Romania and the Republic of Turkey, signed in Ankara on April 29, 1997 entered into force on Feb. 1, 1998

Agreement between the government of Romania and the government of the Republic of Turkey on the

Readmission of Citizens of their States and Aliens with Illegal Status on the Territories of their Respective States, signed in Bucharest on Jan 19, 2004, entered into force on Nov 8, 2004

Agreement between the government of Romania and the government of the Republic of Turkey concerning Reciprocal Visits by their Citizens, signed in Bucharest on Feb 17, 2004, entered into force on April 1, 2004

Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation in the Field of Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), signed in Bucharest on May 20, 2004

Agreement of Cooperation between Eximbank SA Romania and Turk Eximbank AS, signed in Bucharest on May 20, 2004

Memorandum of Understanding concerning the Cooperation in the Field of Defense Research and Technology, signed in Ankara on April 6, 2004, entered into force on Dec. 15, 2004

Agreement between Romania and the Republic of Turkey on legal assistance in civil matters signed on the occasion of the official visit to Turkey of the President of Romania (Sept. 28-29, 2005)



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Turkish business in Romania



Romania is one of Turkey's strongest economic and commercial partners in the southeastern European region. It's also the largest recipient of Turkish direct investment in this region, with a total amount of nearly \$400 million. Turkish entrepreneurs began to enter the Romanian market right after the change of regime in early '90s, with small ventures such as bakeries and restaurants.

After the legal and regulatory framework of the intergovernmental level was completed, larger firms began to show an interest in Romania and focused on the service and manufacturing sectors. Turkey is the ninth-largest investing country in Romania.

Investments

Efes Pilsen, the beer-producing arm of Turkish conglomerate the Anadolu Group, is running a brewery in Ploesti. This plant has been operating since 1998 and is one of the biggest in Romania.

Pak Holding has a plant in Pascani which makes yeast. It's capable of meeting two-thirds of the total demand in

Romania.

The Bucharest Shopping Center was opened as a joint venture between FIBA Holding and Bayindir Holding. Since 2000, FIBA Holding is the sole owner. This group is also running a chain of supermarkets in Romania, under the Gima brand, and it's active in the finance sector, with Finansbank, Finans Leasing and Finans Securities.

There are other Turkish institutions in the Romanian banking and finance sector as well. Libra Bank and Garanti Bank International are offering banking services. Robank, which was purchased through the privatization program by Bayraktar Holding and British Balli Group, has nine branches throughout the country. Global Menkul Değerler, a Turkish securities firm, runs a \$25 million Romanian fund.

Other entities purchased by Turkish companies through the Romanian privatization program are wood industry company Mures purchased by Hayat Holding, a fertilizer plant again in Mures purchased by Yilsan, a company producing auto parts purchased by

Kombassan, a company leasing construction equipment purchased by DMS Dilmenler, a paint plant purchased by DYO (a subsidiary of the Yaşar Group), a refrigerator plant purchased by Arçelik and a brewery purchased by Altınmaya.

Escort Computer has an office in Romania, and the company is renewing the IT infrastructure of the Romanian Department of Land and Property Registration.

Contracting services

Turkish contracting firms have so far undertaken 43 projects in Romania with a total value of \$943 million. A consortium established by Yüksel, Makimsan and Ener has completed several highway projects. Another consortium of ENKA and its U.S. partner Bechtel is currently constructing the Brasov-Cluj-Bors Highway. Another Turkish contracting firm with a large business volume in Romania is Öner İnşaat.

Prospects for cooperation

Despite the presence of large state-owned government-subsidized enterprises, the government of Romania is in-

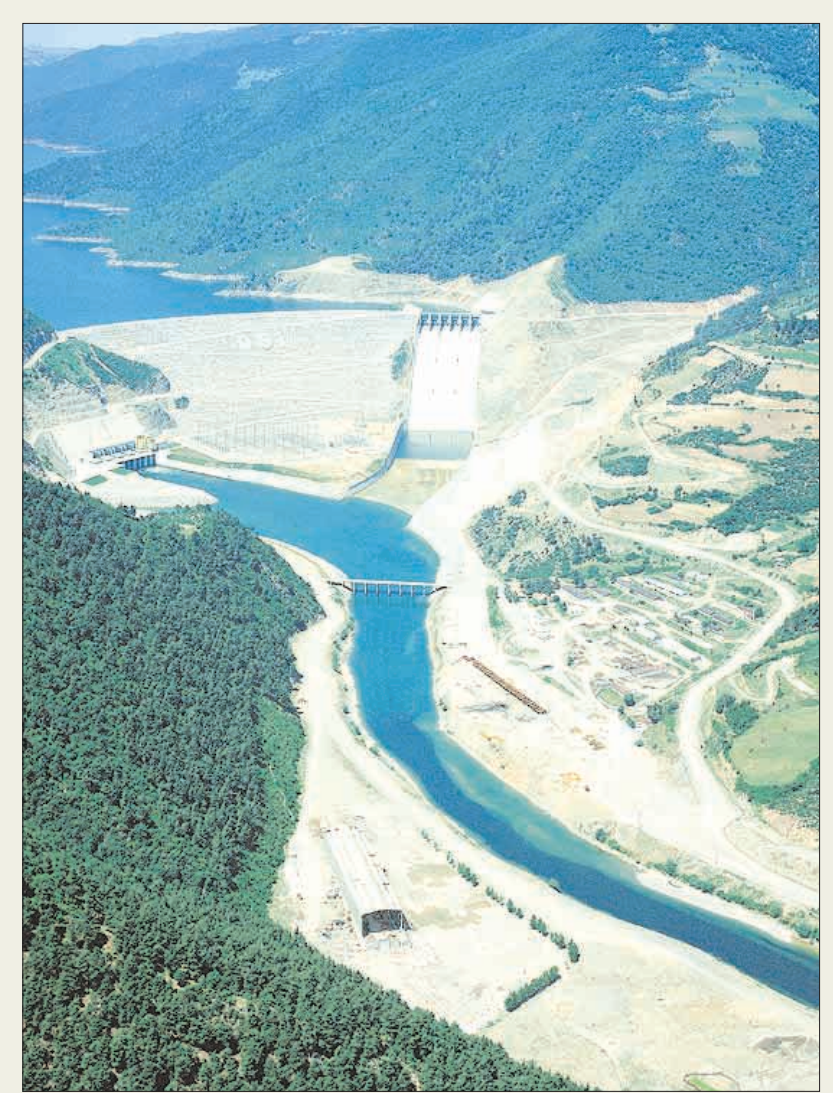
creasingly realizing the role of foreign direct investment (FDI) in its economic development. It seeks to attract foreign investment in many ways including the privatization programs. It welcomes suggestions coming from foreign investors, and various regional and international organizations including the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank for the improvement of its investment climate. It offers national treatment in many respects to foreign investors, with access to markets and permission to participate in privatization. It's increasingly improving its regulatory frameworks, including its taxation and foreign exchange systems.

