Turkey and the implementation of the EU aquis in the context of transboundary river basins

The Political Economy of Regionalism and International Waters
11-12 June 2013

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Turkey – EU Relations

1963
The Ankara Agreement

1970
The Additional Protocol

Turkey's Application for Full Membership in 1987

1995
The Customs Union

1999
The Helsinki Summit, the “candidate status” and the opening of accession negotiations

2005
The negotiation process has started
In its march towards EU membership, Turkey will face the challenge of transposing and implementing all elements set out in the WFD. As the WFD has become part of the acquis (the total body of EU law accumulated thus far), Turkey is obliged to comply with it by date of accession.
European Union Water Framework Directive

The European Union Water Framework Directive was accepted on October 23, 2000 from the European Parliament and the Council's thought of “water as being a natural resource that is supposed to be protected rather than being a commercial product”. This directive aims at protecting and ameliorating all of the European Union's waters.
The Water Framework Directive
The Case for Transboundary Rivers

If a river basin extends across international boundaries the directive specifically requires it to be assigned to an international RBD. The directive further specifies that countries shall ensure cooperation for producing one single RBMP for an international RBD falling within the territories of the EU;

However, the directive at the same time indicates that if not produced, plans must be set up for the part of the basin falling within each country’s own territory. If the basin extends beyond the territories of the EU, the directive encourages Member States to establish cooperation with non-Member States and, thus, manage the water resource on a basin level (paragraph 35, Articles 3, 5, and 13)
Transboundary waters and EUWFD

Art. 3, (1)

Member States shall ensure that a river basin covering the territory of more than one Member State is assigned to an international river basin district. (...) Each Member State shall ensure the appropriate administrative arrangements, including the identification of the appropriate competent authority, for the application of the rules of this Directive within the portion of an international river basin district lying within its territory.
Transboundary waters and EUWFD

Art. 3, (3)

Where a river basin district extends beyond the territory of the Community, the Member State or Member States concerned shall endeavour to establish appropriate coordination with the relevant non-Member States, with the aim of achieving the objectives of this Directive throughout the river basin district.
Transboundary waters and EUWFD

Art. 13, (3)

In the case of an international river basin district extending beyond the boundaries of the Community, Member States shall endeavour to produce a single river basin management plan, and, where this is not possible, the plan shall at least cover the portion of the international river basin district lying within the territory of the Member State concerned.
Agreement on Transboundary Waters that EU is party to:


Turkey and EUWFD

Within the scope of Turkey’s negotiations with the EU on the environment chapter, ongoing since Dec. 21, 2009, Turkey is required to integrate the EU Water Framework Directive into its water-related policies, regulations and laws due to its candidate status.
**Turkey and EUWFD**

*Within the harmonization process, many changes have taken place regarding water resource management in our country since 2003. In order for Turkey to close the Environment Chapter, the process of implementing the Water Framework Directive is supposed to be completed and implemented while basin management plans, one of the most important objectives of the directive, should be prepared.*
The EU Water Framework Directive, which came into force in December 2000, primarily aims for a “good status” for all ground and surface waters in the EU. Hence, the directive demands that both member and candidate countries make a situation analysis on the quality of their bodies of water. When all the basins of Turkey were analyzed in terms of water quality, it appeared that 20 percent of them were of a good quality while 80 percent were deemed to require management in terms of quantity and quality.
# Is Turkey Rich in Water?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Volume of Water</th>
<th>501 billion m³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discharge from the Water Budget</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Amount of Water Vaporized in the Atmosphere</td>
<td>-274 billion m³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Amount of Water Mixed up in the Ground Water</td>
<td>-69 billion m³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recharge to the Water Budget</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Amount of Water Mixed up from the Neighbor Countries</td>
<td>+7 billion m³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Amount of Water Rising to Surface from Ground Water through Springs.</td>
<td>+28 billion m³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Water Potential</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>193 billion m³</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When the economic and technical requirements are taken into consideration, it is seen that the annual available amount of water is **112 billion m³**.
In hydrological terms, Turkey has 25 river basins
Transboundary Basins of Turkey
# Transboundary Basins of Turkey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>River Basins</th>
<th>Catchment Area km²</th>
<th>Mean annual Discharge (BCM)</th>
<th>Contribution to total (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Euphrates-Tigris</td>
<td>184,918</td>
<td>52,94</td>
<td>28,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Çoruh</td>
<td>19,872</td>
<td>6,30</td>
<td>3,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kura-Aras</td>
<td>27,548</td>
<td>4,63</td>
<td>2,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meriç- Ergene</td>
<td>14,560</td>
<td>1,33</td>
<td>0,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asi (Orantes)</td>
<td>7,796</td>
<td>1,17</td>
<td>0,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>35,7</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Agreement on Transboundary Waters that Turkey is not party to:


- UN Watercourses Convention (1997)


- Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.
A key issue in the region is access to water for development and irrigation. Water in the Middle East will increasingly become a strategic issue in the years to come, and with Turkey’s accession one could expect international management of water resources and infrastructures (dams and irrigation schemes in the Euphrates and Tigris river basins, cross-border water cooperation between Israel and its neighbouring countries) to become a major issue for the EU.
Maritza River Basin
Euphrates – Tigris River Basin
Thank you for your attention..