



**Hermes Institute of  
International Affairs,  
Security & Geoeconomy**

## *SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE*

### *AT A GLANCE*



***SOUTHEAST EUROPE DIRECTORATE***

“SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE AT A GLANCE” is a weekly review of the most significant current political, economic, energy, defense, and security news of Southeastern Europe. It covers 14 countries; Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Greece, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, and Turkey. However Greece enjoys its own weekly review for a more detailed presentation of its current affairs (GREECE AT A GLANCE).

This ambitious newsletter aspires to become an informative “tool” for anyone who is interested in the region and wishes to have knowledge of the non-stop current developments and challenges. “HERMES” Institute is not a news agency and it is not one of its ambitions to become one but it is strongly believed that today’s events provide the necessary material to understand the future and to analyze situations that may affect in peace, stability, and growth of the region.

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**ALBANIA:** November 27<sup>th</sup>, the 4<sup>th</sup> joint meeting between governments of Albania and Kosovo was held in Korca which concluded with 12 agreements; mainly in fields of environment, diaspora, culture, and European integration. Albanian Prime Minister, Edi Rama underlined that “*these meetings are not provocations against Serba*”. However during the meeting it was made absolutely clear by the Albanian side that Kosovo citizens will not receive the Albanian citizenship as a solution for them to travel freely in the Schengen Zone. Furthermore, Rama announced Kosovo will soon activate an operational office in Durres Harbor in a way to facilitate collaboration between two countries. According to Rama strategic task is to remove custom barriers between Albania and Kosovo. (www.albaniannews.com)

- November 29<sup>th</sup>, Albanian political forces remain divided even in the “Independence Day” of Albania. Right wing forces celebrated the national day of the state on November 28<sup>th</sup> while the left wing forces on November 29<sup>th</sup>. In other words, the President of Republic, Ilir Meta, the Prime Minister, Edi Rama and the government honored the day on November 29<sup>th</sup> in the Nation’s Martyrs Cemetery while opposition paid homage one day earlier on November 28<sup>th</sup> at the same place. (www.albaniannews.com)

### **BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA:**

November 29<sup>th</sup>, the 6<sup>th</sup> summit of China and countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEEC), which is also known as “Cooperation 16+1” was very productive for B&H. Construction of thermal, hydro, and wind power plants, roads and railways, opening of scientific and cultural institutions, liberalization of visa regime are among the agreements of cooperation between

B&H and China. Among bilateral agreements signed by the two countries, the abolishment of visa requirements for holders of B&H and China passports definitely stands out, and it was signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of B&H, Igor Crnadak and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, Wang Yi. The second very important document is the Agreement on Agricultural Cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture of China and the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of B&H. Finally China agreed to offer a loan in B&H regarding for the Block 7 of the Thermal Power Plant (TPP) in Tuzla. According to the Ambassador of People’s Republic of China in B&H the agreements signed for a certain number of projects have the value of almost BAM 4 billion (almost € 2 billion). (www.sarajevotimes.com)

- December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Chairman of the B&H tripartite Presidency, Dragan Covic met with the Prime Minister of Croatia, Andrej Plenkovic in Banski Dvori. After the meeting, they noted that they will consider the possibility of a review of the verdict pronounced in the case Prlic et al. while they expressed their regret over Praljak’s suicide. Two men analyzed situation of Croat population in B&H and Plenkovic announced he will visit the city of Mostar next week. Finally the Croat Prime Minister underlined his country constant support towards B&H. (www.sarajevotimes.com)

**BULGARIA:** November 27<sup>th</sup>, the head of the State Agency for Bulgarians, Petar Haralampiev said that his country pushes for official recognition of the “Gorani” community living in Kosovo as Bulgarian minority. According to Haralampiev this is related to the recent recognition of a Bulgarian minority by Albania and furthermore is “*a regular state*

policy". Haralampiev added *"Bulgaria was among the first countries to recognize Kosovo as a state. We want Bulgarians in Kosovo to be recognized as a minority so we can help them live better and have better opportunities to learn their mother tongue and preserve their culture. Bulgaria can help Kosovo with its European integration. Kosovo can strongly benefit from Bulgaria's support"*. Last October following pressure from Bulgarian politicians and Members of the European Parliament, Albania's parliament passed a Law on National Minorities recognizing nine minorities, including a Bulgarian one. "Gorani" community in Kosovo is also claimed by Serbia and F.Y.R.O.M but Bulgaria has the lure of the EU membership. According to Haralampiev "Gorani" in Kosovo *"are brothers, sisters, cousins and blood relatives of the ethnic Bulgarians in Albania and deserve the same rights"*. (www.balkaninsight.com)

