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ANKASAM ANALYSIS

China-US Talks and Regional Developments

On 28 September 2023, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong met with United States (US) Under Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Krietenbrink in Washington. The diplomats held "in-depth" discussions on regional issues, demonstrating that both sides maintain open dialogue [1]

The diplomats in charge of Asian affairs of both countries held a frank, in-depth and constructive consultation on regional issues as part of their efforts to keep the lines of communication open. They discussed regional issues such as Myanmar, North Korea and maritime issues, as well as Taiwan, one of the most contentious issues in bilateral relations. [2]

The Chinese Foreign Ministry stated that these talks were based on bilateral consensus and took place upon the invitation of the US side. In this context, the "one-China" principle was emphasised as the basis for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and China's position on this issue was made clear. In addition, Sun, a senior Chinese diplomat, also expressed the US approach to issues such as the Asia-Pacific strategy and the South China Sea. [3]

In a statement issued after the talks, both sides pledged to continue dialogue on Asia-Pacific issues. This is the latest in a series of high-level meetings involving senior officials from both countries in recent months. Most recently, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Chinese Vice President Han Zheng in New York and they pledged to "keep the lines of communication open and continue high-level discussions" in the coming weeks. [4]



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In addition, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held "frank, concrete and constructive" talks with US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan in Malta, where they discussed Taiwan, the war in Ukraine and additional high-level talks. The Wall Street Journal reported that Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng was preparing for a visit to the US. The Journal also reported that Foreign Minister Wang Yi is planning a visit in October in preparation for the Shi-Biden talks. The meeting between Sun and Krittenbrink followed the second US-Pacific Islands Forum recently held at the White House. [5]

The bilateral talks emphasised "the importance of a free, open, connected and secure Indo-Pacific region". Over the last year, the rivalry between Washington and Beijing has increasingly shifted to the Asia-Pacific.

These developments indicate that the channels of communication between the United States and China are becoming more open. This important meeting in Washington took place in the context of an in-depth dialogue on critical issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Taiwan issue, which was particularly emphasised in this context, is one of the most sensitive issues in US-China relations. Crittenbrink underlined the sensitivity of the Taiwan issue and the diplomatic relations between the parties. It was also stated that other regional issues such as Myanmar, North Korea and maritime issues were also discussed.

In conclusion, there are positive developments in the process of dialogue and cooperation between the US and China. This will reduce regional tensions and have a positive impact on stabilisation.

[1] "China-US Ties: Beijing and Washington Diplomats Overseeing Asian Affairs Meet in Sign of More Open Communication", South China Morning Post, <https://t.ly/OSLXQ>, (Erişim Tarihi: 30.09.2023).

[2] "China-US Ties: Beijing and Washington Diplomats Overseeing Asian Affairs Meet in Sign of More Open Communication", Yahoo Finance, <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/china-us-ties-beijing-washington-093000757.html>, (Erişim Tarihi: 30.09.2023).

[3] "China-US Ties: Beijing and Washington Diplomats Overseeing Asian Affairs Meet in Sign of More Open Communication", South China Morning Post, a.g.e., (Erişim Tarihi: 30.09.2023).

[4] "China-US Ties: Beijing and Washington Diplomats Overseeing Asian Affairs Meet in Sign of More Open Communication", Yahoo Finance, a.g.e., (Erişim Tarihi: 30.09.2023).

[5] "China-US Ties: Beijing and Washington Diplomats Overseeing Asian Affairs Meet in Sign of More Open Communication", South China Morning Post, a.g.e., (Erişim Tarihi: 30.09.2023).



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Xi Jinping's Opening Speech at the Belt and Road Forum

On 18 October 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping opened the forum commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative, promising foreign companies greater access to China's vast market and over \$100 billion in new financing to other emerging economies.[1]

This initiative, spearheaded by Xi Jinping, has built infrastructure such as power plants, roads, railways and ports around the world and deepened China's ties with Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

At the forum's grand opening ceremony, Xi Jinping promised that the China Development Bank and the Import and Export Bank of China would each provide 350 billion yuan (\$47.9 billion) in financing. An additional 80 billion yuan (\$11 billion) will be invested in Beijing's Silk Road Fund to support Belt and Road Initiative projects. [2]In addition, Xi Jinping stated that they will reform state ownership, digital economy, intellectual property rights and public procurement.[3]

"We will comprehensively lift restrictions on foreign investment access in the manufacturing sector. We will expand investment access in cross-border trade and services and increase market access for digital products."

The Belt and Road Initiative, spearheaded by Xi Jinping, includes global infrastructure projects and the goal of deepening economic ties. In his speech at the forum, the Chinese President promised to increase international financing for his country's infrastructure projects and to facilitate access to the Chinese market for foreign companies. These commitments can be characterised as an important support, especially for the acceleration of the Chinese economy.

Referring to China's efforts to reduce its dependence on manufacturing and supply chains at a time of increasing pressure from the United States (US) and its allies, Xi Jinping reiterated his country's commitment to create a fairer environment for foreign firms: [4]

"We do not engage in ideological confrontation, we do not participate in geo-political games and clique political conflicts. We are against unilateral sanctions and economic pressure."



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The forum emphasised China's commitment to creating a fairer environment for foreign investors and expanding cross-border trade. In addition, the pledge to increase market access for digital products and reform areas such as intellectual property rights is also an important development.

The Forum was attended by more than 130 representatives, mostly from developing countries. Among them were at least 20 heads of state and government. Russian President Vladimir Putin also attended the forum and demonstrated his economic and diplomatic support for China despite the isolation caused by the war in Ukraine. [5]

Speaking immediately after Xi Jinping, Putin described the Belt and Road Initiative as "a really important, global, future-oriented initiative that aims to create a fairer, multipolar world relations.[6] "This is a truly global plan," Putin said, adding that China's initiative is very much in line with Russia's plans to create a greater Eurasian space.[7]

Participants included the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), António Guterres, as well as heads of state from Indonesia, Argentina, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Kenya and other countries. Most Western European countries and US allies had lower levels of participation in the forum [8] Stating that the Belt and Road Initiative can bring development to neglected regions, Guterres stated that this initiative can accelerate the process of moving away from dependence on fossil fuels.[9]

Through the Belt and Road Initiative, China has become a major financier of development projects on par with the World Bank. According to the Beijing Government, this initiative has realised more than 3,000 projects worth almost 1 trillion dollars. [10]

In conclusion, Xi Jinping pledged to contribute to the further internationalisation of this initiative, promising to provide foreign investors with greater access, financing support and trade opportunities. The forum revealed how different countries and leaders view this initiative and how it can shape the future of China's global infrastructure projects. This forum is expected to have a significant impact on international relations and the global economy.

[1] "China's Xi Promises Open Markets and Billions in New Investments for 'Belt and Road' Projects", Associated Press News, <https://apnews.com/article/belt-road-initiative-forum-xi-putin-2ffe38c38cdf91556fe4c48c01f0acaf>, (Erişim Tarihi: 20.10.2023).

[2] "China's Xi Promises Open Markets and Billions in New Investments for 'Belt and Road' Projects", Asharq Al-Awsat, <https://english.aawsat.com/business/4612366-china%E2%80%99s-xi-promises-open-markets-and-billions-new-investments-%E2%80%98belt-and-road%E2%80%99>, (Erişim Tarihi: 20.10.2023).

