

GIFGRF
GLOBAL İLİŞKİLER FORUMU GLOBAL RELATIONS FORUM

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GIFGRF

GLOBAL İLİŞKİLER FORUMU GLOBAL RELATIONS FORUM



2009-2010

“In today’s globalized and thus interdependent world, there’s an urgent individual, social and political need for a mechanism which not only synthesizes the constant flow and resulting cacophony of news, information and different voices, but also draws and disseminates solid frameworks that can shed light on policy choices. Global Relations Forum is our answer to this need.”

Muhsin Mengütürk

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About GRF

“From the outset, GRF has been deliberate and thorough in each and every step of its formative period. Above all, it has focused carefully on its membership profile to ensure a shared desire for consensus. It has been successful at projecting a constructive outlook on global matters and has hosted distinguished Turkish and international leaders. Its work has been marked by a commitment to pragmatism free of ideology. It is determined to take a leading part in Turkey’s further integration with the rest of the world and to the development of sensible policies.”

İlter Türkmen

Global Relations Forum (GRF) is an independent, non-profit membership association committed to being a platform for engaging, informing and stimulating its members and all interested individuals in matters related to international affairs and global issues.

In pursuing its mission, GRF seeks to:

- advance a culture that rewards the creative synthesis of intellectual diversity and the fertile tension of competing ideas.
- contribute to the shared understanding of and aspiration for humanity’s path to peace, prosperity and progress as an accessible, inclusive and fair process for all.
- nurture uninhibited curiosity, analytic inquiry, rational debate, constructive demeanor and objective synthesis as the core constituents in all its endeavors.

GRF works towards its goals in a variety of ways: by sponsoring Task Forces and policy reports; by convening meetings with prominent global leaders; by organizing Roundtables with experts; by fostering lasting cooperation with global counterparts and by organizing activities aimed at engaging young people in the global agenda.

Its website, www.gif.org.tr, is a vibrant forum that supplements all its initiatives.



History

The idea for GRF was conceived in May 2008 by a small group of business leaders, diplomats and scholars to solidify Turkey’s reasoned ownership of the global agenda and to bolster its determination to advance global cooperation.

A broader group of leaders convened on January 23, 2009 to discuss the objectives, the instruments and the underlying values of the new institution. At the end of a long and lively debate, the distinguished attendees came to a unanimous agreement on GRF’s by-laws.

GRF was officially founded on May 11, 2009. The 40 Founding Members are all accomplished Turkish men and women who have assumed leadership roles in international fora and have received international recognition for their efforts throughout their careers. They include a former speaker of the Turkish National Assembly, ministers, university presidents, leaders of the armed forces, a Central Bank governor, an ECHR justice and retired ambassadors as well as prominent business leaders, lawyers, scholars, artists, and journalists.

GRF moved to its current premises and commenced its activities in September 2009. Its inaugural lecture was delivered by the President of the

Republic of Turkey, H.E. Abdullah Gül.

Distinguished new members joined GRF, bringing its membership to 80 by the end of its first year.