**CROATIA:** November 28<sup>th</sup>, Under the Swedish pressure and SAAB's fighter jet JAS 39 C/D "GRIPEN" Israel modified its offer in an effort to get the Croat contract. The Israeli Defense Ministry has offered to Croatia 12 F-16s "BARAK" but is now offering F-16 C/D aircrafts which are still in active service by the Israeli Air Force. In fact Israel could offer to Croatia a mixed fleet of F-16 C/D and F-16 A/B (retired from the Israeli Air Force). At the moment Israel has 78 F-16C and 48 F-16D while the entire fleet of F-16s "BARAK 2020" completed an upgrade program which included structural changes, new Head-Up-Display and installation of a new digital debriefing system. (www.total-croatia-news.com)

**CYPRUS:** November 27<sup>th</sup>, According to the Moody's Investors Services despite the Cypriot economy's robust growth the strong fiscal

performance faces challenges related to its small size, relative lack of diversification and high levels of indebtedness. Moody's senior Vice President Sarah Carlson, who authored an annual credit analysis report on Cyprus' economy, said *"Cyprus' growth momentum, coupled with strong fiscal performance, helped to reduce the country's debt-to-GDP (Gross Domestic Product) ratio in 2016 for the first time since 2008. We expect a decline in the debt-to-GDP ratio to close to 100 per cent by the end of this year. The country has regained capital market access and has a cash buffer, which will help to cover financing needs next year"*. According to the report (titled Government of Cyprus – Ba3 Positive, Annual Credit Analysis) Cyprus' economic output, expected to increase 3.5 per cent this year, is forecast to expand 3.2 per cent in 2018, for the fourth consecutive year after exiting a prolonged recession in 2015. However, Cyprus' debt metrics still remain vulnerable to a negative growth, fiscal or a combined shock scenario," *with the island's economy being susceptible to every risk"* given the vulnerabilities of the banking sector which still struggles with a non-performing loans ratio of around 45 per cent. (www.cyprusbusinessmail.com)

- November 27<sup>th</sup>, Ministers of Defense of Cyprus and Serbia, Christoforos Fokaides and Aleksandar Vulin respectively signed an agreement in Nicosia for the exchange of classified information. Fokaides underlined the mutual bonds of respect and solidarity between the two countries noting also the presence of 45 Serbian soldiers in the UN Peacekeeping Forces in Cyprus. According to Fokaides *"We are setting the foundation to deepen relations in the defense field...we hope this visit will open a new chapter in the two countries' relations."* Vulin said *"The agreement*

*signed would allow the two countries to exchange information and maintain security.”*  
(www.cyprus-mail.com)



Cypriot Minister of Defense, Christoforos Fokaides with his Serbian counterpart, Aleksandar Vulin  
(Photo source: www.mod.gov.cy)

- November 28<sup>th</sup>, Cypriot Defense Ministry announced is interested in buying helicopters and Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs) in an effort to modernize and restructure of the National Guard (Cyprus Armed Forces). The Ministry’s spokesperson said *“Upgrading the Navy and Air Force is among the priorities of phase one of the restructuring and modernization of the National Guard.”* According to media reports Cypriot Air Force plans to purchase 8 helicopters; 4 from France while a tender competition is to be announced for the other 4 next year. (www.cyprus-mail.com, www.philenews.com)

**F.Y.R.O.M:** November 29<sup>th</sup>, According to Al Jazeera Balkans report the U.S Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Hoyt Brian Yee will be the new U.S Ambassador in F.Y.R.O.M. replacing the current Ambassador, Jess Baily who is in this

position since 2014. (www.mia.mk, www.balkans.aljazeera.net)



