

A Land of
freedom and
hope.
Everyone's
Turkey.

CHP 2011

FOREIGN POLICY



OUTLINE OF CHP'S STAND ON FOREIGN POLICY

1) MAIN APPROACH

A) GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- CHP believes that Turkey should follow an honest, consistent and result oriented foreign policy. This policy is intended to promote Turkey's national interests in all arenas, to provide its security, preserve its independence, sovereignty, and its indivisible national and territorial integrity; as well as increasing its international reputation and influence.

- Standing by Atatürk's main foreign policy motto: "Peace at home, peace in the world", CHP believes Turkey's foreign policy should be shaped by

- Democracy, freedom and human rights

- Secularism

- Supremacy of law

- National development and prosperity

- Social justice

- Gender equality

- Universal civilization values

- In adherence with these values, CHP seeks cooperation with other nations based on principles like equality, respect for mutual rights and interests and non-intervention in internal affairs. CHP intends to solve problems through dialogue.

-CHP considers defense and national security as an inseparable part of foreign policy.

-CHP believes foreign policy should be based on a broad and sustainable national agreement and to this end it urges views and contributions from all circles of society.

-CHP rule envisages setting up a functional communication mechanism and a regular information flow with all related circles, particularly with political parties that have groups in TGNA, on foreign relations and foreign policy issues.

-CHP believes in the necessity of setting up multi-faceted and broad international relations that are focused on peace, humanity and national interests. In this context, CHP is for building up increasing relations with Socialist International and Party of European Socialists, as well as other foreign political parties with similar political standings, provided that this cooperation does not jeopardize Turkey's national interests.

B) CHP's Basic Foreign Policy Objectives

In general;

- Protecting and strengthening Turkey's sovereignty, independence, national integrity, stability, economic and social development.
- Improving relations with neighbors; solving present issues on the basis of long-term mutual interest and respect.
- Securing regional and global peace, and contributing to the spreading of sustainable security and stability.
- Keeping a close eye on possible shifts in global balances; making necessary preparations before those developments occur, and avoiding any kind of situation that might affect Turkey's basic preferences and present ties
- Fighting against terror, organized crime and trafficking of arms, drugs and humans.
- Promoting and spreading the principles and values that inspired the Republic of Turkey at its foundation.
- Regional and global non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- Fair share of prosperity among regions and nations.
- Protecting the rights of women, children and minorities.
- Introducing fair, humane, realistic and practical regulations on international migration.
- Seeking comprehensive cooperation for a clean and healthy environment in our country and in the world.

In Private;

- Full EU membership,
- Overcoming the issues that emerged in relations with the USA in recent years and establishing a new and modern partnership.
- Working for a strong and efficient NATO, in which we shall have a constructive and leading role.
- Finding a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus Issue.
- A prudent and efficient role in the Middle East Peace Process to be assumed at the will of the sides to settle peace.
- Closer relations with ally and sister countries, with whom we have historical ties.

- Increasing our foreign trade, especially our exports; making it easier for our business circles to open out to the world, improving tourism, and attracting foreign investment for production and employment.
- Turning our country into an energy (oil and natural gas) hub.
- Ensuring Turkey's presence all around the world via its businessmen, investments, science, culture and education by closely following the globalization process, and changing international political, economic and commercial relations and balances.
- Speeding up efforts and international cooperation on education and R&D to make Turkey one of the pioneer countries in science and technology.
- Protecting the rights and interests of our citizens and cognates living abroad by considering the changing conditions and setting up a program to this end; encouraging their success in all fields, to contribute to our Turkey's and their own perception in their countries of residence and also to achieve a serious integration process.
- In light of globalization, being active not only on issues which are directly related to our national interests but in all fields within the scope of UN and other international bodies that we are a member of.
- To this end, working on increasing the number and level of Turkish officials in international organizations.

C) Methods to Achieve Foreign Policy Goals:

- Consolidation and solidarity with ally and friendly countries.
- Multilateralism on the basis of international legitimacy and cooperation.
- Dialogue.
- To give the right response -based on solid data and assessments- to foreign policy developments; valuing the experience, and views of expert persons and institutions; thinking long-term; setting forth self-possession instead of hastiness, and action instead of talk.
- As long as they believe in our sincere and fair contribution, taking part in the international peace and security operations of UN and other institutions we are a member of.
- Helping developing countries with concrete projects.
- Paying attention to the timing of our foreign policy decisions and initiatives and to consolidation and coordination with the countries we act together.
- Through regular performance tests, making an assessment of the level of success in achieving targets.

- Becoming a party to UN and Council of Europe charters that fulfill our national needs and interest.
- Encouraging dialogue among Parliaments.
- Setting up relations with foreign think-tank organizations, media and NGOs, following their works, and encouraging their cooperation with similar organizations in our country.
- Regularly informing TGNA about foreign policy developments.
- Informing the public about foreign relations via press conferences and briefings for political parties, think-tank organizations and NGOs.

