

RENEWING US-TURKISH TRACK II STRATEGIC DIALOGUE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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ABSTRACT:

This U.S.-Turkish Track II strategic dialogue on proliferation and WMD challenges builds on two successful prior PASCC-funded exchanges in 2012 and 2015 that produced important insights and ideas for strengthening U.S.-Turkish cooperation to address WMD threats in Southeastern Europe. The most recent dialogue in 2015, co-hosted by the United States Institute of Peace and the Center for Economic and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM) in Istanbul, not only generated concrete proposals that were brought to the attention of governments and policy makers in both countries, but also signaled the emergence of a productive network of U.S. and Turkish experts interested in fostering deeper security ties. In the ensuing two years, domestic dynamics in Turkey and regional developments in Iraq and Syria complicated efforts to sustain these dialogues. Still, a window of opportunity for a renewed dialogue is now opening. This Track II meeting will be held in Brussels and will be co-hosted by EDAM and Carnegie Europe (the Brussels office of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace). The dialogue will address a number of WMD-related issues in the context of U.S.-Turkish and Turkey-NATO relations, to include Turkey's nuclear power program, Turkey's purchase of Russian air defense systems, and regional dynamics following U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal.

Research in Progress describes ongoing PASCC research. For more information please contact INSS@usafa.edu.