U.S Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Hoyt Brian Yee  
(Photo source: www.state.gov)

- December 1<sup>st</sup>, Defense Minister of F.Y.R.O.M; Radmila Sekerinska, Bulgaria; Krasimir Karakachanov, and Deputy Defense Minister of Albania; Petro Kochi met in Ohrid discussing possible ways of fostering defense cooperation. Karakachanov claimed *“the security and defense cooperation between Bulgaria, and Albania which are NATO members and F.Y.R.O.M which is not yet in place, will convince other NATO members that F.Y.R.O.M is ready to join the Alliance as its 30<sup>th</sup> member without any delay. This trilateral cooperation is of economic interest which will also contribute to enhance security in the Balkans.”* (www.mia.mk)

- December 1<sup>st</sup>, the former Prime Minister of F.Y.R.O.M and leader of Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization – Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (Внатрешна македонска револуционерна организација – Демократска партија за македонско

национално единство – VMRO-DPMNE), Nicola Gruevski expressed his intention to be resigned from his party leadership regardless of the outcome of ongoing party analysis about its defeat in the October local elections and earlier general elections. Gruevski said that his resignation will be submitted soon; maybe in a week or two. ([www.balkaninsight.com](http://www.balkaninsight.com))

**GREECE:** November 27<sup>th</sup>, Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras charged the main opposition party New Democracy (Νέα Δημοκρατία - ND) and its leader, Kyriakos Mitsotakis of trying to destabilize the country, during a speech in Parliament addressing a controversial munitions sale to Saudi Arabia. Opposition had tabled a question to National Defense Minister, Panos Kammenos over the sale. According to Kammenos the agreement for the sale of munitions to Saudi Arabia was “*a totally legal agreement between states without any middlemen*”. Moreover the Defense Minister said that the opposition had chosen to manufacture a scandal that did not exist. In his speech earlier, ND’s leader Mitsotakis called the agreement “*a first-class scandal*” and criticized Tsipras for “*covering up for Kammenos.*” Mitsotakis also criticized the government for “*bringing back to the ministry of National Defense the use of middlemen, which had been abolished after the cases of former Ministers*” referring to the Hellenic Socialist Movement (Πανελλήνιο Σοσιαλιστικό Κίνημα – PASOK) former Minister, Akis Tsohatzopoulos who was jailed over bribery and money laundering. Mitsotakis emphasized “*your own Government ally is proven to be selling shells and bombs to Arab countries with the help of middlemen. In any democratic country, the Prime Minister would have dismissed his Minister. You did not – is he blackmailing you,*

*with bringing the government down? How can you go to elections with € 15 billion worth of measures and record taxes?*” During the parliamentary debate PASOK leader Fofi Gennimata accused Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras for trying to cover up a shady arms deal of the Ministry of Defense to sell weapons to Saudi Arabia. ([www.thenationalherald.com](http://www.thenationalherald.com))

- November 28<sup>th</sup>, the name of the new center-left party comprising Greek Socialist Movement (Πανελλήνιο Σοσιαλιστικό Κίνημα – PASOK), To Potami (Το Ποτάμι) and other social democratic forces will be “*Movement for Change*”. This was decided in a meeting between PASOK leader, Fofi Gennimata and the head of Potami, Stavros Theodorakis. The name will be in use until the grouping’s first congress, when it is expected that it will be rubber-stamped. ([www.ekathimerini.com](http://www.ekathimerini.com))

- December 1<sup>st</sup>, the first visit to Greece by a Turkish President to Greece in 65 years was confirmed on Friday. Recep Tayyip Erdogan will visit Athens and Thrace on December 7-8, 2017. Erdogan, who has been to Greece as a Prime Minister, will meet with Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos and Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras during his stay. The Greek Government hopes that it can enhance the channels of communication with Ankara. The agenda of talks will include several bilateral issues; the EU-Turkey refugee deal, Cypriot question, and sovereign rights in the Aegean Sea while Erdogan will visit the Muslim minority in Thrace. ([www.ekathimerini.com](http://www.ekathimerini.com))

