

## Turkey lets Kurdish fighters cross into Kobane

Hurriyet Daily News, 20.10.2014



Turkey has been providing assistance to forces from the Iraqi Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) to cross into the Syrian border town of Kobane in order to fight against jihadists, Turkey's foreign minister said Oct. 20 after weeks of demands that Ankara open a corridor to the besieged town.

“We are helping the Peshmerga cross into Kobane. Our discussions are still underway,” Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said. Although Cavusoglu did not elaborate on the ongoing discussions, Foreign Ministry sources confirmed that crossings of Peshmerga forces through Turkey had already begun.

“Turkey had been in “full cooperation with the international coalition over Kobane,” Cavusoglu said. “We have never wanted Kobane to fall [into the hands of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant - ISIL and never will. Turkey has made every effort to prevent that. Turkey sent humanitarian assistance and medical equipment. We have been in full cooperation with coalition forces for Kobane. We want the region to be cleaned of all threats,” he said. The U.S. Central Command said it had delivered on Oct. 19 weapons, ammunition and medical supplies provided by Kurdish authorities in Iraq “in the vicinity of Kobane, Syria, to resupply Kurdish forces on the ground defending the city against ISIL.” Cavusoglu said Turkey viewed that U.S. air-dropped arms to Syrian rebels fighting in Kobane as part of these efforts.

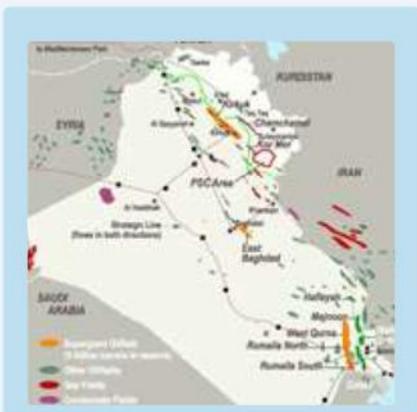
The forces fighting in Kobane are not only from the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD), he said, noting that there seven or eight other groups of Syrian rebels that formed a joint operations room for the defense of the town called “Euphrates Volcano.” Turkey agrees with the U.S. and other allies that the Free Syrian Army (FSA) is the only group which should be supported as it is fighting both ISIL and the Bashar al-Assad regime, Cavusoglu said. He renewed calls for the PYD to cooperate with the wider FSA opposition and to abandon its efforts to carve out autonomous Kurdish regions in Syria. The PYD will not obtain Turkey's support so long as it continues to pursue its goal of controlling a specific part of Syria, he said. Cavusoglu's statement came after a phone call from U.S. President Barack Obama to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the weekend, during which he gave advance notice to his Turkish counterpart of its plans to deliver arms to the Syrian Kurds.

“President Obama spoke to Erdogan yesterday and was able to notify him of our intent to do this and the importance that we put on it,” Reuters quoted a senior U.S. official as saying. Turkish diplomatic sources told the Hurriyet Daily News that the U.S. military did not use Turkish air space in air-dropping arms from the KRG to the People's Protection Units (YPG), as the YPG continues to battle the Islamic State or Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Kobane. Meanwhile, U.S. military air-drop of arms was a response to a crisis situation and did not represent a change in U.S. policy, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said on Oct. 20.

“We talked with Turkish authorities – I did, the president did, to make it very, very clear that this is not a shift in policy by the United States. It is a crisis moment, an emergency,” Kerry told reporters on a visit to Indonesia, adding that it was a “momentary effort.” The Turkish government views the PYD with deep suspicion because of its ties to the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) and has previously turned down requests for it to open a land corridor so that Kobane could be resupplied from other Kurdish areas of northern Syria. Erdogan recently equated the PYD with the PKK, describing both as terrorist organizations. “It will be very wrong for America with whom we are allied and who we are together with in NATO to expect us to say ‘yes’ [to supporting the PYD] after openly announcing such support for a terrorist organization,” he said Oct. 18.

## US welcomes Turkey allowing peshmerga to cross into Kobani

Anadolu Agency, 21.10.2014



The State Department welcomed Turkey’s declaration that it would facilitate the crossing of Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga forces into Kobani to help fight the ISIL terror group. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu announcement that his country would help Iraqi Kurdish forces access Kobani, through Turkey, in order to help Kurdish militias fight the ISIL terror group came a day after U.S. conducted airdrops in the northern Syrian town to resupply the Kurdish militia group Unionist Democratic Party, or PYD.

