

## Abstract

“Double Veto Players on Transatlantic Security Relations: Turkey as an Outside Veto Player on the CSDP and Cyprus as an Outside Veto Player on NATO”

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We are at a crossroads as regards the future focus and capabilities of the European Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP), NATO, and transatlantic security relations. While NATO is increasingly emphasizing CIMIC operations, the EU is aiming at improving its CSDP. Both institutions are operating with similar missions, around the same geographical areas, and with an increasingly overlapping membership.

With the end of the Cold War, questions regarding the role of the US in the European continent, the relevance of NATO, the EU’s goal to establish an autonomous CSDP, and the future of the transatlantic relations have frequently made the headlines. In this context, a very significant topic – the roles played by Turkey and Cyprus in NATO-EU relations – is left relatively understudied. What roles do Turkey and Cyprus play in the evolving European security structures and in the future of NATO-CSDP relations?

While there have been few academic works focusing on the pre-2003 impasse in the EU-NATO security relationship due to a diplomatic row between Turkey and Greece (Tocci and Houben 2001; Bağcı 2001; Missiroli 2002; Bilgin 2003); the ongoing impasse in EU-NATO security relationship resulting from the diplomatic tensions between Turkey and Cyprus did not receive the due attention it deserves from the academic community (for exceptions, see Keohane 2006; Ülgen 2008; Hofmann 2009).

This topic not only fosters theoretical debate, but also holds policy relevance. While Turkey refuses to allow Cyprus to participate in CSDP missions involving NATO intelligence and resources, and threatens to veto the Partnership for Peace (PfP) application of Cyprus with NATO; Cyprus refuses to allow Turkey to engage in the overall development of CSDP to an extent commensurate with Turkey’s military weight and strategic importance to Europe, and vetoes the association of Turkey with the European Defense Agency (EDA).

This article posits that analyzing the strategic preferences of Turkey and Cyprus vis-à-vis the evolving transatlantic security infrastructures is essential for both drawing a complete picture of the current state of the transatlantic relationship and making healthy projections on its future.