



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

**SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE**

**AT A GLANCE**



**SOUTHEAST EUROPE DIRECTORATE**

“SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE AT A GLANCE” (ISSN: 2654-0304) 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, Greece, Kosovo\*, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, and Turkey.

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.

#### **“HERMES” I.I.A.S.GE**

“HERMES” Institute of International Affairs, Security & Geoeconomy (“HERMES” I.I.A.S.GE) is an independent, non – governmental, non – profit organization, consisting of scholars dedicated in the research and analysis of international affairs in regional and global level. The Institute aims at providing objective, scientific, and reliable research analysis through a variety of studies contributing effectively and constructively in the public dialogue and the evolution of scientific knowledge.

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\*Kosovo declared unilaterally its independence from Serbia in 2008 but it is not a UN member state.

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**ALBANIA:** January 1<sup>st</sup>, on the occasion of the arrival of the New Year, the Albanian President, Bajram Begaj held an online meeting with the personnel of the Armed Forces of Albania (AFARSH) serving in missions and operations abroad. In his message, Begaj expressed his deep gratitude for the dedication and professionalism of the Albanian military personnel in international missions. *“You are the best ambassadors of Albania and thanks to your service, the national flag flies proudly everywhere alongside other NATO flags,”* the President said. Albanian Armed Forces missions abroad include several regions of the world, from Kosovo and Bosnia, to South Sudan and Iraq. (www.kohajone.com)



Albanian President, Bajram Begaj in the online meeting with members of the Albanian Armed Forces serve abroad

(photo source: www.president.al)

- January 2<sup>nd</sup>, according to the Chairman of the Central Election Commission, Ilirjan Celibashi, from January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Albanians living abroad will have the opportunity to register to vote for the parliamentary elections scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The coming election will be the first one that Albanians of diaspora will vote from their residence countries. (www.telegraf.al)

- January 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Bank of Albania urged Albanians to use the national currency for their transactions. According to the First Deputy Governor of the Bank of Albania, Luljeta Minxhozi, despite the fact that fluctuations in the exchange rate are a result of foreign exchange revenues, the massive use of the euro for payments within the country have an impact. Fluctuations in the foreign exchange market will be present throughout 2025, and the only way for temporary stability is the purchase of euros by the Bank of Albania. (www.gazetashqiptare.al)

## COUNTRY ASSESSMENT   :

*2025 is a year of parliamentary elections for Albania, scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Consequently, it is expected a gradual polarization of political climate in the country. Arrests or imprisonments of prominent political figures of the opposition such as the former Albanian President and leader of PL, Ilir Meta or the PD MP Ervin Salianji raise concerns over the independence of judiciary in the country. Despite that the Prime Minister, Edi Rama and the ruling Socialist Party (PS) remain the absolute dominants of the state politics, there are complaints accusing the Prime Minister of authoritarian practices. Despite tangible steps of Albania towards eliminating and reforming justice, the country should focus on fighting corruption and organized crime, establishing rule of law and public transparency, eliminating state officials' immunity and modernizing public administration. Progress of accession negotiations with the EU remain the main strategic goal of Albania.*



## **BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA:**

January 1<sup>st</sup>, shortly after midnight, as the New Year began, a delegation of Bosnian citizens crossed the border into Kosovo using only their identification cards, signalling the official start of Kosovo's visa-free regime for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. (www.n1info.ba)

- January 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina (OHR) prohibited the implementation of conclusions adopted at the end of 2024 by the National Assembly of Republika Srpska (RS), which sought to block any decision-making at the state level of Bosnia and Herzegovina due to the ongoing trial against entity president Milorad Dodik. Dodik is being prosecuted before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina for disregarding the decisions of High Representative Christian Schmidt. (www.n1info.ba)

- January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Following a joint operation by the Republika Srpska (RS) Police and the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as confirmed public information about high-level corruption and the detention of the Minister of Security in the Council of Ministers of BiH, Nenad Nesic, a parliamentary initiative has been launched to remove him, announced Branislav Borenovic, a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH. (www.sarajevotimes.com)