**U.S. officials notified their Turkish counterparts in advance of the airdrops.**

President Barack Obama discussed the operation with Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday in a phone call. The two leaders also talked about strategies to help roll back any gains by the extremist group. Prior to Obama’s discussion with the Turkish leader, Secretary of State John Kerry spoke with Cavusoglu on Friday. “We made clear why we believed it was important to take these airdrops to support these fighters pushing back against ISIL in and around Kobani,” State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said. She made it clear that the calls were not seeking Turkey’s consent but were notification about the U.S.’s intent to supply arms to the Kurdish militia. The weaponry were not those of the U.S. but were supplied by the Iraqi Kurdish Regional government and airlifted by U.S. air forces.

# US chose wrong path, ISIL took Kobane arms, Erdogan says

Hurriyet Daily News, 22.10.2014



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he was proven right for his objections to the U.S. airdropping of weapons to the Syrian border town of Kobane, claiming that some of the supplies ended up in the hands of jihadist militants.

“It has emerged that what was done was wrong,” Erdogan said, referring to the airdropping of weapons by U.S.-led coalition forces intended for Kurdish militiamen and Democratic Union Party (PYD) forces battling the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Kobane. Erdogan’s remarks came in response to reporters’ questions at a press conference.

The questions focused on media reports suggesting that allowing Peshmerga forces to cross into Kobane was a U-turn in Turkey’s policy and that it was a result of Washington’s pressure on its NATO ally. Erdogan referred to his latest telephone conversation with U.S. President Barack Obama which took place at the initiative of the latter on the early morning of Oct. 19 upon the former’s arrival in Istanbul from an official visit to Afghanistan. It was the night of Oct. 19 when the U.S. Central Command announced that in multiple airdrops, U.S. Air Force C-130 aircraft “delivered weapons, ammunition and medical supplies that were provided by Kurdish authorities in Iraq and intended to enable continued resistance against ISIL’s attempts to overtake Kobane.” A reporter recalled this flow of events and asked Erdogan to make clear whether U.S. airdropping of weapons came despite his warning during the conversation with Obama.

“You got it right; that’s what I want to explain. That’s to say, it has emerged that what was done was wrong, why it was wrong,” Erdogan said. He said only some of the weapons had reached the PYD, while some ended up in the hands of ISIL militants, citing a video uploaded by a media group affiliated with ISIL apparently showing the seizure of at least one cache of airdropped weapons. Noting that the United States as also acknowledged that some of the weapons its forces dropped to defenders of Kobane fell into the hands of Islamic State forces, Erdogan said: “Such an operation cannot be defined and explained. That’s to say, a healthy comment cannot be made in regards to whether a result will be obtained through this or not. To whom and to where you are lending support, everything is obvious.”

“During our telephone conversation with Mr. Obama, it was me who already made this proposal to him,” Erdogan said of a telephone conversation with U.S. President Barack Obama, referring to Turkey’s consent to allow Peshmerga troops to cross Turkish territory to reinforce and supply the city of Kobane. “We told Obama that ‘Support that you will lend to the PYD and the PKK (the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party) is not acceptable for us,’” Erdogan added. The Turkish president indicated that Obama explained urgency of the situation in Kobane suggesting that anti-jihadist forces could only resist for two days more in case of inaction.”

Two days passed, we are in the third-fourth day, Kobane didn't fall. Moreover, I have difficulty in understanding why Kobane is this much strategic for them (the U.S.) because there is no civilian left in Kobane anymore; 200,000 people crossed into Turkey and we are hosting them. Only around 2,000 fighters left in Kobane and they didn't say 'yes' to Peshmerga first but now, at the last moment, they said 'yes.' And we told them [Obama] we would be 'helpful' about this," Erdogan said.

The Washington Post reported on Oct. 21 that ISIL had released a new video in which it brags that it recovered weapons and supplies that the U.S. military intended to deliver to Kurdish fighters in Syria. At one point, the video appears to show a masked militant raking his hands through a crate filled with hand grenades. The SITE Intelligence Group, which tracks jihadist social media accounts, drew attention to the video on the same day. Pentagon officials said a U.S. airdrop had delivered 28 bundles of military supplies to Syrian Kurdish fighters near Kobane on Oct. 20 and reported that two went astray. One bundle fell to ISIL fighters, while the other one was destroyed, according to the Pentagon.

## US airdrops to Kobane were not wrong, Washington says after Erdogan criticism

Hurriyet Daily News, 23.10.2014



Washington does not think the U.S. airdrop of weapons to the Syrian border town of Kobane was wrong, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf has said, when asked about Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's critical remarks on the issue.

Erdogan had said he has been proven right over his objections to the airdrop by U.S.-led coalition forces intended for Democratic Union Party (PYD) forces battling the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Kobane, claiming that some of the supplies ended up in the hands of jihadist militants.