[3] "China Announces Billions in Investments in Developing Countries and Pledges Market Opening", Euronews, <https://www.euronews.com/2023/10/18/china-announces-billions-in-investments-in-developing-countries-and-pledges-market-opening>, (Erişim Tarihi: 20.10.2023).

[4] "Xi Promises More Market Openness, Investments for Belt and Road Projects", Business Standard, https://www.business-standard.com/world-news/xi-promises-more-market-openness-investments-for-belt-and-road-projects-123101800304_1.html, (Erişim Tarihi: 20.10.2023).

[5] "China's Xi Promises Open Markets and Billions in New Investments for 'Belt and Road' Projects", Associated Press News, <https://apnews.com/article/belt-road-initiative-forum-xi-putin-2ffe38c38cdf91556fe4c48c01f0acaf>, (Erişim Tarihi: 20.10.2023).

[6] Aynı yer.

[7] Aynı yer.

[8] Aynı yer.

[9] Same place

[10] Aynı yer.



ANKASAM ANALYSIS

The Importance of Zangezur Corridor for Azerbaijan and Russia



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The Zangezur Corridor is a strategically important passage between Azerbaijan and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. This corridor is a 43 km long passage starting from the Nakhchivan border crossing and continuing to Azerbaijan. There are 4 major cities on it and a total of 392 thousand people live here. This corridor will connect the main territory of Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan, while at the same time providing Nakhchivan access to the outside world. Therefore, the Zangezur Corridor is very important for Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan.

The Zangezur Corridor came to the agenda as part of the agreement signed on 10 November 2020, which envisaged a ceasefire between Azerbaijan and Armenia. This agreement aimed to end the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the Karabakh region and Article 9 of the agreement envisaged the opening of the "Zangezur Corridor", which would be used to ensure the land connection of Nakhchivan with Azerbaijan.

Nakhchivan is an autonomous region geographically isolated from the territory of Azerbaijan and is located between Turkey and Iran. The Zangezur Corridor is of vital importance for Nakhchivan to maintain its economic, trade and logistics links with the outside world. The Zangezur Corridor creates opportunities for economic cooperation between Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan. This corridor will be used to support the economic development of Nakhchivan and facilitate Azerbaijan's trade with Nakhchivan. The operationalisation of this corridor will play an important role in promoting Nakhchivan's economic and political independence. With the activation of the Zangezur Corridor, energy, transport and trade projects will be developed in accordance with the needs of Nakhchivan.

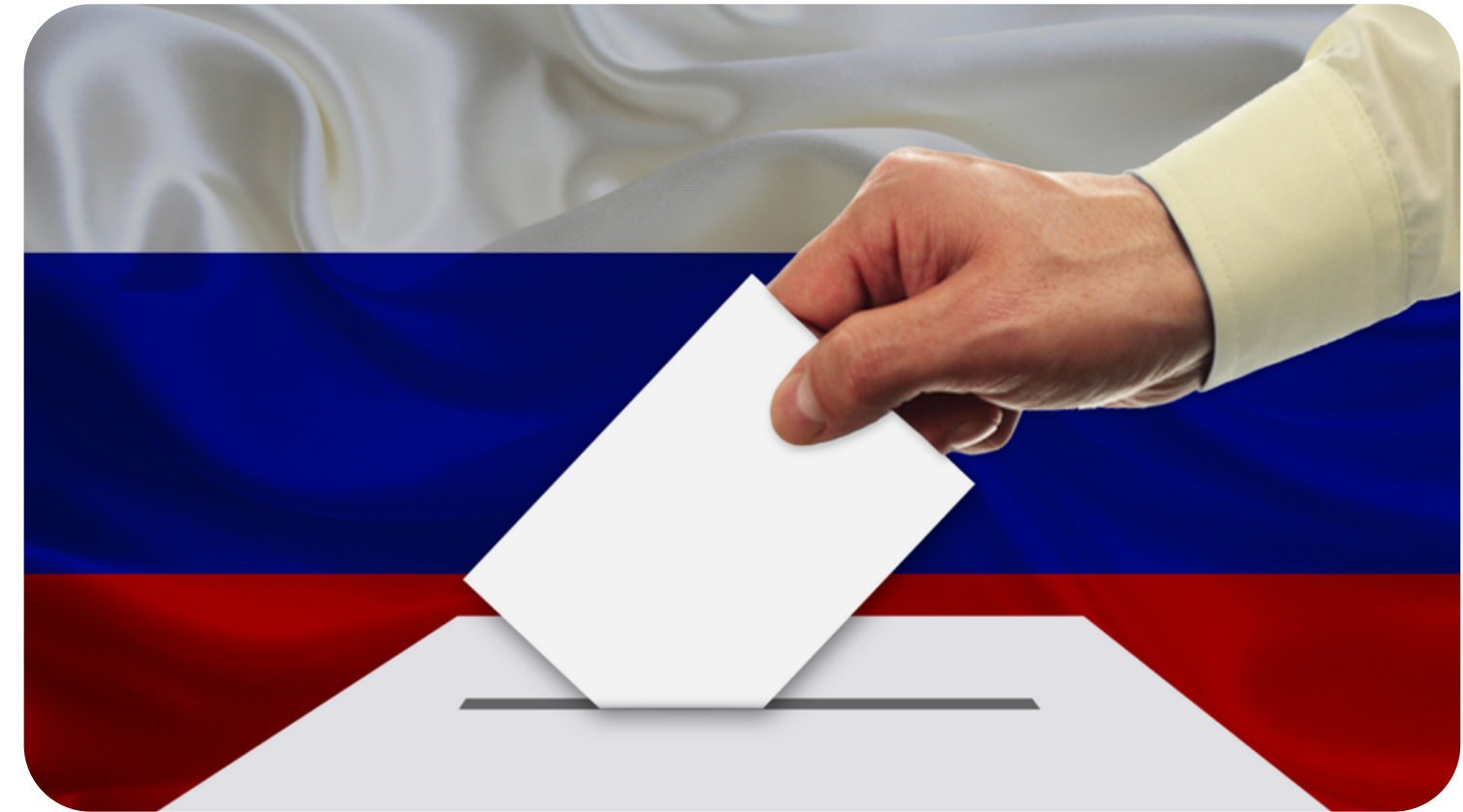
The Zangezur Corridor is a symbol of peaceful relations and cooperation between Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan. This corridor will be used as an important tool to promote regional stability and prevent conflicts and will open the door to regional cooperation projects to support the economic development and sustainability of Nakhchivan. The Zangezur Corridor will serve as the main route for transporting energy and trade to Nakhchivan. The transport of oil, natural gas and other energy resources to Nakhchivan and the entry and exit of trade goods to and from Nakhchivan will take place through this corridor. The Zangezur Corridor promotes Azerbaijan's cross-border cooperation with other countries. Thanks to this corridor, Azerbaijan will improve its relations with Nakhchivan and enable its participation in regional and international projects. In particular, energy transport and transport projects will provide opportunities for cooperation between Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan and between these regions and neighbouring countries.

The security of the Zangezur Corridor will be provided by the Border Guard Service of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation. Russia's role in the Zangezur Corridor is very important considering the political and energy dynamics in the region. The Zangezur Corridor is located close to the southern borders of Russia. Therefore, this region is of interest for Russia's regional and security policies.