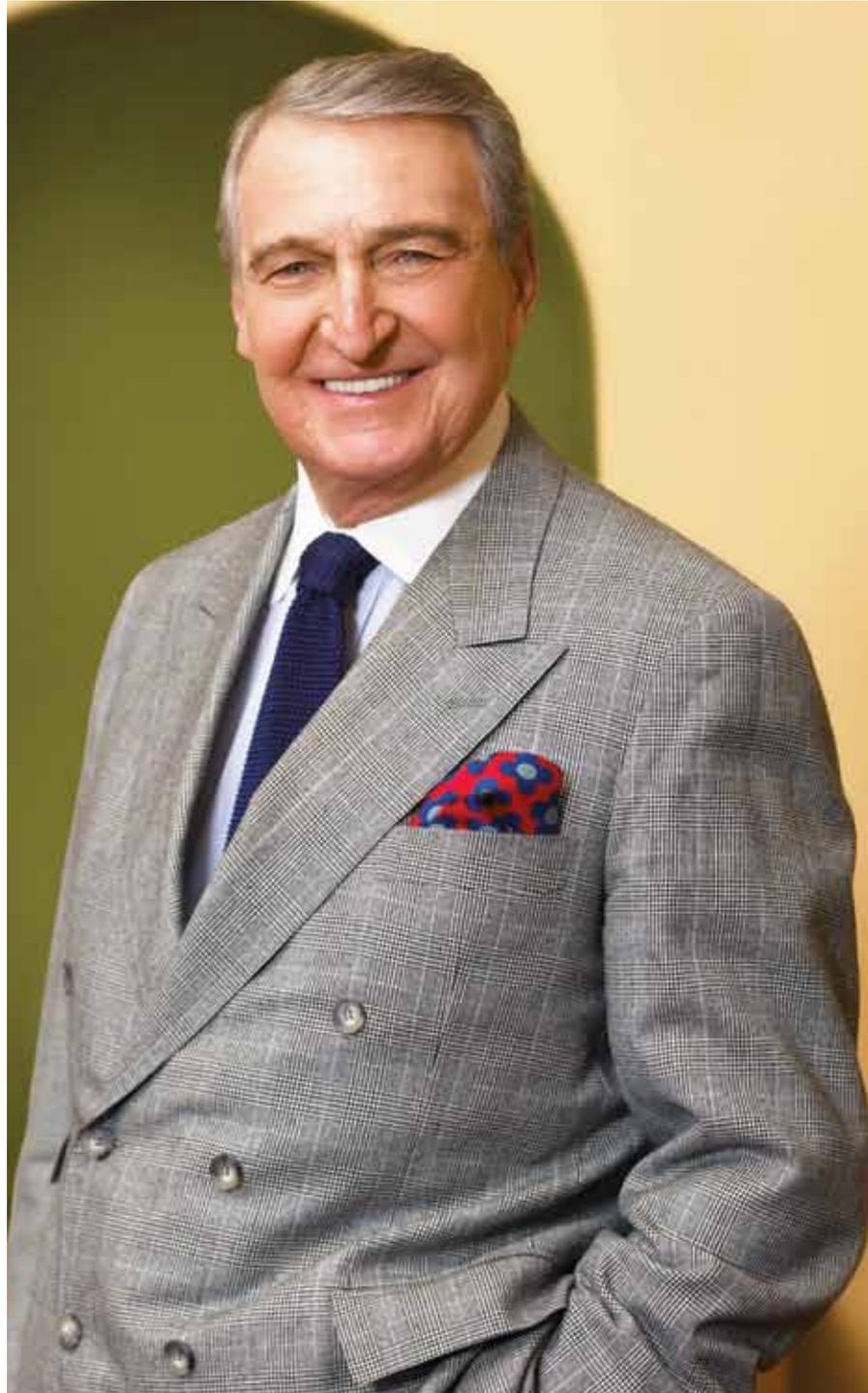
GRF has become a lively venue, convening its members and guests in Task Forces, Roundtables and Distinguished Lecture Series. It has hosted political, academic and business leaders from around the world.

At the end of its first year, GRF has firmly embarked on the path towards becoming an informed and distinguished counterpart in the global debate.



The founding by-laws with 40 prominent signatures is a document of vision, conviction and balanced optimism.

**Message from
the Founding
Chairman**



I have been serving on the International Advisory Board of The Council on Foreign Relations for almost 12 years.

Through their meetings I have observed that as globalization makes the world more accessible, the foreign policies of nations become more important. Foreign policy affects domestic policy and this, in turn, affects the economy.

States should form both medium and long-term foreign policies and attention should be paid to fine nuances. When formulating these policies, the dynamics of large states with powerful economies should be taken into account and, while protecting bilateral interests with neighboring countries, regional developments should also be considered.

After the break up of the Russian-led communist bloc, American foreign policy began to play a more important global role. I was able to personally observe the benefits of a completely impartial institution such as the Council on Foreign Relations, which made recommendations to governments regarding foreign policy, produced publications, and organized meetings, talks and seminars.

The nuclei of institutions like this had been formed before in Turkey but none had reached the level I had

envisioned. Therefore, a group of like-minded individuals convened, and we decided to establish an institution that we believed would be of short, medium and long-term benefit to our country.

We set up Global Relations Forum with members from a wide range of professions and walks of life. We are working deliberately and systematically to make this an institution that is held in esteem both at home and abroad.

Before founding GRF, we discussed the matter with the President of Turkey, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, the Minister of State for the Economy and Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Ali Babacan, the Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator, Mr. Egemen Bağış, and the Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. Zafer Çağlayan, and gained their approval.

We are now one year old. The last year has flown by. We have made more progress and gained more prestige than we could have ever envisaged.

I would like to thank both our Board and Members, and our President Memduh Karakullukçu and staff for their generous support and dedication, and I wish GRF continued success.

Rahmi M. KOÇ

We are working deliberately and systematically to make GRF an institution that is held in esteem both at home and abroad.

President's Message



Unveiling and introducing a new institution is an extraordinary and humbling privilege. An institutional *tabula rasa* almost always tempts a grand vision. Fortunately, the prospect of being judged by the inescapably more informed “future” tempers the imagination.

The past few years may well be remembered as the beginning of the shift from a narrowly managed global system to a broadening influence of a wider range of nations. The fear is that shared influence will lead to harmful rivalry. The hope is it will guide the world to shared responsibility. The outcome is likely to shape global politics and human progress for decades to come.