An important area for cooperation in Romania is the tourism industry. The country has a great potential in nature, health and winter tourism but has severe shortcomings especially in mid-class hotels. Tourism complexes on the shores of the Black Sea and winter tourism on the Carpathian Mountains are the two priority areas. The Ministries of Tourism of Turkey and Romania have already signed a memorandum of cooperation, and it's also a great advantage that the country's ministry is in direct charge of privatization in the tourism sector.

The IT sector is also growing in Romania. A techno park is currently established in Timisoara and there are several other projects supported by the government awaiting foreign investors.

Companies from third countries interested in investing in Romania should consider Turkish partners, because Turkey has long experience in private sector investment in this country and direct air, land and sea transportation links. Partnership can be established not only in manufacturing or services sectors, but also contracting, since Romania is planning to invest more than \$20 billion in infrastructure over the coming five years.

Note: The above article is derived from the Turkish Business in the BSEC (Black Sea Economic Cooperation) region, Direct Investments, Contracting Services, Prospects for Cooperation (dated February 2005) and was taken from the site of Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEİK) www.deik.org.tr



GURIS: Building the world for half a century

GURIS Construction & Engineering Co. Inc, one of Turkey's leading construction companies as well as one of the best-known and most reliable general turnkey contractors, not only in Turkey but all around the world, was established in Ankara 49 years ago.

The company's expertise has been employed in projects in the Middle East, Commonwealth of Independent State (CIS) countries, the Pacific region, and North and Central Africa. The company is continuing to carry out projects in Romania,

Poland and Dubai. GURIS's wide-ranging activities include: dams and hydroelectric power plants, thermal power plants, natural gas plants, water and wastewater treatment plants, irrigation and drainage systems, tunnels, industrial plants, urban mass rail transportation systems, hospitals, hotels, buildings and prestige structures, drinking water and sewerage systems, harbors, quays and jetties, highways, railroads and bridges, and related equipment manufacturing and construction.

About Romania



Official Name: Romania
Capital City: Bucharest

President: Traian Basescu. (The head of state is the president who is elected by universal suffrage, every four years.)

Prime Minister: Calin Popescu Tariceanu. (The head of government is the prime minister who is nominated by the president.)

Neighbors: Lies between the Ukraine and Bulgaria and adjoins the Black Sea to the east. Romania borders Bulgaria (by the Danube), Serbia and Montenegro, Hungary, Moldova and Ukraine.

Location: Romania is situated in the southeastern part of Central Europe, in the northern part of Balkan Peninsula, inside and outside of the Carpathian Mountains, on the Danube lower course, bordering the Black Sea.

Official language: Romanian. Romanian is a Latin-based lan-

guage that is a continuation of the Latin spoken in ancient times in Dacia and Moesia — the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire.

A 31-letter Latin alphabet is in use.

Currency: ROL (ROL = leu)
Romania is a NATO member and is expected to become member of the European Union in 2007.

Main cities: Iasi, Constanta, Cluj-Napoca, Timisoara, Galati, Craiova, Brasov, Ploiesti and Braila.

Form of government: Romania is a parliamentary democracy based on a bicameral Parliament: the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. All members of the legislature are directly elected from Romania's 41 counties.

Major political parties present in Parliament:

Ruling coalition: The Justice and Truth alliance, made up of the National Liberal Party and the De-

mocratic Party, won the elections of Nov. 28, 2004, drawing on their side the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania and the Humanist Party of Romania.

In opposition: The Social Democratic Party and the Greater Romania Party.

Administrative distribution: 41 counties, 265 towns, 2,686 communities.

Population: 21.8 million (2005 — est.) — 22.5 million (2010 — forecast)

Area: 238,391 sq. km. (12th largest in Europe and 81st largest in the world).

Standard Time: GMT +2 hours

Airports: Bucharest-Otopeni, Bucharest-Baneasa, Constanta, Timisoara, Bacau, Baia Mare, Caransebes, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, Deva, Iasi, Oradea, Satu Mare, Targu Mures, Tulcea, Suceava, Arad and Sibiu.

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