Azerbaijan is a country rich in energy resources and has signed many energy export and energy transit agreements with Russia. The Zangezur Corridor could be used to transport Azerbaijan's energy resources to Nakhchivan, which could create a competitive position with Russia in terms of energy exports in the future. The opening and use of the Zangezur Corridor will affect the balance between the regional powers. Russia closely monitors the political and economic events in the region and the regional balance will change with the opening of this corridor. Zengezur Koridoru'nun açılması ve kullanımı, bölgesel güçler arasındaki dengeyi etkileyecektir.

The Zangezur Corridor will also isolate Armenia from Nakhchivan. This situation will support Nakhchivan's integration with Azerbaijan, complicate relations with Armenia and affect Russia's relations with Armenia. The use of the Zangezur Corridor will affect the diplomacy between Russia and Azerbaijan and will lead Russia to play a mediating or supporting role. Since this corridor will enable the development of regional transport and trade, Russia will be able to easily integrate its trade and transport with the Caucasus region by using the corridor. The opening and utilisation of the Zangezur Corridor is a complex issue that will affect regional dynamics, and Russia's policy and influence in this regard is noteworthy.

In conclusion, the Zangezur Corridor represents a strategic link between Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan and its use will create opportunities for cooperation in various fields such as energy transport, trade and transport projects. This corridor is expected to play an important role in international relations and regional cooperation projects.



ANKASAM ANALYSIS

The Upcoming Russian Elections in the Context of the "Ukraine Crisis"

Ramzan Kadyrov, a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin and the leader of the Chechnya region, has proposed that the presidential elections scheduled for March 2024 should be postponed due to the war in Ukraine or only Putin should run.[1]

This proposal demonstrates the legitimacy of democratic processes in Russia and the importance of multi-candidate elections. Democracy is based on the evaluation of various candidates and different opinions by the people. The restriction of elections in Russia to only one candidate can be shown by the United States (USA) and the European Union (EU) as contrary to democratic principles, that is, in the opinion of the Western Bloc. At the same time, this proposal can also be used by the West for allegedly weakening political diversity and participation.

Putin has stated that he will announce whether he will run for the Presidential Elections on December 2023 at the earliest. It is almost certain that Putin will win the elections and stay in the Kremlin. However, Russia's inability to get exactly what it wants in the war in Ukraine has made events less predictable, and this war, which Moscow calls a "special military operation," has become a major challenge for Putin. [2]

In the eyes of the West, the fact that Putin has been in power for a long time and suppresses dissent threatens the healthy functioning of democratic processes. According to the West, Putin's staying in power for so long goes against the basic principles of democracy and may reduce political diversity. In democratic societies, the people have the right to choose between different leaders and party options, and these options should compete to better serve the interests of the people.



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RIA Novosti newspaper reported that Kadyrov spoke at a rally of 25,000 people in Grozny, the capital of Chechnya, to celebrate Putin's birthday on October 7, 2023. Kadyrov used the following statements:[3] [4]

"My suggestion is that while the 'special military operation' is going on right now, let's decide unanimously that we will have a single candidate in the elections. And this person should be Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin. Or let's temporarily postpone the elections, because there is no one else who can defend our country today."

Kadyrov is a Chechen leader who has been Putin's ally since the war began in Ukraine. The war in Ukraine has become Putin's biggest challenge in domestic politics. The fact that Russia can control only less than a fifth of Ukraine, instead of quickly taking control of Ukraine and blocking attempts to get closer to the West, the front lines remain stable, military spending increases and hundreds of thousands of Russian soldiers have fled the war points to a very problematic situation for Moscow.

It is unclear how the war in Ukraine will affect Russia's internal politics. However, it is clear that this situation has negative effects on Russia's international relations and economy. Such events in the international arena may cause leaders to reshape their domestic policies and change their election strategies.

The West has imposed extensive economic sanctions on Moscow, provided weapons to Ukraine at great cost, thereby strengthening solidarity within the alliance.

As a result, it is not yet clear how the war in Ukraine will affect Russia's political maneuvering space and election strategies. But it should be remembered that such events can greatly affect foreign relations as well as domestic politics.

[1] "Kadyrov Suggests Postponing Russia Presidential Election, or Excluding Rivals to Putin", Reuters, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/putin-ally-suggests-postponing-march-presidential-election-or-excluding-rivals-2023-10-07/>, (Eriřim Tarihi: 09.10.2023).

[2] "Chechen Leader Says Russian Presidential Election Should Be Postponed Or Limited To Putin As Single Candidate", Radio Free Europe Rado Liberty, <https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-kadyrov-elections-postponed-putin/32628115.html>, (Eriřim Tarihi: 09.10.2023).

[3] "Kadyrov Suggests Postponing Russia Presidential Election, or Excluding Rivals to Putin", Reuters, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/putin-ally-suggests-postponing-march-presidential-election-or-excluding-rivals-2023-10-07/>, (Eriřim Tarihi: 09.10.2023).

[4] "Putin Ally Suggests Postponing March Presidential Election, or Excluding Rivals", BDNews24, <https://bdnews24.com/world/europe/er2wktnpft>, (Eriřim Tarihi: 09.10.2023).



ANKASAM ANALYSIS

US-Japan-South Korea Trilateral Exercises

On 22 October 2023, the militaries of South Korea, the United States of America (USA) and Japan conducted a trilateral air exercise for the first time in response to North Korea's nuclear threats.[1]

The purpose of the training off the Korean Peninsula was to implement the agreements previously reached by the three countries, increase defence cooperation against threats emanating from North Korea, and strengthen joint response capabilities. A nuclear-capable B-52 bomber from the US and fighter jets from South Korea and Japan participated in the exercise. [2]

South Korea and Japan are two important US allies in Asia, home to around 80,000 American troops.

The three countries have previously conducted trilateral naval exercises, such as anti-submarine or missile defence drills. The 22 October 2023 exercise was the first time a trilateral air training flight took place.

These manoeuvres highlight the security cooperation between South Korea, the US and Japan. North Korea's growing nuclear threats highlight the need for these countries to maintain regional stability and develop strong defence cooperation.

In fact, South Korean public opinion has reacted against the expansion of military exercises with Japan. This is because there is still a strong resentment against Japan's activities on the Korean Peninsula during the 1910-1945 period. However, North Korea's advancing nuclear programme is prompting South Korea to put historical disagreements with Japan behind it and establish a trilateral security cooperation with the US and Japan.

South Korea's sensitivity to expanding military exercises with Japan is important. This reflects the impact of past historical disputes on security co-operation. The North Korean nuclear threat is leading these countries to put aside historical bitterness and build broader security co-operation.

In August 2023, South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol, US President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida met at Camp David in a trilateral summit and agreed to strengthen defence cooperation to deal with North Korea's nuclear threats. The three leaders agreed to organise annual trilateral exercises and to implement real-time North Korean missile warning data sharing by the end of the year.



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South Korea and Japan can be said to be allies of the United States in Asia. This is a concrete outcome of the US efforts to maintain its military presence and defence cooperation in the region.