In this context, GRF’s objectives and values reflect a clear preference for shared and coordinated international responsibility. GRF directs its resources to pave the way for Turkey to become an engaged stakeholder and actor in the global agenda. It addresses global challenges in its policy work, establishes channels of cooperation with responsible global counterparts, disseminates information on global issues and motivates the next generation to become active global players rather than observers.

This young institution will undoubtedly evolve in myriad, unexpected ways. However, its evolution will always be shaped by its distinct set of core values: intellectual curiosity, disciplined inquiry, persistence, integrity, courtesy, respect for diversity and above all a firm belief in human agency.

Looking at the *tabula rasa* in front of us, I venture to predict that the establishment of GRF by a group of distinguished Turkish leaders in 2009 will come to be perceived as a timely and wise response to the global *zeitgeist*.

Their vision will guide GRF to advocate a global order of shared influence and accountability, seek a constructive role for Turkey in that order, and pursue its goals within the contours of a lasting set of core values embodied by an extraordinary group of people.

My hope is that GRF’s first year will be the initial step of a long and accomplished journey.

Memduh KARAKULLUKÇU

The vision of its members will guide GRF to advocate a global order of shared influence and accountability, seek a constructive role for Turkey in that order, and pursue its goals within the contours of a lasting set of core values embodied by an extraordinary group of people.

Governance

BOARD MEMBERS

Rahmi M. Koç – Chairman
Memduh Karakullukçu – Vice Chairman and President
Hanzade Doğan Boyner – Vice Chairwoman
Lucien Arkas
Aslı Başgöz
Hasan Çolakoğlu
Salim Dervişoğlu
Suzan Sabancı Dinçer
Ali Doğramacı
Metin Fadilloğlu
Sönmez Köksal
Gülsün Sağlamer
Özdem Sanberk
Ferit Şahenk
İlter Türkmen

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Eşref Cerrahoğlu
Hayati Kamhi
Zekeriya Yıldırım

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Canan Ediboğlu
Memduh Karakullukçu
Gülsün Sağlamer
Özdem Sanberk
Zekeriya Yıldırım – Auditor

STUDIES COMMISSION MEMBERS

Aslı Başgöz
Salim Dervişoğlu
Suzan Sabancı Dinçer
Ali Doğramacı
Metin Fadilloğlu
Memduh Karakullukçu
Sönmez Köksal
Muhsin Mengütürk
Gülsün Sağlamer
Özdem Sanberk
İlter Türkmen

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Piraye Antika
Hanzade Doğan Boyner
Ali Doğramacı
Tarhan Erdem
Sönmez Köksal
Muhsin Mengütürk

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Maxine İmer – Administrative Coordinator
Nigar Ağaoğulları – Program Director
Gözde Küçük – Program Director

Objectives

- Platform for Consultation
- Global Counterpart
- Forum for Dissemination of Ideas
- Magnet for Aspiring Young Leaders

Platform for Consultation

- Platform for non-partisan, independent consultation and deliberation
- Members who share a set of core values and reflect a diversity of ideas that resonate with different constituencies

- A culture of deliberation that crosses professional, political, ideological faultlines
- Policy reports that synthesize global and international issues

GRF Task Forces

GRF Task Forces are independent commissions that bring together accomplished individuals to deliberate and reach a consensus regarding complex global issues. Task Forces strive to make balanced judgements on matters that involve medium to long-term uncertainty to help clarify and guide the discussion on matters of public interest. Task Forces propose clear strategies and policy recommendations in light of these assessments. Each Task Force member may add his/her additional or dissenting view to the findings and recommendations of the commission.

The number of Task Force members is determined per need with a target range of 10-15 to balance diversity with substantive exchange of ideas. Two co-chairs and the director are responsible for managing the Task Force process as well as for crafting the synthesis of individual ideas. The content of resulting reports represents only the opinions of the Task Force members.

GRF launched two Task Forces, "Energy and Climate Change" and "Turkey-USA Relations", during the 2009-2010 period.

Turkey-USA Relations Task Force

GRF Task Force on Turkey-USA Relations was launched with the purpose of assessing the dynamics that shape the two countries' foreign policies and relations with each other as well as offering foresight and policy recommendations based on these dynamics. The Task Force group convened for the first time on December 10, 2009, and aims to produce a consensus policy paper in early 2011. The Task Force is comprised of the following invited members:

Co-Chairs:

Yavuz Canevi, Chairman, Türk Ekonomi Bankası

Fusun Türkmén, Associate Professor of International Relations, Galatasaray University

Members:

Aslı Başgöz, Partner and Global Executive Committee Member of White and Case LLP

Edip Başer, General (R), Former Deputy Chief of the Turkish General Staff

Hanzade Doğan Boyner, Chairwoman, Petrol Ofisi A.Ş., Doğan Gazetecilik



Gökhan Çetinsaya, Professor of International Relations, Rector of Istanbul Şehir University
Memduh Karakullukçu, GRF Vice-Chairman and President
Umran İnan, Professor of Electrical Engineering, Rector of Koç University
Sami Kohen, Journalist, Writer
Sönmez Köksal, Ambassador (R), Former Undersecretary of State in charge of Turkish National Intelligence Organization
Özdem Sanberk, Ambassador (R), Former Undersecretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Task Force Coordinator: Gözde Küçük

The list of distinguished guests who contributed to the Task Force is as follows:

Prof. Lenore Martin, Emmanuel College, Harvard University

Dr. Bülent Alınza, Center for Strategic and International Relations (CSIS)

Prof. Stephen Walt, Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government

Mustafa Özbey, Rear Admiral (R)

Selim Yenel, Ambassador, Deputy Undersecretary at the Turkish Foreign Ministry

Dr. Sharon Wiener, US Consul General in Istanbul (August 2007-July 2010)

Sedat Ergin, Columnist at Hürriyet Newspaper

Energy and Climate Change Task Force

GRF Task Force on Energy and Climate Change was launched to make comprehensive, systematic and dynamic assessments and recommendations on a policy area which has strategic importance for Turkey in terms of international politics, economics and national security.

The first meeting of the Energy and Climate Change Task Force was held on December 9, 2009. During the 11 meetings which were held throughout the year, in-depth presentations on “Energy and Climate Change” were given by the Task Force members as well as outside specialists. The Task Force aims to produce a consensus policy paper in early 2011. The Task Force is comprised of the following invited members:

Co-Chairs:

Fatih Birol, Chief Economist, International Energy Agency (IEA)



Gülsün Sağlamer, Professor of Architecture, Former Rector of Istanbul Technical University (İTÜ)

Members:

Salim Dervişoğlu, Admiral (R), Former Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces

Canan Ediboğlu, Economist, Former General Manager of Shell Turkey

Mehmet Karaca, Professor of Geology, Vice-Rector of Istanbul Technical University (İTÜ)

Memduh Karakullukçu, GRF Vice-Chairman and President

Sönmez Köksal, Ambassador (R), Former Undersecretary of State in charge of Turkish National Intelligence Organization

C. Tanıl Küçük, Chairman, Istanbul Chamber of Industry

Erol Memioğlu, President of the Energy Group, Koç Holding A.Ş.

Muhsin Mengütürk, Board Member, Doğuş Holding

İlhan Or, Professor of Industrial Engineering at Boğaziçi University

Ayşe Yasemin Örucü, Energy and Climate Change Specialist, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources

Mustafa Tırıs, Director of the Energy Institute at Marmara Research Center of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK MAM)

Volkan Vural, Ambassador (R), Advisor to Chairman, Doğan Holding

Task Force Coordinator:

Nigar Ağaoğulları

The list of distinguished guests who contributed to the Task Force is as follows:

Budak Dilli, General Director of Energy Affairs (R), Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources - “Energy, Climate Change and Turkey”

Hakkı Akil, Ambassador, Deputy Undersecretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs - “Energy Diplomacy: Today and Tomorrow”

Nurşen Numanoğlu, Deputy Secretary General for EU Affairs - “The Impact of the EU Process on Energy and Climate Change Policies”

Luis Echavarri, Director-General, OECD Nuclear Energy Agency - “Nuclear Energy: Status and Trends”

Prof. Dr. Cem Soruşbay, Professor at Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Istanbul Technical University (İTÜ) - “Energy Efficiency in Transportation Sector”

Prof. Dr. Mete Şen, Professor at Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Istanbul Technical University (İTÜ) - “Efficiency in Power Plants”

Dr. Selahaddin Anaç, General Director and Chairman of Turkish Coal Institution (TKİ) - “Coal Policies in Turkey and Clean Coal Technologies”

Prof. Dr. Zerrin Yılmaz, Professor at Faculty of Architecture, Istanbul Technical University (İTÜ) - “Energy Efficiency in Buildings”

Kausar Qazilbash, Managing Director, Accenture’s Smart Grid Services Business for the European Region; **Hakan Irgit**, Accenture Turkey Energy Practice Country Lead - “Smart-Grid/Interconnectivity”

Prof. Dr. Sermin Onaygil, Head of Energy Planning and Management Division at Istanbul Technical University (İTÜ) Energy Institute - “Energy Efficiency in Industry”

Erdal Çalikoğlu, Deputy General Manager, General Directorate of Electrical Power Resources Survey and Development Administration (EİE) - “Energy Efficiency in Turkey”

Gökmen Topuz, Deputy General Manager, Zorlu Energy Investments - “Development of Energy Sector in Turkey and Renewable Energy Potential”



Distinguished Guest Speakers

GRF invites prominent global leaders to discuss the key issues of our time. During our first year, we had the honour of welcoming several distinguished speakers.