D) Foreign Policy Implementation Tools

- A Foreign Ministry that is devoid of political influence, respectful to its traditions and the principle of qualification (Meritocracy).
- Foreign missions run by expert and qualified staff.
- Open cooperation with our citizens and cognates in foreign countries in order to promote their prosperity and well-being.
- Technological restructuring for digital diplomacy and public diplomacy implementations.
- Cooperation with our scientists, business world, professional organizations, artists and media to act in unison.

E) Discourse:

- A discourse aligned with the principles and values inspired by Atatürk's foreign policy.
- A knowledge based, constructive, mature and prudent discourse as opposed to a disputative, threatening or populist approach.
- Taking heed of the difference between discourse for promotion and silent diplomacy.
- To rely on written texts on delicate issues.

2) Our approach to Certain Foreign Policy Issues

A) EU Membership:

- CHP favors Turkey's EU membership, and considers this as a social transformation project, which is an extension of Atatürk's revolutionary and modernizational vision.
- Our aim in relations with EU is an honorable full membership with equal membership conditions without digressing from the foundational values of our Republic.

- CHP approves Turkey's embracing the Copenhagen and Maastricht Criteria, as well as EU law, like all other members. On the other hand, CHP refuses the imposition of unilateral conditions against Turkey, which have not been asked of other members.
- CHP demands the lifting of restrictions imposed by EU on free travel, agricultural subsidies, and regional development.
- CHP refuses the attachment of Turkey's EU membership to the Cyprus issue, pre-conditions and unilateral concessions.
- Similarly, CHP stands against the imposition of arbitrary conditions that conflict with the Lausanne Treaty.
- CHP underlines that decisive steps will be taken according to our national interests on all present regulations between Turkey and the EU, including the Customs Union, if certain EU countries prejudiced approach of offering a special status due to geographical and cultural differences in lieu of full membership becomes official EU policy
- With this understanding, CHP strongly supports the acceleration and the conclusion of the reform process in line with EU acquis chapters and the implementations of other member countries.
- CHP sincerely believes that Turkey's EU membership will be the best and most effective solution to the inter-cultural clash, which is already at a disturbing level and has an alarming potential in the foreseeable future of turning into a major conflict.

B) Relations with the US:

- CHP wants to overcome the recently emerged issues in relations with the USA and seeks the establishment of a new and modern partnership on the basis of equality, mutual respect and looking out for each other's lawful interests.

C) Alliances and International Organizations:

- CHP deems regional and global international organizations necessary and beneficial for the peaceful solution of international disputes and multi-lateral cooperation.
- CHP, while expecting all countries to respect the UN laws to protect world peace, expects UN to implement the basic principles of the organization in all international disputes without any exception, and to show the same sensitivity in protecting the independence, sovereignty and unity of all countries.
- CHP supports the equal treatment of all members of international organizations such as the UN and the OSCE, and opposes efforts that aim to use these organizations for the national policies of certain leading countries .
- CHP believes that one of the significant conditions of protecting the world peace is closing the giant economic gap among countries. CHP defends the idea that the UN should play a leading role in setting up a new and fair economic system in the world; supports the

international initiatives and regulations to this end, and believes that Turkey should play a directive role in designing such initiatives and regulations.

- CHP intends to strengthen relations with NATO, of which we are an equal and full member; and wants to see NATO efficiently perform its task of protecting peace and stability as a deterrent power. CHP is for the continuing of Turkey's active contribution to this role of protecting international peace and security.

- CHP supports the non-proliferation of nuclear and chemical weapons and the establishment of a global security concept free of weapons of mass destruction at all international platforms.

D) Cyprus Issue:

- CHP supports the solution of Cyprus issue through an approach that protects the vested rights of TRNC and the people of Northern Cyprus. CHP believes that a lasting peace between the two separate states of Cyprus can only be brought about by the implementation of equal sovereignty. In this framework, CHP supports the peace negotiations to be conducted on the principles of equality and mutual respect.

- CHP refuses the understanding that seeks a solution to the problem by pressure and impositions with the intention to appease the Greek Cypriot side. CHP strongly underlines that Greek Cypriot Administration does not represent the whole Cyprus in any way. CHP emphasizes the need to exert effort to gain international acceptance and recognition to TRNC.

- CHP is going to do what's necessary to lift the embargoes on TRNC and implementations that isolate Cypriot Turks from the rest of the world.

- CHP refuses to accept the continuation of the present deadlock in Cyprus. CHP defends the idea that if just and lasting solution based on equal sovereignty of both peoples on the island is not achieved in a reasonable time, two independent states should learn to live together on the island and that Turkey should work on making the international community to accept this situation.