The exercise on 22 October 2023 could provoke a strong reaction from North Korea, which has long reacted to South Korea's training exercises with the United States, calling them "preparations for invasion" and responding with missile tests. Pyongyang has condemned the Camp David Accords and accused the leaders of the United States, South Korea and Japan of planning nuclear war provocations on the Korean Peninsula. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called Yoon, Biden and Kishida "gang leaders" of the three countries [3]

It is expected that North Korea will react to this trilateral exercise. North Korea may consider the military exercises with South Korea and the United States as a provocation and may retaliate. This could increase tensions in the region. On the other hand, North Korea's advancement of its nuclear programme and threats to use nuclear weapons raise concerns in the region.

Concerns about North Korea's nuclear programme deepened after Pyongyang passed a law authorising the use of nuclear weapons last year. Since then, North Korea has threatened to use these weapons in potential conflicts with the United States and South Korea.

As a result, regional security dynamics and co-operation between South Korea, the US and Japan are of high importance for regional security. North Korea's nuclear threat leads these countries to seek closer defence cooperation. However, factors such as historical issues and North Korea's reaction complicate these efforts.

[1] "South Korea, US and Japan Hold First-Ever Trilateral Aerial Exercise in Face of North Korean Threats", Associated Press News, <https://apnews.com/article/south-korea-japan-us-aerial-drills-fc04a9b22a04b118d774ed70837b7aeb>, (Erişim Tarihi: 23.10.2023).

[2] Same page.

[3] Aynı yer.



ANKASAM ANALYSIS

The Future of Moscow-Pyongyang Relations

North Korea and Russia are united in their struggle against the West. In this context, it can be said that Pyongyang and Moscow have revisionist ideals and challenge the post-Cold War New World Order led by the West.

North Korea is facing serious sanctions in the global arena. Similarly, Russia has been subjected to sanctions by the Western Bloc over the war in Ukraine. Both states are significant nuclear powers. In today's international conjuncture, the global security environment has become increasingly fragile due to the risks posed by nuclear proliferation. North Korea conducted a record-breaking Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Test [1] in 2022 and is trying to demonstrate that it is one of the world's greatest nuclear powers.

Russia has been threatening the use of nuclear weapons since the beginning of the war in Ukraine. These common denominators make both Pyongyang and Moscow extremely dangerous for the West, and especially for the United States (US). Moreover, the Western bloc's sanctions resolutions against North Korea in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) are blocked by Russia's veto.

It can be argued that Moscow and Pyongyang are strong allies in shaping the global system, opposing the "international liberal order" and competing with the United States. On December 22, 2022, the White House claimed that a private Russian military company, the Wagner Group, had purchased weapons from North Korea for soldiers fighting in Ukraine. In this context, John Kirby, National Security Advisor to US President Joe Biden, claimed that North Korea completed its first shipment of weapons, including rockets and missiles, to Russia in November 2022. [2]

On September 12, 2023, North Korean President Kim Jong Un visited the Vostochny Spaceport in Russia's Amur region for a comprehensive meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. [3] The West claimed that the meeting would be on the arms trade. In response to these allegations, Putin said "we will discuss everything" and Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated that both countries cooperate in sensitive areas that should not be publicized. This can be interpreted as Russia not denying the allegations. Moreover, the participation of North Korean military officials in the meeting could strengthen these allegations.



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One of the most notable decisions following the talks was Russia's decision to support North Korea's satellite launch initiatives. Putin stated that "the North Korean leader shows great interest in rocket engineering and is also trying to develop space.[4] This shows Russia's significant support for North Korea. It is estimated that this support may turn into nuclear cooperation. It can be argued that this decision could seriously disturb the Western Bloc and especially Washington, further fragilizing global security.

It is stated that Russia will receive arms aid from North Korea in return for this support. This is because North Korea still uses Soviet technology in its arms industry. Russia's failure to achieve the desired results in the war in Ukraine and Kiev's move to go on the offensive could mean that Moscow is seeking arms from Pyongyang in order to ease its hand.

After his meeting with Putin, Kim Jong-un made the following statements:

"We believe that the Russian army and people will win a great victory in the holy struggle to punish evil. I deeply believe that the heroic Russian army and nation will largely inherit the tradition of victory and display invaluable virtue and honor on the frontlines of the special military operation. North Korea and Russia will continue to stand together in the fight against imperialism. North Korea supports Putin's decisions."

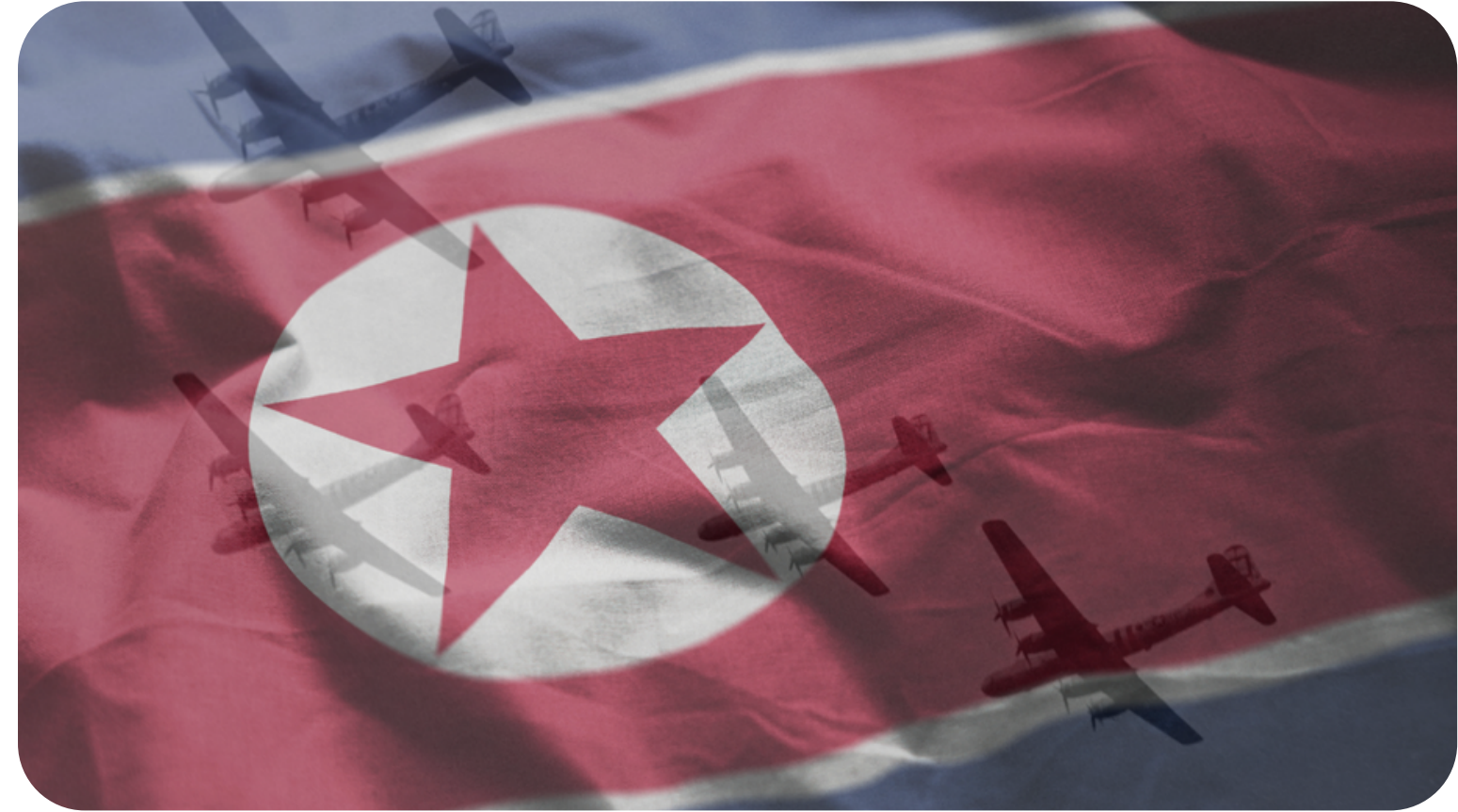
As a result, Pyongyang continued to provide open support to Moscow in the Russia-Ukraine War. With this meeting, it can be said that the Moscow-Pyongyang unity will be further strengthened and they will take a stronger stance against the West, especially in the war in Ukraine.

