

# THE POLITICAL ASPECT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN TÜRKİYE AND THE EUROPEAN UNION THROUGH THE ACTIVITIES OF MUSLIM ORGANIZATIONS

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The history of Turkish integration into the European Community has been one of the longest-running of all the Member States of the European Union (EU) since 1959, since the first application for accession to the Single Economic Community. In 1999, Türkiye finally gained candidate status. However, after fulfilling all the requirements imposed on the Republic of Türkiye, it also received an indefinite date of final accession.

Despite the fact that the process of Turkish integration has been going on for more than half a century and there are no significant prospects for Türkiye's accession to the EU, significant changes in the positions of the Turkish communities in European countries have taken place during this period. First of all, the issue of Turkish-European relations is particularly politicized. EU countries have been following the political

course within Türkiye, especially in recent years. The Turkish community is one of the largest Muslim migrants in European countries. Accordingly, any changes in European migration, integration or other aspects of politics and political discourse that directly or indirectly affect Turkish migrants are reflected in Turkish-European relations. Turkish Muslim organizations which have extensive networks in European countries serve as a bridge for communication. Through diverse activities and different funding donors, they have different influences and goals. Therefore, Turkish Muslim organizations should be considered as a factor in the political interaction of the Turkish community in Europe, European states and the Turkish Republic.