"It has emerged that what was done was wrong," he said on Oct. 22, but when asked if the U.S. thinks the operation was a mistake during the State Department's daily foreign press briefing later on the same day, Harf simply answered: "Not at all." "[U.S. President Barack Obama] has made very clear why we consider it urgent and essential to resupply the fighters in Kobane who are in a desperate situation," she added, also referring to Erdogan and Obama's recent telephone conversation, which took place at Obama's initiative on Oct. 19. Later on the same day, the U.S. Central Command announced that in multiple airdrops, the U.S. Air Force C-130 aircraft had "delivered weapons, ammunition and medical supplies provided by the Kurdish authorities in Iraq and intended to enable continued resistance against ISIL's attempts to take over Kobane."

In her remarks, Harf sought to avoid indicating a conflict between allies, but underlined that the U.S. stands behind the logic of the airdrop operation. “We’ll let the Turkish Government speak for itself, but allowing ISIL to seize more territory along the border with Turkey could endanger more Syrian communities and threaten our shared interest with Turkey in defeating ISIL and strengthening the moderate opposition,” she said. Harf also responded to reports that some airdropped weapons had fallen into the hands of ISIL, without confirming that at least one cache of supplies had fallen to ISIL. “All military missions incur some risks. But the alternative of doing nothing, of not making sure the fighters pushing ISIL back on the ground in and around Kobane have the weapons and the ammunition they need and the medical supplies they need, we don’t think is a viable option,” she said.

## Turkey takes first step to offer work permit to Syrians

Hurriyet Daily News, 23.10.2014



Turkey will be able to give temporary identification cards to Syrians through a temporary protection decree, according to a new measure published in the Official Gazette on Oct. 22. With the move, the government has taken the first step to granting work permission to more than 1.6 million Syrians who have taken refuge in Turkey since the civil war broke out over three years ago.

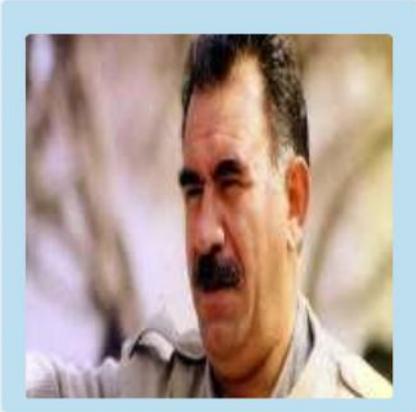
The Labor Ministry is now expected to determine in which provinces and sectors Syrians can work across Turkey, according to the 29th article of the decree, which defines access to the labor market.

The ministry will then submit its proposal about the scope of refugees under temporary protection to the Cabinet, which will decide whether work permits will be offered or not. These work permits will not be able to be used as a residence permit, according to the decree, and sources say the permits will probably only be effective in large cities across Turkey. Before the Labor Ministry begins to work on its proposal, how many temporary IDs will be given will be determined, sources said, adding that this process is expected to take around six months. Syrian refugee workers in Turkey have limited rights and protection by law. Since most are unable to speak Turkish, many are informally employed as manual laborers in industries such as construction and textiles.

The new decree clearly defines the rights and obligations of foreign people in Turkey who were forced to leave their own country and are temporarily unable to return. Refugees who were involved in terroristic actions or armed conflicts in their home country will not be taken under temporary protection. In this vein, Syrian refugees will need to disarm to be able to benefit from temporary protection rights. They will then be registered by the General Directorate of the Migration Affairs by filling out a form. When their registration process is complete, they will be given a temporary protection ID and a foreign ID number.

## Secretariat for Ocalan to start working soon, HDP says

Hurriyet Daily News, 23.10.2014



A secretariat will soon be provided for the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), Abdullah Ocalan, in order to help in advancing the stalled peace process, a leading deputy of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) has announced.

Five or six months could be enough to complete the process, including the laying down of arms by the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), HDP Istanbul deputy Sirri Sureyya Onder said, while cautioning that the living conditions of PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, a critical figure in the process, must be improved.

Speaking in an interview with CNNTurk news channel late on Oct. 22, Onder said a secretariat for Ocalan, who is serving a life sentence on İmralı Island in the Sea of Marmara, will be formed while a new monitoring team will be delegated by the Undersecretariat of Public Order and Security. "His conditions have not changed. We have held more than 20 meetings and we held all of them in the same place. He is staying in a place that is at most 15 square meters," Onder said. Along with the HDP's deputy parliamentary group chairs, İdris Baluken and Pervin Buldan, Onder is a frequent visitor of Ocalan as part of the government-led peace process aimed at ending the three-decade long conflict between the PKK and Turkey's security forces.