## **COUNTRY ASSESSMENT** :

*Republika Srpska's President, Milorad Dodik maintains his nationalist rhetoric challenging the sustainability of the Dayton Peace Accords and the peaceful coexistence of Republika Srpska (RS)*

*and the Federation of BiH. A new "battlefield" emerged last week following the High Representative, Christian Schmidt's decision to issue a ban on the implementation of the conclusions of the RS National Assembly. Under these circumstances, instability and uncertainty reign in BiH. The state politics are hostage of the ethnic interests and pursuits of the entities. Currently, there is fertile soil for ethnic disputes which could escalate tension into a conflict. Russian influence remains high in Republika Srpska. Political instability, poor economic performances and non-functional state institutions contribute in absence of rule of law, shortages in respect of human rights, weak public administration, democratic deficit, high levels of corruption and social distress.*



**BULGARIA:** January 1<sup>st</sup>, as of today, Bulgaria is a full member of the Schengen area. On December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Council of the European Union decided to remove checks on people at the internal land borders with and between Bulgaria and Romania. Bulgarian caretaker Prime Minister, Dimitar Glavchev described Bulgaria's full accession to the Schengen area as "a historic event," "a crowning achievement," and "the result of the efforts of many people." (www.bta.bg)

- January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Bulgaria will not allow any migrant pressure at its border with Greece, Border Police Director Anton Zlatanov said. Zlatanov explained that the Border Police personnel will not be reduced, and officers will begin working under a new model. He was speaking on the occasion of Bulgaria becoming a full member of the Schengen free movement area as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. (www.bta.bg)

- January 5<sup>th</sup>, no agreement was reached with Democratic Bulgaria (Demokratichna Balgariya – DB) on the composition of a future Government and the name of a candidate for Prime Minister at today’s meeting of the negotiating teams of Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria - Union of Democratic Forces (Grazhdani za Evropeysko Razvitie na Bŭlgaria – Sayuz na Demokratichnite Sili - GERB-UDF), DB, BSP-United Left (BSP – Obedinena Levitsa) and There Is Such a People (Ima Takav Narod - ITN) in the National Assembly, according to a GERB-UDF press release. (www.novinite.com)

## COUNTRY ASSESSMENT ■ :

*Amid a deep political crisis, Bulgaria celebrated its full accession in the Schengen zone. A long strategic goal was achieved, while another one, the entrance in the Eurozone, is very close. There is only one criterion left regarding price stability and then the road towards Euro would be open. According to GERB-UDF negotiations for the formation of a coalition government have failed, leaving as the only option new early parliamentary elections; the eighth in last four years. Amid the war in Ukraine and an uncertain and unstable regional and international environment, Bulgaria needs political stability, not only for domestic reasons, but also to respond successfully in its role as an EU and NATO member state.*



**CROATIA:** January 3<sup>rd</sup>, the incumbent Croatian President and candidate in the second round of the presidential election, Zoran Milanovic issued a statement in which he accuses Andrej Plenkovic’s Government “*is preparing amendments to the Defence Act, the sole aim of*

*which is to limit and reduce the constitutional powers of the President as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia.”* (www.n1info.hr)

- January 4<sup>th</sup>, after no one candidate won an outright majority at the December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 presidential election, and with the SDP-backed and incumbent Zoran Milanovic and HDZ-backed Dragan Primorac, winning enough votes to make it into the second round, the two candidates have until midnight on Friday to campaign and reach out to voters for the runoff on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025. (www.n1info.hr)

## COUNTRY ASSESSMENT ■ :

*Croatia enjoys political stability and favorable conditions for economic growth and a more attractive environment for investments. Beginning of 2025 finds the country in pre-electoral “rhythm” since the second round of the presidential election between the two candidates who dominated in the first round will be held on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The incumbent President, Zoran Milanovic – backed by the opposition SDP – and Dragan Primorac – backed by the ruling HDZ – will fight for the presidential office. Priorities of the Government are the acceleration of the post-earthquake reconstruction, the tax reform, demographic initiatives, housing policy, further increase of wages, and strengthening of Armed Forces.*