[1] "North Korea's Record Year of Missile Testing is Putting the World on Edge", Cable News Network, <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/12/26/asia/north-korea-missile-testing-year-end-intl-hnk/index.html>, (Erişim Tarihi: 13.09.2023).

[2] "White House: Russia's Wagner Received Arms From North Korea", AP News, <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-business-north-korea-e6a068d91bc9828ecadfb67c929a4162>, (Erişim Tarihi: 13.09.2023).

[3] "Kim and Putin Meet at Russian Spaceport for Possible Arms Talks", NBC News, <https://www.nbcnews.com/>, (Erişim Tarihi: 13.09.2023).

[4] Same place



ANKASAM ANALYSIS

North Korea's "New Cold War" Concerns

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called for a significant increase in his country's nuclear weapons production and a more active role in a "new Cold War" coalition against the United States (US). These statements were made during a two-day session of the parliament's constitutional amendment, which includes a policy of expanding the country's nuclear weapons program. [1]

This can be seen as a reflection of North Korea's foreign policy and strategy and a reaction to security threats. North Korea seems to be trying to gain a more influential position internationally. Nuclear weapons are considered as an essential tool to achieve this goal.

These statements of Kim came after his visit to Russia's Asia-Pacific Region and his meetings with President Vladimir Putin. [2] The visit raised the prospect of an arms alliance in which North Korea would provide Putin with the munitions he needs to support its war in Ukraine in exchange for economic aid and advanced Russian technology to strengthen North Korea's nuclear and missile systems.

Seeking to break out of diplomatic isolation, Pyongyang is actively strengthening its partnerships with Moscow and Beijing in an effort to join a united front against Washington. Indeed, Kim has stated that the world has entered a "new Cold War" and that North Korea must advance its nuclear capabilities in response. [3]

The visit in question can be seen as a reflection of North Korea's efforts to strengthen its relations with Russia and seek more strategic partnerships in the international arena. Expectations, especially in terms of military aid and technology transfer from Russia, may be effective in North Korea's approach towards Russia. Kim also appears to be pursuing a strategy to increase his effectiveness in diplomacy and foreign relations with the end of pandemic restrictions. This strategy may aim to break North Korea's isolation and become a more effective player in the international arena. It also emphasizes the need to strengthen North Korea's relations with the international community..



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Kim's remarks were reported by the North Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). This came a day after North Korea confirmed the release of US military personnel Travis King. However, there was a possibility that North Korea could have extended King's detention and obtained concessions from the United States. This option, however, could have seriously damaged Pyongyang's relations with Washington.

KCNA reported that the members of the parliament unanimously approved the article on the rapid development of nuclear weapons in order to promote the country's right to existence and development, deter war, and rapidly promote regional and global peace to a high level. In his parliamentary speech, Kim emphasized the need to "greatly increase the production of nuclear weapons and accelerate work to diversify the means of nuclear attack."

Kim expressed concern about the expanding military cooperation between the US, South Korea and Japan and the creation of an "Asian version of NATO," which is "the root cause of war and aggression." Kim asked his diplomats to "further promote solidarity among nations standing against the hegemony strategies of the United States and the West." [4]

Kim's statements provide important clues to understand the complexity of Pyongyang's security strategies and its position in the international arena. Kim's expression of concern over US-South Korea-Japan military cooperation highlights the complexity of regional security dynamics. Security and defense strategies play an essential role in interregional relations, and such explanations can help understand geopolitical tensions and regional security equations.

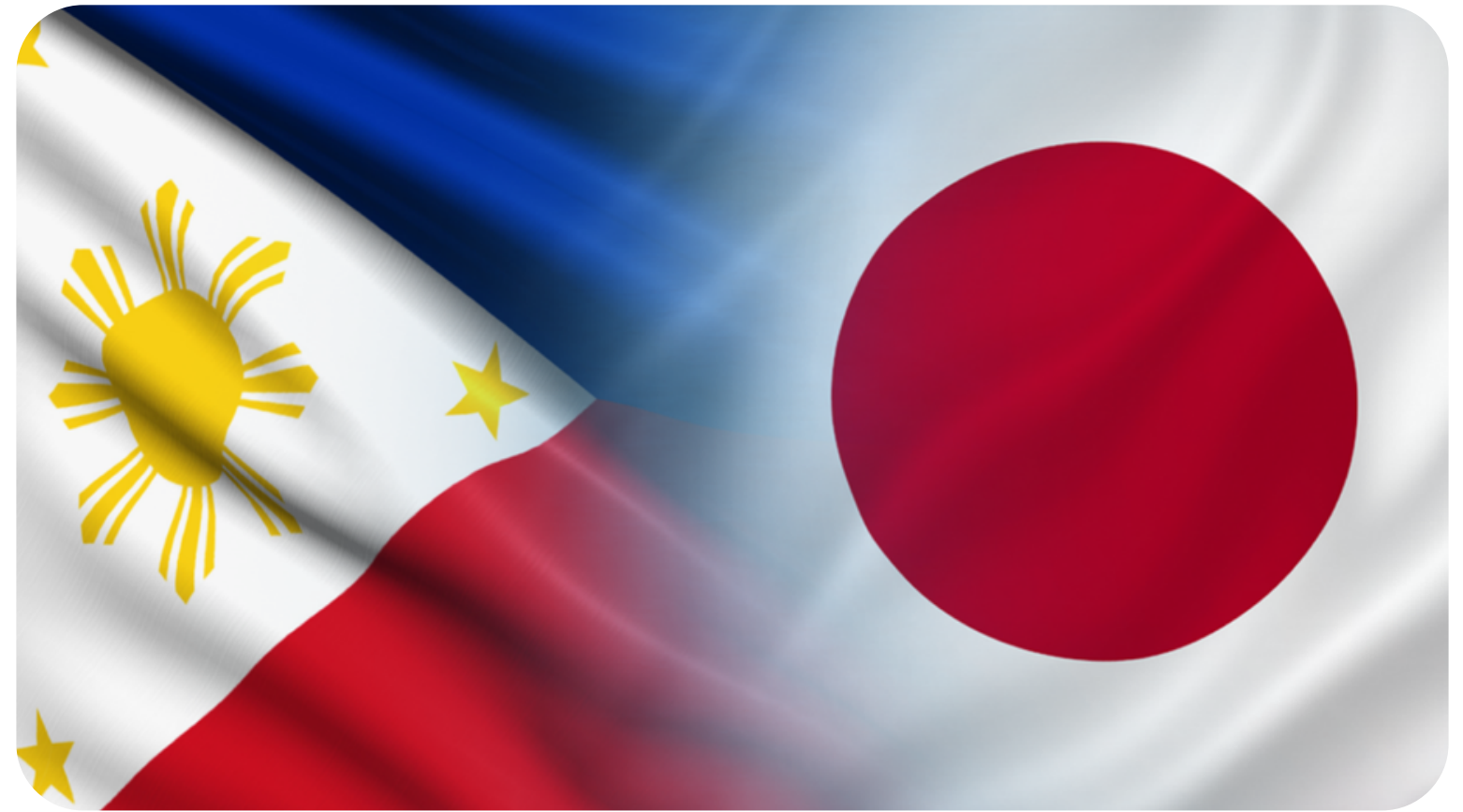
In conclusion, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's statements and strategic approach can be considered as a reflection of an effort to strengthen North Korea's role in international relations and adapt its security strategies. This strategic approach can be considered as an essential element in understanding regional and global security dynamics.