Having a secretariat has long been one of Ocalan's main demands. "It must change. A person is trying to build peace and he is doing this despite all of these limited conditions," Onder said when asked whether there would be a change in Ocalan's conditions. Baluken and Buldan are among figures that will be part of the secretariat working on nine main themes such as security, education, women and truth and reconciliation, Onder said. "And there will be Hatip Dicle," Onder said, referring to prominent Kurdish politician, who was elected in the 2011 general elections before being stripped of his deputyship and released from prison in July following his lengthy detention in the main case against the Kurdish Communities Union (KCK), the alleged urban wing of the PKK.

"This secretariat will hold the meetings with the state and the politicians. The five-member secretariat will also be a part of the negotiation delegation," Onder said, noting that the secretariat could work three or four days a week. He suggested the secretariat could begin work as early as next week. "It has not been discussed yet," he said, while adding that a representative from the KCK should take part in the secretariat. But Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc poured cold water on the chances for a secretariat. "A secretariat for Ocalan is not the right issue here," Arinc told A Haber on Oct. 23. "There is no change in Ocalan's prison conditions. The Justice Ministry will do what is necessary. It is an issue that can be done within the conditions of the island (of İmrali) ... Ocalan says he is lonely, and I don't think it is an unfair request."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu echoed Onder's optimism, making a bold claim and suggesting that the stalled peace process could reach its target within the next few months if the actors involved fulfill their parts. "Now there is a roadmap that we have designated. If all of the parties, particularly the segments that are involved in the resolution process, do their part, then the desired point can be reached in the shortest time, within the next few months," Davutoglu said in an interview aired on Al-Jazeera late Oct. 22. "Including disarmament, five-six months would be enough for us to reach an absolute peace. That's to say, we would leave all these things behind when March arrives," Onder told CNNTurk. However, while Davutoglu underlined the need for mutual steps and stressed that the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) should not be expected to unilaterally advance the process, Onder stressed the urgency of improving Ocalan's living conditions.

## Kurdish peace viable within a few months

Hurriyet Daily News, 23.10.2014



The Turkish government and the Kurdish political movement have sounded a note of optimism for the future of the stalled peace process, with Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu suggesting that the process could reach a settlement within the next few months if all actors involved fulfill their roles.

"Now there is a road map that we have designated. If all of the parties, particularly the segments that are involved in the resolution process, do their part, then the desired point can be reached in the shortest time, within the next few months," Davutoglu said in an interview aired on Al-Jazeera late on Oct. 22.

A leading deputy of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) echoed Davutoglu's optimism, saying five or six months could be enough to complete the process, including disarmament by the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK). "Including disarmament, five-six months would be enough for us to reach an absolute peace. That's to say, we would leave all these things behind when March arrives," Onder said, speaking in an interview with CNN Turk on Oct. 22. Still, both outlined their party's essential priorities for such striking progress in the process, which aims to end a bitter three-decade-old conflict between the PKK and Turkey's security forces that has claimed almost 40,000 lives over more than three decades.

While Davutoglu underlined the need for mutual steps and stressed that the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) should not be expected to unilaterally advance the process, Onder, whose party is a key player in the Kurdish political movement represented in Parliament and is directly involved in the process, stressed the urgency of improving jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan's living conditions. "Our stance is open and clear. We have taken the required steps and we are determined to take more. But of course these kinds of processes don't work unilaterally," Davutoglu said. "There is a particular need for everybody's agreement on the preservation of public order and stability in Turkey and this process should be run step by step.

If the developments in Iraq and Syria didn't happen, we had the conviction that we could have completed this in a shorter time. However, the developments in Syria and Iraq, particularly the latest incidents, led to some troubles in regards to steps that would be taken inside Turkey," he added, in an unveiled reference to violent demonstrations that dealt a severe blow to the shaky peace process two weeks ago when upward of 43 people died in the worst unrest in Turkey's southeast in years.

For his part, Onder, who is a frequent visitor to Ocalan as part of the peace process along with the HDP's deputy parliamentary group chairs, İdris Baluken and Pervin Buldan, cautioned that an improvement in the living conditions of Ocalan, a central player in the process, is a "must." "His conditions have not changed. We have held more than 20 meetings and we held all of them in the same place. He is staying in a place that is at most 15 square meters in area," said Onder. "It must change. A person is trying to build peace and he is doing this despite all of these limited conditions," he added when asked whether he thought there would be a change in Ocalan's conditions. Meanwhile, HDP leader Selahattin Demirtaş refuted reports suggesting that the government had shared a road map for the process with them. "Four days ago, an index of the road map was given to us and we shared this with Kandil. Ocalan wanted someone from Kandil to participate in the negotiation delegation," Demirtaş said in an interview published in daily Cumhuriyet yesterday, referring to the Kandil Mountains, where other PKK leaders are headquartered.