**CYPRUS:** January 1<sup>st</sup>, January will be a “*very busy period*” with regard to the Cyprus problem, Turkish Cypriot leader Ersin Tatar said. According to Tatar, January may include a meeting with President Nikos Christodoulides

over the matter of opening new crossing points to connect the island's two sides. Tatar has announced that he would meet Christodoulides on either January 20<sup>th</sup> or January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 though government spokesman Yiannis Antoniou swiftly denied that such a date had been set. (www.cyprus-mail.com)

- January 4<sup>th</sup>, the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, has recommended extending the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) until January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026. (www.cyprus-mail.com)

- January 5<sup>th</sup>, during President Nikos Christodoulides' official visit in the US last October it was discussed the possibility of upgrade of Cyprus' main airbase in Paphos and the naval base at Mari with American assistance. On the "Andreas Papandreou" facility in Paphos, Defense Minister Vasilis Palmas said the upgrades could cost around €14 million, and the upgrades to Mari naval base upwards of €200 million. (www.cyprus-mail.com)

## COUNTRY ASSESSMENT ■ :

*Amid the war in Ukraine and diversification of European energy market from importing gas from Russia, energy security is among the top priorities of the Cyprus republic. In this context, developments are expected in the very near future regarding EXXONMOBIL's plans to start drills in block 5 in the coming weeks. A drillship is en route and is expected to start its drills within January. It is vital for Cypriot interests to achieve eventually exploitation of natural gas and its transfer to international energy market. Despite the fact that Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides and Turkish Cypriot leader Ersin*

*Tatar schedule to start talks for the opening of new crossing points between the state and the occupied part of the island, conditions for the Cypriot question in 2025 are not encouraging and optimistic for any positive step or productive initiative. Cypriot intention to upgrade the air base in Paphos and the naval base in Mari with the technical and financial support of the US and the EU are of great strategic importance for the country. It is related with the volatile environment in Middle East and North Africa, and the US and EU plans to establish a naval and air stronghold in Eastern Mediterranean. Moreover, it could be assessed as a sign of bringing closer Cyprus with NATO. Turkey maintains a significant military force on the island (Army Corps size). As long as part of Cyprus remains under Turkish occupation and Turkish troops (equipped with heavy weapons) are deployed in the island, Cyprus faces an existing direct threat against its national security and sovereignty.*



**GREECE:** January 2<sup>nd</sup>, According to informed military sources contacted by Kathimerini, Greece aims to develop strike capabilities with a range of up to 300 kilometers,



The ELBIT Precise and Universal Launching System (PULS)

(photo source: www.elbitsystems.com)

serving as a powerful deterrent to any potential threats against the country's security. According to the same sources, the selection process is nearing completion, with Greek military officials favoring the Israeli PULS system. (www.ekathimerini.com)

- January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Greece's two-year term as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) - officially begins on Thursday - highlighted by a welcoming ceremony at the UN headquarters. Greece's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Evangelos Sekeris will join his counterparts from Denmark, Somalia, Pakistan and Panama in the event. (www.ekathimerini.com)

## COUNTRY ASSESSMENT  :

*Greece enjoys political and economic stability. The Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis and his conservative Government are considered as the absolute dominants in the Greek political landscape. Normalization of relations with Turkey is the main challenge in foreign policy and the Government is working towards this direction. Greece implements an ambitious project of modernizing the Armed Forces called "Agenda 2023" through structural reorganization and armament procurements seeking not only to maintain military balance with Turkey, but also to gain advantage in certain defense domains. Greece became a non-permanent member of the UNSC for the next two years; an important success for the Greek diplomatic capabilities, amid a volatile regional and international environment.*



**KOSOVO:** January 1<sup>st</sup>, President Vjosa Osmani said that the time has come for Kosovo to receive the status of a candidate country for membership in the European Union and to lift the measures that the EU has imposed on Kosovo. (www.koha.net)

- January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti's Self-Determination (Vetevendosje - LVV) party appealed a decision to allow the Belgrade-backed Serb List (Srpska lista) to field candidates in the coming parliamentary elections. (www.kossev.info)