H.E. Abdullah Gül
President of the Republic of Turkey

“Turkey’s View of the Evolution of the Institutional and Political Structure of the European Union ”

“Given today’s global circumstances, it is clear that limiting the concept of Europeaness to a narrow geography, a specific belief or culture is not possible. Instead of focusing on past conflicts and problems or trying to construct new and artificial fault lines, it is necessary for us to think about a common future and vision and look forward in unity.”



H.E. Süleyman Demirel
Former President of the Republic of Turkey

“Emerging Dynamics of the Globalized World and Turkey in the 21st Century”

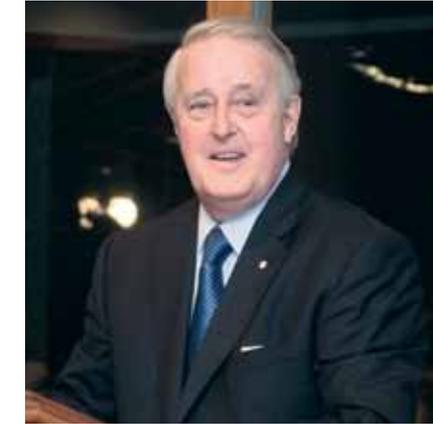
“The biggest challenge facing globalization is the elimination of poverty. It is impossible to maintain world peace if countries overlook the fight against poverty. A world which fails to defeat poverty and ignorance will inevitably face terrorism.”



Peter Sutherland
Chairman of Goldman Sachs International and Former Director-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)

“Diverse Perspectives on the Social and Political Structure of the EU”

“I am a very committed European integrationist. I believe in a federal Europe. I believe that the movement towards European integration has been the most marvelous political step taken in the history of this continent, which has been at the cockpit of conflict for so long.”



The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney
Former Prime Minister of Canada

“Canada and Turkey: Common Interests and Goals”

“The G-20 needs to fortify public trust in international governance, especially in financial governance. The values that are central to our shared democratic, political systems and to our market economies are being tested as seldom before.”

“I sincerely believe that merging the powers of Turkey and the European Union will not only serve the common interests of both parties but will also create a dynamic synergy that will serve regional and global peace and stability.”

Abdullah Gül

“Europe is not just about a market. Europe, in my view, has a soul. And it’s a soul that we all share based on the rights of men and women, and defended by our societies individually and connectedly to the European Union.”

Peter Sutherland

“Countries like Canada and Turkey which enjoy the benefits of freedom should never underestimate its intrinsic advantage. Freedom, after all, is the inspiration for innovation and innovation is the key to progress.”

Brian Mulroney

Roundtable Meetings

Roundtable meetings provide a platform for GRF members to engage in discussions led by experts in specific fields regarding international relations or global issues.

During GRF's first year, Roundtable topics comprised:

“Russian Energy Politics and Their Implications for Turkey”

Mr. Robert W. Hand

US Army Lieutenant Colonel (R);
Lecturer at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany

“Turkey – Transition to a Nuclear State?”

Mr. Sinan Ülgen

President of the Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM)

“Uninhibited, Robust, and Wide-Open: A Free Press for a New Century”

Mr. Lee C. Bollinger

President of Columbia University

“Turkish-American Alliance in an Obama Era: Potential Fault Lines and How to Avoid Them”

Ms. Aslı Aydıntaşbaş

Columnist at Milliyet Newspaper

“Climate Solutions 2050”

Mr. Akın Öngör

Chairman of WWF Turkey

“Turkey, USA and the Middle East”

Dr. Steven A. Cook

Council on Foreign Relations Hasib J. Sabbagh Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern Studies

“Transatlantic Approach to the Mediterranean”

Dr. Ian O. Lesser

The German Marshall Fund of the United States Senior Transatlantic Fellow

“I do think the Mediterranean is one of the areas where there is likely to be a key test in the future of US-European, and I would even include Turkish relations, because even if it's not labeled Mediterranean cooperation, the issues where we are going to be called upon to cooperate will be to the south of Europe.”

Ian O. Lesser



Lee C. Bollinger



Sinan Ülgen



Ian O. Lesser



“We are in an era in which we need explorers because the world is much more present, much more interdependent and yet we don't have an academic agenda that is fully aligned with that new world.”