**KOSOVO:** November 28<sup>th</sup>, the Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj said in an interview that it is expected from Serbia to recognize

Kosovo's sovereignty and independence in the end of Belgrade – Pristina dialogue. Haradinaj said that the dialogue had some progress until the Brussels agreement in 2013 but since then did not have any point. Asked whether the division of Kosovo, which is openly proposed by some politicians from Serbia, is possible, the Kosovo Prime Minister said *“the game with borders is dangerous in the Balkans, for everyone who plays them. I do not believe that these stories are serious and I would not I talk about it because we know what will follow if we play it”*. Finally Haradinaj asked whether he would seek the support from the opposition to form a Kosovo army, for which he had been previously advocating, said that some issues were *“national, and not just questions of the ruling coalition. As far as the Kosovo's army is concerned, we have different positions, but we are here to talk and see what a possible solution is.”* (www.gazetaexpress.com)

**MOLDOVA:** November 28<sup>th</sup>, another round of 5+2 (OSCE, Moldovan constitutional authorities, Transnistrian separatists, Russia and Ukraine as mediators, U.S and EU as observers) negotiations ended in Vienna under the Austrian Chairmanship. At the end of negotiations, the political representatives of Moldova and the Tiraspol administration confirmed their commitment to finalize the solutions for recent four issues, but also reiterated the progress on previous issues stipulated by the Berlin Protocol. The conclusions of these talks were elaborated in the so-called Vienna Protocol. According to Ambassador Wolf Dietrich Heim, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transnistrian Settlement Process *“the sides, together with international partners, further*

*solidified the agreements on several social and economic issues signed in recent days.”* Participants welcome their commitment to solve some issues by February 2018, especially in the case of the participation of Transnistria - registered vehicles in the international traffic. The other agreements concern the acceptance of educational documents issued in Transnistria, interaction in the field of telecommunications, ensuring the functioning of the Moldova-administered Latin Script Schools and the use of farmlands in Dubasari region. The so-called Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Transnistria underlined the negative consequences of the joint border checkpoints of Moldova and Ukraine. The Ukrainian representative in the negotiations, Viktor Kryzhanivskyi, recently confirmed in an interview that the status talks are on the way. (www.moldova.org)



Representatives of the Sides, Mediators and Observers during the meeting of the 5+2 talks on the Transnistrian Settlement Process  
(Photo source: www.osce.org)

- November 28<sup>th</sup>, According to media reports the Government of Moldova apparently has a plan for political reintegration of the breakaway Transnistria. Vladimir Soloviev of “Kommersant” Russian news agency claims Chisinau elaborated a clear white paper, a so-called “Vision”, on the future status of the



separatist entity within the Republic. It is about an 8 and a half pages plan which contains stipulations regarding the Russian military presence in the region, the military peacekeeping mission, the autonomous status of Transdniestria and its official languages. The paper was ready at the end of summer 2017 and might even be presented before the next Ministerial Council of the OSCE, taking place during December 7-8, 2017 in Vienna. The document reportedly begins with the acknowledgment of the necessity to withdraw the Russian military troops (probably the Operative Group of Russian Troops) from the territory of Moldova. In addition, the paper underlines the importance of transforming the current trilateral (Moldova-Russia-Transdniestria) peacekeeping mission into a multi-national civil one. The “Vision” paper offers an autonomous status to Transdniestria, a status similar to that of Gagauzia established in 1994 by an organic law. Specifically, Transdniestria would keep its constitution, its leader, its Parliament, and Government, but would not be able to pass laws, just normative acts. The plan proposes a completely new approach on the official languages in Transdniestria. Besides the Russian and Ukrainian official languages, Chişinău would like to replace the “Moldovan language” (Cyrillic script) with the Romanian language. This aspect might raise questions not only in Transdniestria but also in Moldova; The Socialist and Communist MPs in Chişinău are currently blocking a ruling of Constitutional Court to make Romanian an official language- as it is in Moldova’s declaration of independence. Moldovan President, Igor Dodon was first to react to the reports about the “Vision”, claiming it does not correspond to the approaches of solving the Transdniestria political conflict. (www.moldova.org)