- January 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Kosovo Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci said that it is considered the acquisition of helicopters for Kosovo Security Force (KSF). According to Maqedonci, as the transition process of KSF is entering its third and last phase, it will be pursued to acquire air capabilities. (www.koha.net)

## COUNTRY ASSESSMENT  :

*Kosovo is prepared for the parliamentary elections scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The pre-electoral period raises security concerns since tension with Kosovo Serbs might escalate. Prishtina efforts to ban Serb List – the main Kosovo Serbian party – to run for the elections might become source of protests and violent reactions by the Serb community. Expectations for Belgrade – Prishtina dialogue are low for 2025 and especially for the first semester due to the February elections in Kosovo, the takeover of the US presidency by the Trump administration, and the replacement of the EU mediator, Miroslav Lajcak by a new person. In the second semester the Trump administration might play a critical*



*role in the progress of the dialogue. Kosovo needs urgently institutional reforms especially in the fields of economy, rule of law, public administration, justice and democratic rule. Organized crime, corruption, money laundering, weak public administration, absence of rule of law, controlled justice, transactions between politicians and criminals are persistent “open sores” for Kosovo. Prishtina’s plan to transform KSF into a regular army, before normalization of relations with Serbia, could become source of tension and destabilization.*



**MOLDOVA:** January 1<sup>st</sup>, increasing the Transnistrian region’s dependence on Chisinau helps bring the reintegration closer, Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration Oleg Serebrian said. (www.ipn.md)

- January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Transnistrian region is facing serious economic, logistical and energy difficulties, said the leader of the region Vadim Krasnoselsky. Krasnoselsky explained that “*it was the geopolitical situation that had a substantial negative impact on the Transnistrian region in 2024.*” (www.ipn.md)

- January 4<sup>th</sup>, Moldova is facing a security crisis, international media report, citing statements from Prime Minister Dorin Recean. According to Reuters, this comes after the “*pro-Russian separatist region of Transnistria, cut off from Russian gas supplies,*” closed factories, restricted central heating, and imposed periodic power outages. Recean believes the purpose of this security crisis is to facilitate the return of pro-Russian forces to power in Moldova and to turn the country’s territory into a weapon against Ukraine. (www.ipn.md)

## COUNTRY ASSESSMENT :

*Moldova has entered into a major energy security crisis due the cutoff of Russian gas flow via Ukraine. Taking into consideration the coming parliamentary elections – no later than July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – and the Russian attempts to meddle in Moldovan internal affairs and electoral process, situation is getting more complex and alarming. The pro-western forces survived in the presidential elections and the referendum for the European orientation of the country, but the parliamentary elections is a big and critical question for Moldova’s future. Moreover, the pro-Russian breakaway region of Transnistria faces a respective huge energy crisis. Abandoned by Moscow, people from Transnistria might come closer to Moldova, increasing hopes for reintegration. The country seeks support from the EU. Energy crisis might become source of social tension and protests.*



**MONTENEGRO:** January 3<sup>rd</sup>, the National Security Council held an extraordinary session due to the tragic events that took place in Cetinje. During the session it was discussed the security situation in the country and the Government announced that the Council adopted a series of conclusions and recommendations to improve the control of firearms and protect the safety of citizens. (www.rtcg.me)

## COUNTRY ASSESSMENT :

*Despite relevant stability of the Montenegrin ruling coalition, political atmosphere remains complex affected by several internal and external actors. In this context, Serbian influence through the Montenegrin Serbian parties participating in*

*the ruling coalition and the Serbian Orthodox Church are the vehicles for Serbia to influence the Montenegrin state politics. Montenegro is close to complete by 2026 all the chapters of the EU integration process enabling its accession by 2028. A goal which is doubtful it will be achieved eventually, taking into consideration the unstable political situation, the influence of external actors, namely Serbia, and the deterioration of Montenegrin relations with Croatia. The country should proceed steadfastly with reforms in the fields of rule of law, public administration, business environment, and corruption.*