Lee C. Bollinger

Aslı Aydintaşbaş



Lee C. Bollinger



Akın Öngör



“I am very worried and alarmed by any society that claims to be democratic and open, that it must restrict free speech in order to stop internal friction and clashes. I am suspicious of it, I am worried about it, I am alarmed by the arguments. It is partly because people seriously underestimate the degree to which people can very quickly develop the culture of open discussion and engagement or at least that’s better than putting discussion on hold until people can get to another point.”

Lee C. Bollinger

Council of Ideas

Council of Ideas is a recent GRF initiative that serves as a platform where a thought-provoking thesis put forth by a leading GRF member is thoroughly discussed.

The first Council of Ideas meeting took place on May 17, 2009 under the title “Policy of Zero Problems with Neighbors: A Fresh Strategy” with the participation of two distinguished guest speakers, Ambassador İlder Türkmen (GRF Board Member,

Minister of Foreign Affairs (F) and Mr. Semih İdiz (Columnist at Milliyet Newspaper).

The discussion was based on a report Ambassador Türkmen prepared for BİLGESAM on Turkey’s policies in the Middle East in which he argues that the current “Zero Problems Policy” with its neighbors has been a policy of the Turkish Republic since its inception.



Global Counterpart

- Measured, steady, deliberative institutional interface between global concerns and priorities of Turkey

- Responsible and informed counterpart for global actors and stakeholders focused on and concerned about the global agenda

International Dialogue



01



02

GRF exchanged ideas with the following individuals and institutions:

01 Visit by the British Ambassador H.E. David Reddaway and Consul General Jessica Hand

02 Visit by the Founder and Chair of the Synergos Institute, Peggy Dulany

03 Visit by the President of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, Craig Kennedy and the Director of the GMF Ankara Office, Özgür Ünlühisarcıklı

04 Visit by the US Ambassador H.E. James F. Jeffrey and Consul General Sharon A. Wiener



03



04



05



06



07

05 Meeting with the President of the Brookings Institution, Strobe Talbott

06 Visit by US Air War College

07 Visit by the German Ambassador H.E. Erckart Cuntz and Consul General Mrs. Brita Wagener

Visit by the Ambassador H.E. Jae-Hyun Bae of the Republic of Korea

Meeting with ICC Chairman Victor Fung and Managing Director of Li & Fung Group, William Fung

Visit by the Spanish Ambassador H.E. Joan Clos

Forum for Dissemination of Ideas

- Reliable source for high-caliber and diverse policy analysis in Turkey and around the world

- Forum for informing interested individuals on global issues and encouraging them to take part in shaping the global agenda

University Activities

With the purpose of creating a multi-dimensional debate environment, GRF offers a forum for the dissemination of quality analyses by leading global individuals and institutions on issues relevant to both Turkey and the world.

Last year, in co-operation with Koç University, GRF invited the President of the Council on Foreign Relations, Dr. Richard N. Haass, to deliver a lecture on “The Changing World Order”. The event was attended by GRF members and a large group of students from both Koç University and other universities.



“The history of the 21st century is not going to be a repeat of the 20th century, and certainly a lot of that history is not going to take place in Europe.”

Richard N. Haass



“The Evolving World Order”

“No single country has the capacity or the ability to substitute for the world or to impose its will on the world. So essentially we need to work collectively or work together well. But this can take various forms... This type of flexible multilateralism, I believe, will be the future, which is going to bring in new governments that are able and willing to participate in dealing with a particular problem.”

Richard N. Haass



GRF collaborates with two distinguished US institutions: the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and the Brookings Institution.

Translations of articles published by these institutions in periodicals and

on their websites are made available to the Turkish public on the GRF web site www.gif.org.tr.

The following articles were translated into Turkish last year:

COUNCIL on FOREIGN RELATIONS *Iran's Ballistic Missile Program*
Greg Bruno

FOREIGN AFFAIRS *From Hope to Audacity: Appraising Obama's Foreign Policy*
Zbigniew Brzezinski

FOREIGN AFFAIRS *And Justice for All: Enforcing Human Rights for the World's Poor*
Gary Haugen and Victor Boutros

FOREIGN AFFAIRS *Bigger is Better: The Case for a Transatlantic Economic Union*
Richard Rosecrance

FOREIGN AFFAIRS *Coping with China's Financial Power: Beijing's Financial Foreign Policy*
Ken Miller

FOREIGN AFFAIRS *India's Rise, America's Interest: The Fate of the US-Indian Partnership*
Evan A. Feigenbaum

BROOKINGS *Obama's New Nuclear Policy: A Step in the Right Direction*
Michael E. O'Hanlon

BROOKINGS *Three Keys to Understanding Japan's New Diplomacy*
Keiko Iizuka

BROOKINGS *US Alliances in East Asia: Internal Challenges and External Threats*
William Breer

BROOKINGS *Are Davos Man's Days Numbered?*
Raj M. Desai - James Raymond Vreeland

Cognizant that the language barrier is a two-way obstacle in accessing reliable sources of information on global issues, GRF publishes articles and commentaries by its members together with their translations on its website.