**MONTENEGRO:** December 1<sup>st</sup>, Democratic Front (Demokratski Front – DF) MPs will return to Parliament for the 2018 Draft Budget Law debate. According to the DF officials’ assessments the results of last week’s local elections show that the Parliament’s boycott does not produce any results and opposition should take advantage of the Parliament to communicate their views to citizens. However it seems that the so-called civic opposition does not considering of returning to the Parliament as an option, although almost none of the five parties that meet occasionally have achieved significant results in the latest local elections. Complaints from the European Union officials who consider the Parliament’s boycott harmful to Montenegro have been in vain so far. (www.cdm.me, www.dnovine.me)

**ROMANIA:** November 27<sup>th</sup>, the U.S Department of State expressed officially its concerns over the proposed amendments in laws regarding justice. More specifically it announced *“The United States notes with concern that the Parliament of Romania is considering legislation that could undermine the fight against corruption and weaken judicial independence in Romania. This legislation, which was originally proposed by the Ministry of Justice, threatens the progress Romania has made in recent years to build strong judicial institutions shielded from political interference. We urge the Parliament of Romania to reject proposals that weaken the rule of law and endanger the fight against corruption”* (www.romaniajournal.ro, www.state.gov)

- November 28<sup>th</sup>, Romania’s Supreme Defense Council (CSAT) decided to send 1,775 troops to theaters of operations next year (2018), up 286 people compared to 2017, yesterday. Another 233

troops will remain in Romania, with the possibility of being deployed if needed. Romania will also send 1,867 gendarmes and police officers into missions coordinated by the European Union, OSCE, NATO and the UN next year, up 340 compared to 2017. The main effort will continue to be the participation to the NATO mission in Afghanistan – Resolute Support Mission, as well as the participation to the KFOR and EU ALTHEA NATO operations in the Balkans. Romania's CSAT also approved yesterday the government's draft on acquiring 8x8 armored conveyors to equip the Romanian army. The Romanian Defense Ministry has been allocated 2% of the GDP for next year. (www.romania-insider.com)

**SERBIA:** November 27<sup>th</sup>, According to media reports Serbia plans to purchase from Belarus in the very close future 4 S-300 air defense missile systems (or a battery in military terms) and 6 MIG-29 fighter jets. Contract would be signed by the Presidents of two Republics; the Serbian Aleksandar Vucic and the Belarusian Aleksandr Lukashenko most probably in March 2018. Serbia will get the V and PG versions of the S-300s, while MIG aircrafts would need further modernization as it happened with the Russian MIG-29 that arrived recently in Serbian Air Force. According to the media *“The agreement will increase military power and influence Serbia's security, because a state that is able to control its sky from air strikes is treated differently”*. (www.b92.net, www.tanjug.rs, www.alo.rs)

- November 29<sup>th</sup>, Serbian Defense Minister, Aleksandar Vulin said during a conference that the Serbian Army budget will be increased in 2018 by 25% compared to 2017 one and will

amount to 70.5 billion dinars (almost € 600 millions). According to the Minister most of the budget increase will be spend for improving personnel's standards of living and *“military employees will see a linear increase of 10% to their salaries”*. Vulin added that significant funds will be set aside for continued arming of the military, overhauls of equipment, and continued mass housing construction. (www.b92.net)

- November 30<sup>th</sup>, According to media reports Serbia will open in December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 two or three new chapters in its accession negotiations with the EU. This will happen during the scheduled inter-governmental session while consent of all 28 EU member states is still awaited to confirm progress in Serbia's European path. According to media reports at least two EU countries are not satisfied with Serbia's progress in fulfilling its rule of law obligations and this fact may affect number of opened chapters. In case two chapters are opened, it is expected they will be chapter 6 (company law) and 30 (external relations), while the third, that could wait for the next inter-governmental conference, is chapter 33 (financial and budgetary provisions). Serbia has so far opened ten out of 35 chapters, with two temporarily closed. (www.b92.net, www.tanjug.rs)