**NORTH MACEDONIA:** January 2<sup>nd</sup>, NATO has issued a security clearance to Bojan Hristovski, the newly appointed Head of the Agency of National Security (ANB). ([www.republika.mk](http://www.republika.mk))

- January 5<sup>th</sup>, the new expressway between Stracin and Kriva Palanka was opened for the public. The 25.5 kilometers road bypasses one of the worst sections of the road connecting Skopje and Sofia and cuts down the travel time between Kumanovo and Kriva Palanka by 20 minutes. This section is part of the strategic east - west Corridor 8. It was built for 93.7 million EUR, 80.2 million of which were provided as loan by the World Bank. ([www.republika.mk](http://www.republika.mk))

- January 5<sup>th</sup>, the US Ambassador to North Macedonia, Angela Aggeler called on former Deputy Prime Minister, Artan Grubi, who has fled the country, to return and “*face the music.*” The Ambassador welcomed the fact that judicial institutions are responding to the designation of Artan Grubi on the US black list. ([www.republika.mk](http://www.republika.mk))

## **COUNTRY ASSESSMENT** :

*The country enjoys political stability, while the conservative Government of Hristijan Mickoski pays attention in infrastructure and energy projects. Bulgarian veto in North Macedonia’s European accession progress sets a major obstacle in the European prospect of the country. Despite the improvement of North Macedonia in several fields of justice, public administration, social care, and economy, the ruling coalition needs to accelerate reforms on rule of law, judicial inefficiencies, political impunity and fight against corruption and organized crime. Improvement of relations with neighboring countries, mainly Bulgaria and secondly Greece is critical for Skopje towards its EU accession process.*



**ROMANIA:** January 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Bucharest Court of Appeal rejected the case brought by far-right politician and former presidential candidate Calin Georgescu in connection with the annulment of the presidential elections. ([www.nineoclock.ro](http://www.nineoclock.ro))

- January 3<sup>rd</sup>, aerospace and defense company Raytheon Technologies was awarded a USD 946 million contract by the US Pentagon to deliver an additional Patriot missile system to Romania, aimed at bolstering the country's air defense capabilities by 2029. The contract, which includes advanced radars, control stations, and interceptor missiles, marks Romania’s third order of Patriot systems, following previous acquisitions in 2017 and 2020. The acquisition of an advanced Patriot surface-to-air missile system is to replace the one donated to Ukraine. ([www.romania-insider.com](http://www.romania-insider.com))

## COUNTRY ASSESSMENT :

*Romania enjoys political stability with the newly formed ruling coalition. However, the annulment of the November 2024 presidential election due to allegations for Russian interference in favor of the winner in the first round, far-right candidate, Calin Georgescu has triggered tension in domestic politics. It is expected that the presidential election will be relaunched within spring 2025 and ruling coalition parties seek to run with a single candidate aiming to secure a victory. However, it is assessed that the annulment of Georgescu victory by the Constitutional Court might rally Romanian voters around him (or the far-right candidate if Georgescu is banned of running the new elections). Romania is in the forward bastion of NATO in the eastern flank with upgraded role due to the war in Ukraine. NATO troops and weapons are stationing in Romania. Strengthening of Romanian Armed Forces with sophisticated weapons (fighter jets, ground to air and sea defense missile systems etc) is a top priority not only for Romania itself but also for NATO.*



**SERBIA:** January 1<sup>st</sup>, Serbia is set to purchase advanced artillery and drone systems from the Israeli company Elbit Systems in a major deal valued at \$335 million. The contracts include the supply of PULS (Precise and Universal Launching Systems) rocket launchers and rockets, as well as Hermes 900 Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) equipped with advanced payloads. (www.haaretz.com)

- January 4<sup>th</sup>, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said that US Undersecretary for Economic Growth, Energy and Environment, Jose

Fernandez confirmed to him that the country would impose direct sanctions on the Serbian Oil Industry (NIS). (www.n1info.rs)