[1] "North Korean Leader Urges Greater Nuclear Weapons Production in Response to a 'New Cold War'", Associated Press News, <https://apnews.com/article/north-korea-kim-cold-war-nuclear-72087705d2276860f8e4edd999930ba8>, (Erişim Tarihi: 28.09.2023).

[2] "North Korean Leader Urges Greater Nuclear Weapons Production in Response to a 'New Cold War'", ABC News, <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/north-korean-leader-urges-greater-nuclear-weapons-production-103548709>, (Erişim Tarihi: 28.09.2023).

[3] Same page.

[4] Same place.



ANKASAM ANALYSIS

Japan-Philippines Security Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific

On the world map, the Indo-Pacific stretches from the west coast of the Indian Ocean to the east coast of the Pacific Ocean and includes many island countries, mainland countries and maritime trade routes. The Indo-Pacific region, which has a geographically large area and hosts a significant portion of the world's population, also includes the leading countries of the world economy and China, India, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, including Japan, are located in this region. The Indo-Pacific region also includes many island countries. It extends from countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia in Southeast Asia to island countries such as Fiji, Tahiti and New Zealand in the Pacific Ocean.

The relationship between Japan and the Philippines is important for strategic and economic co-operation in the Indo-Pacific region. Although the two countries have historically experienced difficult periods, they maintain strong co-operation and friendly relations today. Relations between the two countries cover a wide range of areas including trade, economy, security and infrastructure development.

Security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region consists of countries' joint efforts to protect regional and global security, maintain peace and strengthen regional stability. This cooperation takes place in various fields such as military, diplomatic, economic and humanitarian assistance.

As the Indo-Pacific is home to major maritime trade routes and many strategic countries, security co-operation is particularly important in this region. In this context, the importance of security co-operation efforts between Japan and the Philippines is increasing.



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Bilateral security cooperation between Japan and the Philippines includes a series of agreements, training programmes and military cooperation activities to respond to security challenges in the Indo-Pacific and promote regional stability. This co-operation aims to strengthen strategic relations between Japan and the Philippines, while at the same time tackling challenges that threaten regional security.

Japan and the Philippines are committed to maintaining maritime security and free shipping in the Indo-Pacific. In this context, the two countries organise joint naval exercises in the Indo-Pacific. The prevention of terrorism and the fight against terrorist groups are on the agenda of security co-operation between Japan and the Philippines.

Both countries cooperate in areas such as intelligence sharing and joint operations in the fight against terrorism. Military training and capacity building include efforts to enhance the capabilities of the two countries' defence forces. Japan offers training and capacity-building programmes for Philippine military personnel, provides military equipment, and both countries conduct joint exercises.

Japan and the Philippines, in co-operation with other countries, are making efforts to maintain stability and peace in the Indo-Pacific. In particular, participation in regional cooperation forums, diplomatic initiatives and solidarity efforts in crisis situations are important forms of cooperation. Both Japan and the Philippines are countries that frequently face natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis and typhoons. In order to increase resilience to natural disasters and improve disaster mutual assistance and emergency response capacity, Japan and the Philippines are also engaged in security cooperation.

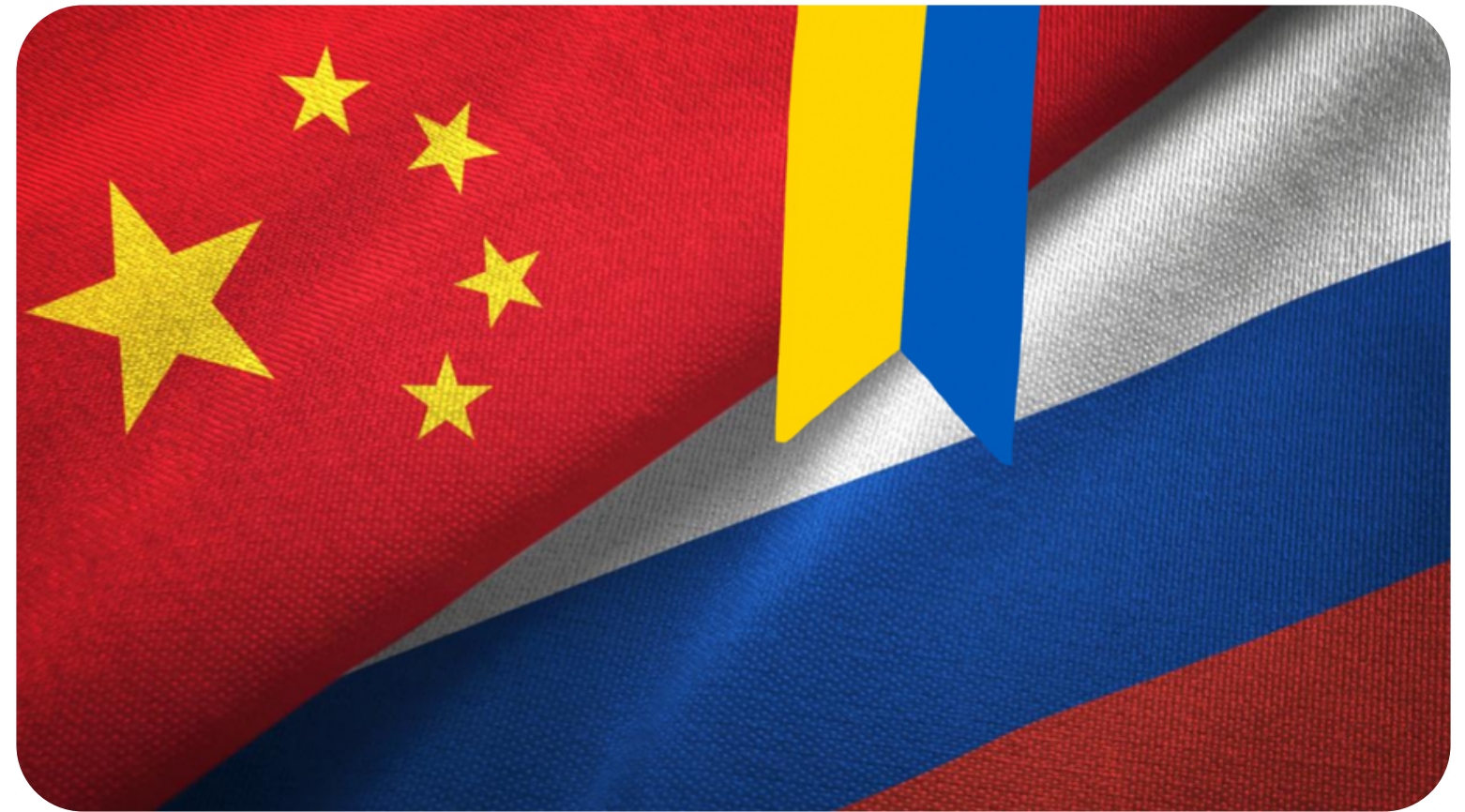
Japan and the Philippines signed a series of Military Training and Capacity Building Agreements, Security and Defence Cooperation Agreements, Maritime Security and Naval Exercises Agreements, Intelligence Sharing Agreements for bilateral security cooperation and military personnel training and capacity building programmes in the Indo-Pacific region. These agreements are intended to train, upskill and increase the military capabilities of Philippine military personnel and to regulate and coordinate defence cooperation and security cooperation activities between the two countries.