The following articles were translated into English last year:



• *The Search for a Solution in the "Opening Up" Process*

Sönmez Köksal, Ambassador (R), Former Undersecretary of State in charge of Turkish National Intelligence Organization



• *The Vicious Cycle and Utopias*
• *Which Europe? The Future of the EU*

Özdem Sanberk, Ambassador (R), Former Undersecretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In order to raise awareness about the content of gif.org.tr and to pave the way for constructive discussion, GRF is taking an active role in social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.



Magnet for Aspiring Young Leaders

- Institutional culture that attracts accomplished, motivated and committed young individuals dedicated to addressing global challenges

- Platform bringing together young leaders and experienced members to debate the global challenges and viable policy alternatives

GRF Young Scholars Seminars

GRF Young Scholars Seminars aim to provide students with a platform where they can analyse and debate global issues freely, intelligently and constructively. Throughout the program, the students, selected from among full-time undergraduates and postgraduates at leading Turkish universities, are encouraged to acquire in-depth knowledge about specific issues, examine these issues from multiple perspectives and then develop an objective synthesis. The aim of the program is to instill and cultivate an understanding in the

participants of how differing opinions can exist harmoniously and blend productively, a premise fundamental to GRF.

The sessions in the program deal with issues of relevance to Turkey and to the world and are attended by GRF members as guest speakers. Students thus learn directly from people who have played and still play an active role in the shaping of international affairs and have the opportunity to interact with these leaders.



Looking Ahead

New Task Forces

The two new Task Forces will be: “The Legal Foundations of Turkey-EU Relations: Mutual Obligations and Practices” and “Towards 2030: Turkey’s Human Resources and Global Competitiveness”.

“The Legal Foundations of Turkey-EU Relations: Mutual Obligations and Practices”

The objective of this Task Force is to study the legal aspects of Turkey-EU relations. The Task Force is planned to set out the rights and responsibilities of both parties under the current bilateral framework, taking into consideration the developments in EU law pertaining to the issues covered within this framework. The effort aims to inform the public and the decision makers about a much neglected dimension of Turkey-EU relations.

“Towards 2030: Turkey’s Human Resources and Global Competitiveness”

The role of human resources to creating added value is rapidly gaining significance in global competitiveness.

The objective of this GRF Task Force is to define strategic priorities for Turkey in the light of its findings through the examination of:

- a) Global demographic, economic and political trends which will affect the human resources supply and demand in the world and;
- b) Policies adopted by different countries in the face of these trends.

The plan is to make a comparative assessment of the situation regarding global human resources and education, and to present solutions to the problems observed or foreseen. In brief, this Task Force aims to introduce a workable model for the developing of concepts and practices that are gaining importance in global competitiveness, such as flexibility, multidisciplinary, life-long learning, innovation and entrepreneurship.

GRF Young Scholars Abroad Seminar Program

GRF Young Scholars Abroad is a seminar program for a maximum of 20 students to be selected annually among Turkish undergraduates currently studying at leading universities around the world. The focus of the pilot program that will cover the 2010-11 period will be students from distinguished American universities such as Harvard, Princeton, Yale, MIT, Columbia, Brown, Georgetown, and Stanford, but the process will be open to all. The seminars will take place while the students are in Turkey for their winter and summer holidays.

GRF Young Scholars Abroad has been designed to provide students with a platform where they can come together to analyze and debate global and international issues freely, intelligently and constructively. The aim is to encourage students to develop an objective synthesis of

key global issues with long-term consequences after acquiring in-depth knowledge on the issues and examining them from various perspectives.

GRF Young Scholars Abroad aims to instil in young people an understanding where differing opinions can exist harmoniously and blend productively—a premise fundamental to GRF. The program aims to engage young people studying abroad in GRF’s deliberation and discussion processes and to nurture GRF ambassadors who in the future will be concerned with global affairs. With these goals in mind, the seminar program will provide its participants with the opportunity to listen to GRF members who have represented Turkey in international fora as politicians, ambassadors, academics, members of the armed forces, artists, journalists,

bureaucrats and as prominent leaders of law and business. Through GRF Young Scholars Abroad, GRF hopes to reach out to talented Turkish students overseas and familiarize them with its culture of debate and deliberation, thereby sowing the seeds of a fertile future of common action with tomorrow’s leaders.