## Main opposition leader repeats call for Kurdish solution in Parliament

Hurriyet Daily News, 23.10.2014



Main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu has repeated his call on the government to carry out efforts to solve Turkey's decades-old Kurdish insurgency under the roof of Parliament, rather than in talks "behind closed doors."

"Let's all shoulder responsibility and resolve this problem. Let's form a reconciliation committee [in Parliament]," Kilicdaroglu said on Oct. 23, speaking in a conference at Ankara's Bilkent University. He criticized the government for taking a party political approach to the issue, saying the question went "beyond a question of political parties."

"Thirty years of experience has shown us that a solution of this problem is possible only with political unity," Kilicdaroglu said. The CHP leader criticized the way the government has dealt with the issue in behind closed doors talks with the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), Abdullah Ocalan. "Nobody knows what they are talking about, which promises they are making ... We are now discussing a process that we have no information about," Kilicdaroglu said. Meanwhile, the Kurdish problem-focused Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) deputy Altan Tan also argued that the peace process should be transparent "as far as possible" and should be carried out

open to the public. Speaking to reporters on Oct. 23, Tan said the government had not submitted the peace process road map, reportedly made up off 200 pages, to the HDP, which is one of the government's key interlocutors in the process along with Ocalan. He accused the government of being "unserious" about the process and said it was hiding behind the argument of "state secrets" to conduct the process.

## Turkish gov't plans to intensify efforts for early election after budget debate

Hurriyet Daily News, 21.10.2014



Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) plans to formally raise the issue of a possible early election and make the required legislative preparations after the budget debate in Parliament in December. The AKP has already held internal discussions on moving the upcoming parliamentary election, currently scheduled for June 7, 2015, forward to either April or May, mainly due to political and economic developments.

Sources cite the crisis in Iraq and Syria and the emergence of negative impacts from conflicts in the region as the most important reason for the government's decision to hold an early election.

Obstacles to the government-led peace process aimed at ending the three-decade long conflict between Turkey's security forces and the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), as well as a recent regression in economic indicators, are also considered as possible reasons to prompt the government to make such a move. AKP officials, meanwhile, have publicly cited the central university entrance exam scheduled for June as a reason for such possible rescheduling. The government plans to raise the issue after the marathon annual budget debate in Parliament that takes place in December, with deliberations over the 2015 Central Governance Budget Law by the ruling and opposition parties at the General Assembly. Budget debates usually take around 10 days.

In line with the plan to bring forward the election, the AKP leadership and the Supreme Election Board (YSK) have exchanged ideas on making amendments to the "appointment system" implemented for the first time in foreign countries during the August presidential election. The government has blamed problems in the system for the low turnout from expatriate voters in the August presidential election. However, the chief of the YSK has denied that its current work is aimed at preparing for an early election. "It is unthinkable that the YSK would take a position according to reports in the media. Furthermore, the YSK is not the authority to make a decision for an early election. There is no early election alarm at the YSK," YSK President Sadi Guven told reporters on Oct. 20, saying the YSK had begun its preparation for the June 2015 parliamentary election.

Accordingly, the duration of overseas voting is expected to be extended from seven days to 14. Although the appointment system will be preserved, the YSK will take various measures to make sure that citizens will be informed of appointment dates timely and correctly. The low number of polling stations were cited at the time as the reason for the low turnout, particularly in Germany. Following talks between the YSK and the German Interior Ministry, officials agreed to provide voting opportunities in every location where Turkey has a diplomatic mission. Thus, instead of seven locations as was the case in the August vote, Turkish citizens living in Germany will be able to cast their ballots at 13 locations. The number of Turkish voters living in Germany is almost 1,500,000, but in the first ever popular presidential elections in August when then-Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan was elected to the presidency, only around 100,000 voters in Germany registered to vote.

## **Crisis cost 5 million jobs in Europe as Turkey boosted employment**

Hurriyet Daily News, 20.10.2014



The global crisis is behind us, almost six years on. Even though the epicenter was the U.S., the EU also caught fire immediately during the crisis. The U.S. is attempting to stand on its feet after the half-dozen years that have passed, but it is not easy to say the same thing yet for the EU.

For the 28-member EU, various countries were affected to varying degrees. Some members were heavily wounded, such as Spain and Italy. Germany, on the other hand, which is considered the leader of the union, is in a relatively good situation, and one could even say it grew stronger during the crisis. The United Kingdom is trying to recover with difficulty.

However, the big picture tells us that the EU is going through recession and the light at the end of the tunnel has yet to appear. "The biggest pain of the crisis was felt by those who lost their jobs. The easiest way to measure the damage of the crisis from country to country is to review the employment losses of countries. According to the European Statistics Office Eurostat's data, the EU's growth rate before the crisis, in 2007, was 3.2 percent. It was rolled back to 0.4 percent first in 2008 when the crisis erupted, but hit the bottom in 2009 when it experienced the biggest shrinkage in its history, dropping 4.5 percent. Following this shrinkage, in 2010 and in 2011, some relative recoveries were experienced. However, in 2012 the union again experienced a negative growth rate of 0.2 percent. In 2013, a recovery of 0.1 percent was recorded from there. The expectations for 2014 were not pleasant either.