In 2011, Japan and the Philippines signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement. This agreement aims to strengthen relations between the two countries and promotes security co-operation. The Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) signed between the two countries covers areas such as security policies, intelligence sharing, counter-terrorism, military training and defence technology cooperation.

The Tiger Star Training Programme is one of the military training programmes provided by Japan to the Philippines. This programme aims to develop leadership, tactical, logistics and other military skills of Philippine military personnel. There are also various military cooperation documents between the two countries. These documents cover the organisation of military exercises, information sharing, maritime security, security coordination and crisis response. In addition, Philippine military personnel have opportunities to attend military schools in Japan. This situation helps the Philippines military personnel to increase their level of training. These agreements are important instruments to guide and regulate bilateral security co-operation between Japan and the Philippines and support efforts to maintain stability in the Indo-Pacific.

On 16 May 2023, Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa met with visiting Philippine Foreign Minister Enrique Manalo in Tokyo and they agreed to deepen bilateral security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. The two ministers also agreed to strengthen trilateral cooperation involving the United States and expressed satisfaction with Japan's decision to transfer defence equipment to the Philippines as part of security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. In April, Japan decided to transfer equipment to the armed forces of "like-minded" countries under the Official Security Assistance (OSA) framework. Accordingly, Japan will also provide equipment support to the Philippines for coastal surveillance operations.

In conclusion, bilateral security co-operation between Japan and the Philippines provides a framework for working together to address security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. This co-operation is crucial for enhancing regional stability and responding to security threats such as counter-terrorism. While Japan contributes to regional security by enhancing the Philippines' defence capacity, this cooperation is effectively coordinated and balanced with other countries in the region.



ANKASAM ANALYSIS

Moscow-Beijing dialogue in Ukraine Crisis'nin Effect

China's from 1978 Xiaoping it had started with the policy of opening to the outside world, [1]. 2000'li has started to bear fruit in years. Because of China, the global economic crisis that began in 2008 [2], after Japan in 2010, 'besting [3]. USA's has become the world's second largest economy. [4]. China's began to grow rapidly as a result of liberalization steps, it can be argued that the country's economy. Along with these developments, Beijing, in later years, of the global supply chain has risen to the top. [5].

China's Russian-Ukrainian War'na perspective, are frequently discussed in the international arena. Russia and China's United States (US) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and foreign policy in opposition to Western hegemony in the production process of these two states closer together. This Western'yla China in its struggle'in Russia'means the support of Yi.

On the other hand, Beijing's significant economic relations with Western and European Union member countries, both of us are there. This China'locates at the top of the global supply chain. [6]. At the same time, the war in question is inflicting serious damage to the global economy and the supply chain. Therefore, Beijing's look on the war in question has changed over time.

At this point, NATO and the United States "common opponent" go asrunse China's global market place of damage to this partnership between Moscow and Beijing China's eyes has made debatable. Since China's already over the war in question wanted to be, and in this sense can be said to be making moves. Indeed, the above-mentioned news about developments also can be read in this context.

China's goal, the Russian-Ukrainian war's end of the corridor between Europe and Russia and strive for re-becomes operational to ensure that. Beijing, question due to the war in the middle Aisle'a aims at reducing the burden. Because of this, after the war through Western Russia'of the goods or transported to 60%started to go through more from the middle aisle. [7].

Moreover, Russia's invasion of China on the anniversary of the war by a 12-point document posted. [8]. In China, the document in question has made calls for sovereignty and territorial integrity to be respected in all countries. This article is Russia's interests is contrary to that much is certain. Despite this, the Western media still China's Ukraine's war in Russia'Yi believes that it supports. The reason for this senior Chinese officials Wang Yi's visit to Russia on Moscow'is that it gives you a message of solidarity. [9].



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China, Russia, says clearly that is not any problem between you. However, Ukraine's opinion is inhabited by about two countries. Beijing, Ukraine's is neutral in that war Western or tries to prove. However, Sino-Russian relations and the strategic partnership between the two countries did not damage continues. It is obvious that this plan is to be implemented. China is trying to make its stance clear.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine between the two countries, the strategic partnership the United States and the West Block for increasingly challenging. It can be said that it became. However, at the beginning of the war, it can be argued that this situation is increasing. Indeed, Beijing, Moscow by the support or west of Russia it can be said that the impact of the sanctions against broke. West's Russia to isolate and exclusion from the global economy, such as the moves in this context, the effects of decreased. Since the occupation, China has consistently NATO and the West, Russia and inciting him although it did not account for the legitimate security interests has taken. [10]. All of these developments, the West's Russia much more difficult to make or to maintain sanctions against would.

West's deepening China-Russia relationship against it can be argued that hawk did not choose to pursue policies in the first place. Washington's Beijing-China is fragile relationships although let to engage a more challenging task considers to be, it can be said. China's Russia although it is difficult to convince them to move away from the West's the idea that western should refrain from actions that will move them closer to each other too hard to truck. Germany's first strategy shows the document as China, Europe, China already to have disagreements on how to deal with it.

Moreover, since the beginning of China and Russia, their leadership BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), such as multilateral organizations given importance to the serious extent of the increase should. Which is the subject of the actors, but groupings western post-multilateral see as important building blocks of the vision of a global order, it can be argued.

However, Russia's decision to continue the war in the face of Beijing's to Moscow confidence in it can be argued. In this context, Russia and China's basically the U.S. and Europe's agenda or that it does not determine the rules of the multi-polar world order in the determination of creating a common foreign policy with the production process old, it can be argued.

In addition to all this, Russia's western, post-layout vision of China different from the ink that can be said. Russia's unlike in China, more dialogue-based system will be subject to.

As a result, as long as the war continues, China's will be more negative attitude towards the war in question. This is also Beijing and Moscow's opening between Russia and S to be isolated in the process may cause further progress on a global scale.

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[4]. "The World's Largest Economies", World Data Info, <https://www.worlddata.info/largest-economies.php>, (Erişim Tarihi: 06.06.2023).

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ANKASAM ANALYSIS

North Korea's New Nuclear Law

The North Korean parliament has acted unanimously to enshrine its nuclear programme in the country's constitution. According to the state-owned Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 28 September 2023, [1] this constitutional amendment will establish North Korea's nuclear power efforts "as the basic law of the state". [2]

The country's leader, Kim Jong Un, gave a speech in support of the passage of the amendments. Kim called for "accelerating the modernisation of nuclear weapons to ensure a decisive superiority of strategic deterrence" against threats such as the United States (US) and South Korea. Kim made the following statements: [3].