**SLOVENIA:** November 27<sup>th</sup>, the European Commission confirmed its mediation offer in Slovenia – Croatia border dispute and the implementation of the arbitration award by assigning the mediator's role to the EU Commission first Vice President, Frans Timmermans. The Vice President plans to visit Slovenia and Croatia before the end of the year. Timmermans task is to facilitate the implementation of the ruling which was

announced by the Hague International Tribunal. Slovenian Prime Minister, Miro Cerar expressed his satisfaction for Timmermans claiming *“he is a trustworthy person and great expert in law, who could make a positive contribution”*. Moreover Cerar said Slovenia continues dialogue with Croatia and also intensifies preparations for the arbitration award implementation. More specifically the Slovenian Parliament passed today the relevant legislation in order to facilitate the process. Finally Cerar said that there is a possibility for him to visit Croatia, however only if the country changes its position on border arbitration implementation which has not happened yet according to the Slovenian Prime Minister. (www.sloveniantimes.com)

**TURKEY:** November 27<sup>th</sup>, Pakistani Minister of Defense Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain visited Turkey and met Turkish top officials. In an interview in “Anadolu Agency” he claimed that Pakistan plans to procure 30 attack helicopters T-129 ATAK developed by the Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) and Agusta Westland. According to the Minister *“it is in the pipeline...we have intention to procure this helicopter for the Pakistani army”* adding that 90% of the procurement process has been completed. Moreover Hussain said that the Pakistani armed forces plan to procure 4 MILGEM naval ships, known also as the Turkish national ship. According to the Minister 2 ships will be constructed in Turkey and 2 more in Pakistan. Finally Hussain claimed that Turkey procures from Pakistan 52 “SUPER MUSHSHAK” single-propeller trainer aircrafts and also Turkey considers the possibility of buying Pakistani fighter jets JF-17 since *“they are considering this aircraft because they know in*

*details about it”*. (www.aa.com.tr, www.janes.com)



Turkish attack helicopter T-129

(Photo source: www.tai.com.tr)

- November 28<sup>th</sup>, leader of main opposition party; the Republican People’s Party (Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi – CHP) Kemal Kilicdaroglu accused the President of Turkish Republic and leader of the ruling Justice and Development Party (Adalet ve Kalkinma Partisi – AKP) Recep Tayyip Erdogan of transferring millions of dollars in offshore bank accounts in the Isle of Man claiming that he has records to prove his allegations. According to CHP’s spokesperson, Bulent Tezcan in the case are engaged people from the Turkish President’s inner circle; his son; Ahmet Butak Erdogan, his brother; Mustafa Erdogan, his brother-in-law; Ziya Ulgen, father-in-law of his son; Osman Ketenci, and his former principal clerk; Mustafa Gundogan. Tezcan claimed that records and receipts prove a total transfer of almost \$ 15 million in transactions between Bellway Limited, a company established in August 2011 in the Isle of Man, and Erdogan's close circle. CHP spokesperson described these transactions as *“suspicious”* and added *“Two things come to mind, either money laundering or avoiding tax”*. The Turkish President rejected the accusations claiming that all documents are fake calling Kilicdaroglu to prove his allegations. Apart from

that Erdogan and his involved circle filled a lawsuit against Kilicdaroglu transferring the case in the court instead of the Parliament. CHP spokesperson promised to present all the necessary documents to the prosecutor underlying that the case “*is ethical and not criminal*”. (www.dw.com, www.middleeasteye.com, www.hurriyetdailynews.com)

- December 1<sup>st</sup>, Presidential spokesperson, Ibrahim Kalin reacted against the U.S Ministry of Defense announcement that Washington would retrieve weapons of the Syrian Kurdish People’s Protection Units (Yekîneyên Parastina Gel – YPG) that could threaten Turkey by stating “*only Turkey can decide on threats against its national security*”. The U.S Ministry of Defense spokesperson, Eric Pahon clarified “*we are talking about weapons*” excluding from his country commitment equipment such as bulldozers, Humvees, Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) diggers, mines, and hand-made explosives. Pahon added that the U.S would collect Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, machine guns, rocket launchers and other weapons that have the ability to counter armored vehicles. The U.S provided weapons to YPG as an ally in the fight against ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) in Syria. (www.hurriyetdailynews.com, www.cnnturk.com)

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