While six years have passed since the global crisis, economic troubles varied from one country to the other. Mediterranean countries, which had difficulty in harmonizing with the transfer to the joint currency, the euro, after 2000, were hit the most by the crisis. Greece experienced the heaviest blow while Spain, Portugal and Italy also received heavy blows.

While Germany suffered minor scars because of its export capacity and its current account surplus, the U.K. was fiercely shaken by the crisis but is trying to recover rapidly. In Europe, the most direct impact of the crisis is on employment. Before the crisis reached its peak, in the last quarter of 2008, the total number of employed in the EU was 219 million. In the second quarter of 2014, however, this number dropped to 214 million, meaning that roughly 5 million people lost their jobs in the global crisis.

No doubt, some of the 28 members experienced major losses in employment; some, though, were able to increase their employment rates. The total losses in the losing countries amounted to 8.9 million, while the winners created around 3.9 million jobs, giving a balance of around 5 million fewer jobs. Spain led those that lost the most. Its economy has shrunk four times in five years since 2009; while it had 20.5 million employed at the end of 2008, this figure dropped to 17.2 million at the second quarter of 2014; the loss is an unbelievable 3.2 million. In other words, 3.2 million people lost their jobs in Spain. When the global crisis came, 4.5 million people were working in Greece. Almost 30 in 100 people lost their jobs in the crisis, and employment went down 1 million to 3.5 million. In Italy where the crisis also hit heavily, the loss in total employment – which was 23 million – fell 1.2 million. Portugal, meanwhile, suffered 560,000 job losses during the crisis.

While Romania, the Netherlands and Bulgaria constitute the other major countries that experienced losses in employment, Iceland, southern Cyprus, Croatia, Estonia and Slovakia were countries that survived the crisis with small scars. The 11 European countries which increased their employment rather than experiencing losses created 3.9 million jobs, ultimately giving employment to around 110 million. Germany led this group while distinguishing itself markedly from other countries.

This country, after going through a deep shrinkage in 2009 amounting to 5 percent, started hovering at growth rates of 4 and 3 percent in subsequent years. Its growth in the following years followed a horizontal course. In Germany, the number employed in the last quarter of 2008 was 37.5 million. This figure was 39.6 million in mid-2014. This means an increase of nearly 2.1 million in employment during the crisis years. Following Germany, it was the U.K. that increased its employment with 734,000 jobs. Also Hungary, Switzerland, Belgium, Austria and Sweden were able to increase their employment rates.

In contrast with the countries in Europe which lost a net 5 million jobs during the global crisis years, EU candidate country Turkey presented a very different profile in terms of employment. During the period in question, Turkey increased its agricultural employment by 1.2 million and its non-agricultural employment by 3.4 million. Even though its non-agricultural employment decreased during the 2009 crisis, it rapidly increased in the subsequent two years. With annual growth of approximately 9 percent in 2010 and 2011, the number of non-agricultural employed neared 18 million.

Despite the growth rate of 2 percent in 2012 and 4 percent in 2013, it was interesting that the rapid increase of employment continued. As of mid-2014, total employment has reached 26.5 million. While almost 6 million of these jobs are in the agricultural sector, 20.5 million are non-agricultural. Nonetheless, Turkey's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in July 2014 was 10.4 percent; its non-agricultural unemployment rate is 12.5 percent, meaning its unemployment figure has exceeded 3 million. Also, the quality of the employment that seems to have been created in Turkey should be taken into consideration. Even though numerous non-agricultural jobs seem to have been created, their low-paying and low-skilled nature are conspicuous.

# Turkish Central Bank holds rate on inflation concerns

Agence France-Presse, 23.10.2014



Turkey's Central Bank left interest rates unchanged, saying it would not loosen monetary policy until there is a significant improvement in the inflation outlook. The Bank said that the one-week repurchase rate would remain at 8.25 percent, the marginal funding rate at 11.25 percent and the overnight borrowing rate at 7.50 percent.

“Inflation expectations ... will be closely monitored and the tight monetary policy stance will be maintained until there is a significant improvement in the inflation outlook,” it stated. It has been under pressure from the government and the President to bring interest rates down to sustain growth.

