



Conference: ANKAMUN'22

Committee: European Council

Topic: Turkey's accession to European Union

Country: The Kingdom of Belgium

Delegation: Duru Gargin

Position Paper

About our country:

The Kingdom of Belgium is a state located in western Europe. Belgium is a founding member of the European Union (EU). It also houses the headquarters of the European Union and some international organizations. Belgium is a federal state divided into 3 regions. Belgium has 3 official languages: Dutch, French and German. The capital of Belgium is Brussels. Belgium has a population of approximately 11,5 million and %65 of the country's population is Christian.

About the topic:

Primarily ,Turkey's European Union membership process started in 1963, when Turkey signed the Association Agreement (Ankara Agreement) with the European Economic Community (EEC). In 1987, Turkey officially applied for full membership. Turkey's full membership negotiations started with the inter-jurisdictional conference held in Luxemburg on 3 October 2005. Of the 35 chapters required to complete the accession process, only 16 were opened and one was closed by May 2016. The European Union (EU) has accused and criticized Turkey of human rights violations, lack of rule of law and violation of Copenhagen criteria. In addition, the political obstacles of some countries and the Cyprus problem have put the negotiation process under a mortgage. The European Union has stopped its defenses for Turkey since 2016 and on 15 December 2021, the EU council decided to keep the accession negotiations with Turkey frozen.

Our opinion:

Although the openness of EU countries regarding Turkey's accession to the EU varies from country to country, none of them supports Ankara's unconditional participation. Although past Belgium governments supported Turkey's EU membership, Prime Minister Charles Michel changed his stance by calling for an end to negotiations in March. Also Michel pointed out that Erdogan's departure from European values, emphasizing that diplomatic relations rapidly deteriorated under the autocratic president. We as the Belgium delegation, would like to point out that although we were open to Turkey's accession to the EU in the past, currently we are not in favor of Ankara's unconditional accession (like most of the European countries).

Consequently; we, the Belgium delegation, would like to point out that there are some inadequacies supposed to be fulfilled.