## COUNTRY ASSESSMENT :

*The tragedy of the 15 people killed in the Novi Sad train station awning collapse on November 1st, 2024 continues to shake Aleksandar Vucic and the Serbian Government. The US administration will impose sanctions against the oil industry of Serbia (NIS) targeting Russia's oil sector. The majority stake in NIS is held by Russian companies – Gazprom Neft (50%) and Gazprom (6.15%) – while 29.87% of the shares are owned by the Serbian Government. Sanctions seek the complete removal of Russian companies from NIS, which is expected to enhance Serbia's energy independence. The withdrawal of Gazprom and Gazprom Neft from NIS would considerably diminish Moscow's influence in Serbia and the Balkan region. Corruption, organized crime, public administration accountability, media freedom are the main internal challenges for the country. Serbia pays special attention in improving operational capabilities of its Armed Forces declaring towards all sides that they are the power of the state. It implements an ambitious armament program mainly supported by Russia and China. Lately, Israel is becoming also an armament supplier for Belgrade with modern systems. It is assessed that Serbia seeks to maintain the military balance with Croatia, since the two states have been engaged in an arm race.*



**SLOVENIA:** January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Slovenian former President Borut Pahor has opted out of consideration for the post of the EU's next

representative for the Belgrade - Prishtina dialogue, citing incompatible views on EU enlargement. (www.sloveniatimes.com)

- January 3<sup>rd</sup>, according to Mladina, Slovenian – and Croatian – territory is included in Hungarian territorial aspirations. Moreover, Hungary has become a major actor for Slovenian banking and energy system, while it maintains strong bonds with Janez Jansa and his party, SDS. (www.mladina.si)

### COUNTRY ASSESSMENT ■■■ :

*The center-left Government of Robert Golob remains stable despite public discontent. The ruling coalition has so far failed to implement its ambitious social and political reform agenda. The main concern of the Government should be energy and infrastructure projects in order to face effectively the near future challenges of energy security (top priority) and transportation.*



**TURKIYE:** January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Turkiye will hold next week a major military exercise in the Black Sea, Mediterranean and Aegean. The “*Blue Homeland*” drill will take place between January 7<sup>th</sup> and January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025. (www.dailysabah.com)

- January 5<sup>th</sup>, Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister, Burhanettin Duran met with top Sudanese officials on Saturday as Turkiye’s ties with Sudan continue to flourish. Duran held meetings in Port Sudan with Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the Chair of Sudan’s Sovereignty Council, the Foreign Minister Ali Yusuf, and the Finance and Economic Planning Minister Jibril Ibrahim. During the meetings, Duran explored ways Turkiye could help peacefully resolve Sudan’s

challenges and consulted on technical and humanitarian aid. (www.dailysabah.com)

- January 5<sup>th</sup>, the President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that a new initiative to convince the PKK terrorist group to lay down arms was a unique opportunity for the good of the nation. (www.dailysabah.com)

### COUNTRY ASSESSMENT ■■■ :


*Turkiye enjoys political stability in the context that the President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his party – AKP – fully control the internal political landscape. Economy remains as the main vulnerability of Turkiye. Extremely high inflation and weakness of Turkish Lira increase population’s poverty and social instability. Turkiye promotes an independent foreign policy as a regional power, despite the problems it faces with the EU and the US. It exercises a multilateral foreign policy. The main characteristics of this policy could be considered skillful adaptation and flexibility. It is assessed that the country enjoys an updated and privileged role in Syria, where the new political regime is pro-Turkish. Poor relation with Israel is a thorn in Turkish foreign policy. Turkiye establishes strong presence in Africa, where it is considered by many countries as a strong external actor. Needless to say that PKK is a serious threat against the Turkish national security long time ago and its elimination is of critical importance for Ankara. The newly launched Turkish initiative for a peaceful deal with Kurds to disarm and disband PKK is of great importance and extremely interesting to watch.*


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## NOTE

 *Stable situation. No security risk.*

 *Rather stable situation. Security risk is monitored.*

 *Major concerns over stability and security. Significant security risk in specific regions. Low tension incidents.*

 *Imminent major incidents regarding stability and security. Violent incidents or armed violence in specific regions. Ongoing tension or crisis. High security risk.*

 *Evolving or ongoing crisis including major armed violence or violent/armed conflict. Civil, inter-state or non –state actors war.*