In January, the Bank had aggressively raised key rates to halt a steep drop in the value of the the lira. Although it has been shaving them since then, the Bank has repeatedly said that it would not loosen its monetary policy until the inflation rate comes down. Turkey's annual inflation slowed to 8.86 percent in September - still higher than the Central Bank's year-end target of 7.6 percent. The Turkish economy has recently taken a blow due to the chaos in neighbors Syria and Iraq where Islamic militants have seized swathes of territory, as well as a pullback in liquidity by major central banks such as the U.S. Federal Reserve. Earlier this month Turkey lowered its economic growth forecast for 2014 from four percent to 3.3 percent, blaming tensions in the Middle East. Growth slowed sharply to 2.1 percent growth in the second quarter, squeezed by the rate rises to defend the Turkish Lira, official data showed last month.

# U.S. airdrops give much needed aid in Kobani, but did ISIS get some?

CNN, 22.10.2014



In the besieged Syrian city of Kobani, precious medicine rains from the sky. Antibiotics, anesthetics, sanitary supplies and bandages all desperately needed to treat local fighters and civilians wounded during the siege of this crucial town near the Turkish border.

Airplanes from the United States are continuously dropping medical supplies and weapons into this Kurdish city as defenders try to beat back the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, or ISIS. Not long ago, Kobani's fall to ISIS seemed certain. But foreign airstrikes and airdropped supplies could help turn the tide.

"We thank the people who brought these medical supplies," said Dr. Walat Omar, who has been braving enemy artillery for weeks to treat the wounded at a makeshift clinic. In exclusive video obtained by CNN from inside Kobani, Omar showed boxes of medicine in his clinic received from the airdrops. Even though local defenders control some 70% of the city, Kobani is cut off, and ISIS forces have been shelling it with mortars from the east and south, local government official Anwar Muslim said this week. More than 100,000 refugees have fled to Turkey amid weeks of intense fighting by Kurdish forces for full control of Kobani, a border town that's one of the last in the region to resist falling to ISIS. But some of the supplies may have landed in the hands of ISIS. One of the 28 bundles dropped in and around Kobani on Monday drifted away from its target zone, a U.S. official said. The U.S. military said it went back and blasted it. But a video posted on social media shows what appears to be an ISIS fighter next to a parachute bundle.

He goes on to show what appears to be the contents of the bundle, including crates of hand grenades and mortar rounds. CNN cannot independently confirm whether the items in the video are from a U.S. airdrop. Fighting in Kobani continued Wednesday, with six Kurdish defenders killed and the bodies of 10 ISIS fighters recovered, a Kurdish fighter there said. Mortars fired from the city's east presumably by ISIS hit the city center, the fighter said. As Kurdish fighters keep battling ISIS in Syria, the militant group continues its offensive in Iraq. The Iraqi military and tribal forces tried to repel an attack on Amriyat al Falluja on Wednesday, said Anbar province Deputy Gov. Faleh al-Essawi. Amriyat al Falluja is about 30 kilometers (19 miles) south of Falluja. At least six suicide bombings and more than 70 mortar attacks targeting government forces were counted Wednesday, al-Essawi said. He said there are casualties on both sides, but the numbers were not immediately known.

# EU leaders seriously concerned at Greek Cyprus, Turkey tensions

Agence France-Presse, 23.10.2014



European Union leaders will call on Turkey to respect Greek Cyprus's sovereign rights, expressing "serious concern" at fresh tensions between the two countries over oil and gas exploration, a draft summit document showed Oct. 23.

The statement comes after Greek Cyprus slammed Turkey for sending a survey vessel into an area where the Cypriot government had already licensed exploratory drilling for oil and gas."The European Council expressed serious concern about the renewed tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean. It called on Turkey to respect Cyprus' sovereign rights," said the statement prepared for the 28 EU leaders meeting.

Ankara has made clear repeatedly it will not accept Greek Cypriot government development of offshore energy resources until the division of the island is resolved. Greek Cyprus earlier this month suspended its participation in U.N.-led peace talks, citing the dispute with Turkey over development of energy resources in the eastern Mediterranean. Greek Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades would have met Turkish Cypriot counterpart Dervis Eroglu if the talks had gone ahead. Anastasiades, 68, arrived in Brussels to attend the EU summit but was briefly hospitalised with high blood pressure early Oct. 23. Advised to rest, he asked Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras to represent him at the meeting, the Cypriot government said. In response to Ankara's action, Greek Cyprus has also made clear it will block any new talks with Turkey on its EU membership bid.