E) Turkish-Greek Relations:

- Improvement of Turkish-Greek relations is the sincere wish of CHP. Therefore, CHP defends the idea that on Aegean problems and on the issues of Turkish and Greek minorities living in both countries, solutions based on fairness must be sought through constructive dialogue and negotiations. CHP intends to make the Aegean a bridge that connects rather than separates our peoples in economic, social and cultural fields.

- Preservation of the Turkish-Greek balance settled by Lausanne is the main framework for our relations with Greece.

- Solution of our problems with Greece will be, as mentioned above, attained by dialogue and seeking the balance of mutual interests. Active policy will be conducted to protect the rights and interests of our cognates, especially in Western Thrace, outlined by Lausanne and other international treaties.

F) Middle East:

- Turkey is a European and Asian country situated at the crossroads where Caucasus, Middle East and Balkans meet. From this unique geographical position, Turkey is also an important cultural and historical player in the region. One of the evident characteristics of Turkish foreign policy is Turkey's being a "stability building" country around its region. CHP believes Turkey should play a leading role in stability seeking peaceful initiatives in the region.

- CHP believes the source of instability and unrest in the Middle East and adjacent regions, is the ongoing Middle East conflict that prevents regional countries from living together in peace and blocks the opportunities to develop regional cooperation. CHP believes solution of this conflict is the prime step in paving the way to bring peace and stability to the region and beyond. With this understanding, CHP believes Turkey should offer realist and active contributions to all peace efforts to solve this conflict.

-CHP embraces the idea of taking part in result-oriented initiatives with all related sides to find a lasting solution to the Israel-Palestine issue in the framework of UN decisions and two-state principle.

-CHP favors setting up lasting friendly ties and improved economic relations with all Middle Eastern and Islamic countries, particularly our neighbors, without any exceptions. In establishing these relations, CHP rule will adhere carefully to Turkey's secular democratic structure and main targets of its foreign policy.

G) South Caucasus:

- As a country which has suffered from the conflicts in the Balkans, Middle East and Caucasus, the top three conflict zones of the global agenda, Turkey has an interest in the solution of these regional issues as much as the parties of the problems. With this understanding, CHP foresees Turkey's constructive and active contributions in setting up peace and stability in the Caucasus and to the development of the region.

H) Relations with Azerbaijan:

- CHP intends to further strengthen brotherly ties with our neighbor Azerbaijan on the basis of mutual trust and respect.

I) Relations with Armenia:

- CHP wishes good neighborly ties with Armenia. Turkey and Armenia should solve their problems through dialogue. Armenia should withdraw from the Azerbaijani territories it occupied; drop the genocide initiatives against Turkey it conducts via Armenian organizations around the world, as well as abandon all attitudes and discourses giving the impression that it has an agenda against Turkey's national unity. When Armenia begins taking steps proving its change of previous policies, CHP will do its best to support these initiatives.

-However, if Armenia continues with its false allegations, our Party will reciprocate by taking a decisive stance against these claims..

J) Relations with Central Asian Republics:

- CHP envisages close political, economic, and cultural relations with Central Asian Republics and other independent states, as well as setting up and developing multilateral cooperation possibilities and mechanisms.

K) Balkans:

- CHP believes that by the preservation of the political framework that emerged after the dissolution of Yugoslavia, new hostilities in the region could be avoided.

- CHP deems it necessary to look out for mutual interests with Balkan countries and setting up and developing multi dimensional political-economic-cultural bilateral and regional cooperation possibilities for the good of the stability in the region.

- CHP defends the rights of our cognates in the Balkans and other regions of the world to live as equal citizens and to enjoy human rights and freedoms, cultural and participatory political rights in security in their respective countries.

L) Black Sea and East Mediterranean Policy

- To promote Turkey's security and peace in the region, CHP values stability in these areas and opposes unilateral initiatives to bring about a change in the international order.

M) Iraq

- CHP believes protection of Iraq's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity is not only crucially important for this country but also for the entire region.

- CHP is ready to render all necessary support to the Iraqi people by contributing to the restructuring of Iraq with modern and international values and helping to the establishment of a participatory democracy in which all sections of the society are fairly represented.

- CHP respects the political order outlined by the Iraqi constitution approved in a referendum. As long as all the constitutional administrative branches remain loyal to Iraq's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, CHP wishes to establish dialogue and improve and relations with the Central Iraqi government and local administrations, in line with the authority sharing outlined by the Iraqi constitution and mutual interests of Turkey and Iraq.

-CHP strongly supports non-intervention in Iraq's internal affairs. Similarly, CHP expects Iraq to refrain from all actions and initiatives against the public order and territorial integrity of its neighbors. CHP expects Iraq to make sure there are no threats posed from its territory to Turkey.

-CHP supports the improvement of political, cultural and social relations with Iraq in a way to contribute to settling lasting and sustainable stability in the region.