Members

Vural Akışık
Leyla Alaton
Piraye Antika
Emre Aracı
Lucien Arkas
Elsie Vance Aşkar
Attila Aşkar
Pekin Baran
H. Edip Başer
Aslı Başgöz
Tayfun Bayazıt
Feyyaz Berker
Gülsün Bilgehan
Fatih Birol
Hanzade Doğan Boyner
Yılmaz Büyükerşen
Yavuz Canevi
Eşref Cerrahoğlu
Hikmet Çetin
Gökhan Çetinsaya
Hasan T. Çolakoğlu
Salim Dervişoğlu
Suzan Sabancı Dinçer
Ömer Dinçkök
Ali Doğramacı
O. Turgay Durak
Bülent Eczacıbaşı
Canan Ediboğlu
Tarhan Erdem
Metin Fadilloğlu
Nilüfer Göle
Emre Gönensay
Talat Halman
Rifat Hisarcıkıoğlu
Umran İnan
Cemal Kafadar
Hayati Kamhi
Memduh Karakullukçu
Hüsamettin Kavi
Muharrem Kayhan

Muhtar Kent
Üner Kırdar
Rahmi M. Koç
Sami Kohen
Cem Kozlu
Sönmez Köksal
Ayşe Kulin
C. Tanıl Küçük
Tuğrul Kudatgobilik
O. Faruk Loğoğlu
Murad Megalli
Erol Memioğlu
Muhsin Mengütürk
Emine Gürsoy Naskali
Gülru Necipoğlu
İlhan Or
İlber Ortaylı
Altan Öymen
H. Ersin Özince
Necmettin Pamir
Ümit Pamir
Süher Pekinel
Gülsün Sağlamer
Özdem Sanberk
Ferit Şahenk
İpek Cem Taha
Fusun Türkmen
İlter Türkmen
Rıza Türmen
Tomris Türmen
Akin Umur
Emine Uşaklıgil
Murat Ülker
Solmaz Ünaydın
Volkan Vural
Yaşar Yakış
Nur Yalman
Zekeriya Yıldırım
A. Rona Yırcalı
Erkut Yücaoğlu

In Memoriam

In fond memory of Ambassador SOLMAZ ÜNAYDIN, a most valuable and profoundly respected GRF founding member.

We would like to extend our sincere condolences to her loved ones as well as to the GRF family and the world of diplomacy.

Amb. Solmaz Ünaydın is here pictured at the GRF Anniversary Dinner on May 11, 2010.



GRF Members' Comments

“I was convinced from the beginning that Turkey had a lot to benefit from a global initiative like GRF. I am grateful for the ideas and vision shared with the members at GRF events.”

Süher Pekinel

“I believe that Global Relations Forum will play a very important role in promoting Turkey internationally and hope that its successful activities will continue in the years to come.”

Feyyaz Berker

“The two events that I was able to attend in the Forum's first year – talks on foreign policy by President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Abdullah Gül and Mr. Sutherland, Chairman of Goldman Sachs International – were impressive because of the depth of knowledge and distinct points of view that were brought to the table.”

Turgay Durak

“I congratulate GRF on completing its first year. I believe that the establishment of GRF is extremely important. If it can put forward ideas that give intellectual guidance on many of the problems we are facing, I believe it will be providing a great service to our country.”

Necmettin Pamir

“Our country is located in one of the world's most sensitive and volatile regions. The examination of our foreign relations in various contexts by the exceptional people who have established the Forum should be deemed as an extremely important task. Over the years, we have all witnessed the penetrating influence of organizations such as Council on Foreign Relations in New York and Chatham House in London. Our Forum has made a very good start. Its continuity is vital for our country. I congratulate those who have assumed a role in the Forum.”

Nur Yalman

“Through the unique symposia, conferences and discussions they organize with the participation of intellectuals from all over the world as well as from Turkey, Global Relations Forum serves as a platform for the dissemination of ideas. At a time when solutions are being sought for long-standing as well as newly emerging crises, Global Relations Forum makes a powerful contribution as an example of “international conscience” and as a source of creative recommendations. GRF has got off to an excellent start and promises to make an important contribution towards the understanding and solving of global problems.”

Talat Halman

“I think GRF has had a successful first year. My sincere thanks go to those who have contributed to this success. I believe that in the coming period, bearing in mind global developments, it will be appropriate for GRF to begin a dialogue with countries such as China, India, Russia and Brazil in addition to our dialogue with the West.”

Pekin Baran

“The progress GRF has made in just one year shows that in the future it will play an influential role in the evolution of Turkish foreign policies. I believe that the “Turkey-USA Relations” and “Energy and Climate Change” Task Force Reports will be important sources for all interested parties.”

Hanzade Doğan Boyner

“The idea of working together with our friends around the world and serving as a reliable counterpart for them while introducing different perspectives to global and international issues” was one of the keystones on which GRF based its work during the first year and has enabled us to make significant progress toward our objective.”

Metin Fadilloğlu

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We would like to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to our members and their organizations for their kind support.