# Announcements & Reports

## ► *Turkey-Tunisia relations on the eve of elections in Tunisia*

**Source** : ORSAM

**Weblink** : [http://www.orsam.org.tr/en/enUploads/Article/Files/20141021\\_192raporing.pdf](http://www.orsam.org.tr/en/enUploads/Article/Files/20141021_192raporing.pdf)

## ► *Turkey-EU relations in the light of the 2014 progress report: same old song with a different meaning*

**Source** : TEPAV

**Weblink** : [http://www.tepav.org.tr/upload/files/1413838752-0.Turkey\\_EU\\_Relations\\_in\\_the\\_Light\\_of\\_the\\_2014\\_Progress\\_Report.pdf](http://www.tepav.org.tr/upload/files/1413838752-0.Turkey_EU_Relations_in_the_Light_of_the_2014_Progress_Report.pdf)

## ► *“Digital government” roundtable*

**Source** : Accenture Global

**Weblink** : <http://www.accenture.com/SiteCollectionDocuments/PDF/Accenture-Government-Digital-Disruptor.pdf>

## ► *Resolving capital project disputes: adopting a business case approach*

**Source** : PwC

**Weblink** : [http://www.pwc.com/en\\_GX/gx/capital-projects-infrastructure/publications/assets/pdfs/pwc-resolving-capital-project-disputes.pdf](http://www.pwc.com/en_GX/gx/capital-projects-infrastructure/publications/assets/pdfs/pwc-resolving-capital-project-disputes.pdf)

## ► *Building growth in Europe innovative financing for infrastructure*

**Source** : Chatham House

**Weblink** : [http://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/files/chathamhouse/field/field\\_document/20140930EuropeFinancingInfrastructureSubacchiPickfordTentoriHuang.pdf](http://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/files/chathamhouse/field/field_document/20140930EuropeFinancingInfrastructureSubacchiPickfordTentoriHuang.pdf)

## ► *U.S. department of defense contract spending and the industrial base, 2000–2013*

**Source** : CSIS

**Weblink** : [http://csis.org/files/publication/140929\\_Ellman\\_DefenseContractSpending2013\\_Web.pdf](http://csis.org/files/publication/140929_Ellman_DefenseContractSpending2013_Web.pdf)

## ► *An annual report on wider Atlantic perspectives and patterns*

**Source** : GMF

**Weblink** : [http://www.gmfus.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/files\\_mf/1413562246AtlanticCurrents\\_Oct14\\_web.pdf](http://www.gmfus.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/files_mf/1413562246AtlanticCurrents_Oct14_web.pdf)



# Upcoming Events

## ► *The Middle East Crisis and Sino-U.S. Relations*

**Date** : 27 October 2014  
**Place** : Beijing - China  
**Website** : <http://www.brookings.edu/events/2014/10/27-middle-east-sino-us>

## ► *Syria and Iraq: the Future Prospects of Jihadism*

**Date** : 29 October 2014  
**Place** : Doha – Qatar  
**Website** : <http://www.brookings.edu/events/2014/10/29-syria-iraq-jihadism>

## ► *Ukraine Update: Elections, Conflict and the Future of the EU's Eastern Partnership*

**Date** : 29 October 2014  
**Place** : Washington – USA  
**Website** : <http://www.brookings.edu/events/2014/10/29-ukraine-elections-conflict-eastern-partnership>

## ► *The Comprehensive Assessment, the ECBs' New Role and Limits of a Common Supervision in the EU*

**Date** : 30 October 2014  
**Place** : Berlin – Germany  
**Website** : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/461-the-comprehensive-assessment-the-ecbs-new-role-and-limits-of-a-common-supervision-in-the-eu/>

## ► *Unbundling Mexico's Telecommunications Sector: Reform, Investment and Digital Democracy*

**Date** : 10 November 2014  
**Place** : Houston – CUSA  
**Website** : <http://bakerinstitute.org/events/1672/>

## ► *The New EU Political Cycle: Addressing the Growth Agenda*

**Date** : 12 – 13 November 2014  
**Place** : Bratislava – Slovakia  
**Website** : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/464-the-new-eu-political-cycle-addressing-the-growth-agenda/>



► *Food Security: Mapping Risks, Building Resilience*

**Date** : 01 – 02 December 2014  
**Place** : London – United Kingdom  
**Website** : <http://www.chathamhouse.org/foodsecurity2014>

► *11th Asia Europe Economic Forum*

**Date** : 05 December 2014  
**Place** : Tokyo – Japan  
**Website** : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/view/460/>

► *18th Middle East Iron and Steel Conference*

**Date** : 08 December 2014  
**Place** : Dubai – United Arab Emirates  
**Website** : <http://www.woodmac.com/public/events>

► *Security and Defense*

**Date** : 23 February 2015  
**Place** : London – United Kingdom  
**Website** : <http://www.chathamhouse.org/Defence2015>

► *Diversifying MENA Economies*

**Date** : 02 - 03 March 2015  
**Place** : London – United Kingdom  
**Website** : <http://www.chathamhouse.org/conferences/MENA-Economies>