"This is a historic event that provides a powerful political leverage to significantly strengthen national defence capabilities. The North Korean nuclear power-building policy has been made permanent as the fundamental law of the state, which no one can violate with anything."

Just a few days ago, North Korea's Permanent Representative Kim Song warned the United Nations (UN) General Assembly that his country could be pushed to nuclear war as a result of "enemy threats from outside". [4] Kim made the following statements in his speech on 26 September 2023: [5].

"The Korean Peninsula is in a critical situation with the danger of the imminent outbreak of nuclear war. Referring to the extremely dangerous circumstances, North Korea urgently needs to improve its defence capabilities to ensure its self-defence."

The enshrinement of the law on the development of nuclear weapons in the country's constitution is in defiance of a series of UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions aimed at restraining North Korea from developing nuclear weapons. Over the past year, North Korea has increased the number of ballistic and cruise missile tests. Since 2006, North Korea has conducted six nuclear tests, with the last nuclear test in 2017.



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American officials, including US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, have warned of the possibility of a seventh test in the near future. Major General Scott Berrier, Director of the US Defence Intelligence Agency, said in March this year that North Korea had become “much more dangerous” as it expanded its inventory of missiles and nuclear weapons, adding that “they continue to pursue lethal activities with greater determination”. However, North Korean officials cite the accumulation of nuclear weapons as a necessity for self-defence against threats such as the United States, South Korea and Japan.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has likened the alliance between the United States, Japan and South Korea to an “Asian version of NATO”.[6] The three countries regularly conducted joint military exercises in the Pacific region, which North Korean state media described as “nuclear blackmail”.[7] Earlier this month, Kim made a rare visit outside his country, visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Vostochny spaceport and inspecting Russia’s military capabilities. Putin, in return, pledged to visit North Korea, raising concerns about an arms trade agreement between the two countries.

North Korea’s decision to incorporate its nuclear programme into the country’s constitution has caused great concern in the international community. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s support for this change underlines the country’s goals of accelerating the modernisation of its nuclear weapons and gaining the upper hand in strategic deterrence.

This move was presented as a defence mechanism against perceived threats, such as the US and South Korea, and justified as an urgent need to ensure national security. However, this action is a clear challenge to nuclear proliferation in the international arena. North Korea’s decisions in this direction could seriously threaten regional and global stability and pave the way for the uncontrolled proliferation of nuclear weapons. While North Korea has put forward the argument of developing its nuclear weapons as a need for self-defence, the international community warns that such nuclear proliferation could further jeopardise regional security and increase the risk of conflict.

As a result, solutions should be sought through dialogue and diplomacy and confidence-building measures should be taken among all parties to ensure regional peace and security. Such steps reveal the necessity of addressing North Korea’s nuclear programme through diplomacy and negotiations, not military means.

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[4] Same place.

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[6] Same page.

[7] Same page.



ANKASAM ANALYSIS

US-China Relations in the Framework of the Climate Crisis

Meeting with California Governor Gavin Newsom in Beijing on October 26, 2023, Chinese Environment Minister Huang Runqiu said that his country wanted to strengthen cooperation with the United States (USA) in the fight against climate change. Because Gavin Newsom organized a trip to China to improve climate cooperation.[1]

Climate is one of the few issues on which the US and China show a common will to work together. Relations between the two countries have deteriorated in recent years due to issues such as trade practices, customs barriers, human rights issues and the status of Taiwan.

Huang Runqiu said that they will continue to cooperate in “carbon market investment, climate adaptation, environmental law enforcement and people-to-people exchange” within the scope of an agreement signed between China and California last year, and stated that this aims to have a positive impact on China-US environmental cooperation.[2]

Gavin Newsom said California is a leader in regulating air pollution and other climate-related issues. The Governor of California used the following statements:[3]

“We recognize the limitations of local leadership. More partners are needed. It is in that spirit of partnership that I am here, while also acknowledging that we do not have all the answers.”



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China and California published a declaration on October 25, 2023 to promote the exchange of information on reducing environmental pollution and emissions. The declaration commits to working together to combat climate change, including through offshore wind, advanced energy storage technologies and zero-emission vehicles.

Gavin Newsom received a friendly welcome in Beijing. On October 26, 2023, the Governor of California met with high-level officials such as Chinese President Xi Jinping, Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Vice President Han Zheng. Gavin Newsom emphasized that the climate issue concerns the future of both countries.[4]

China's Environment Secretary expressing his willingness to cooperate with California Governor Gavin Newsom in combating climate change underscores the importance of international cooperation to deal with global climate change. This development reflects the intention of two major economic and political actors to cooperate on climate change. Additionally, this development shows that the fight against climate change must continue in the international arena. Because climate change is considered a global challenge.

The two sides' intention to cooperate in combating climate change shows that despite the tensions between China and the United States, the issue of climate change is of critical importance for both countries. Climate change is recognized as a worldwide emergency by scientists and politicians, and therefore the issue of cooperation at the international level comes to the fore.

Huang Runqiu's statements indicate that the areas of cooperation between the USA and China are not limited to climate change. Issues on which the two countries can cooperate include advanced technology areas such as offshore wind, energy storage technologies and zero-emission vehicles. This demonstrates that the fight against climate change is not just about carbon reduction, but also a focus on clean energy and sustainable technologies.

As a result, this development emphasizes the importance of cooperation at the subnational level, such as states, and at the national level, such as states, in the fight against climate change. As a matter of fact, issues such as environment and climate are among the important common problems of nations, beyond political conflicts.

[1] "China Says it Wants to Bolster Climate Cooperation with US as California Gov. Newsom Visits Beijing", Associated Press News, <https://apnews.com/article/gavin-newsom-climate-change-cooperation-china-beijing-894dd6b1a0290b12aee9c9915dc3443a>, (Erişim Tarihi: 26.10.2023).

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[4] Some.



ANKASAM ANALYSIS

Ukraine's "Counter-Attack" on Russia and the US Plan

On 1 August 2023, Mikhail Podolyak, Advisor to the Ukrainian President's Office, stated that the war would soon move completely to Russian territory. [1] It is known that since June 2023, the Ukrainian Army has launched a "counter-offensive" against Russia. In this context, it is noteworthy that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) leadership and its member states, in particular, are trying to accelerate the supply of air defence systems, tanks, fighter jets and long-range missiles to Kiev.

The debate on the supply of Leopard-2 tanks and F-16s to Ukraine dates back to last year. It should be recalled that at that time Germany had long opposed the delivery of Leopard-2 tanks to Ukraine. Berlin had only one condition for doing so. That was that the Western allies should support Ukraine in the same way. Protracted negotiations yielded results and Washington agreed to send American-made M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine to enable Ukraine to launch attacks against Russia. [2]

Also during this period, Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelenski repeatedly stated that they were insufficient in the airspace against Russia and insistently asked Europe for help in this regard. His calls yielded results and some Scandinavian and Northern European countries, especially the United States of America (USA), announced that they would send F-16s to Ukraine. [3] In addition, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg stated that Ukraine urgently needs air defence.[4] While rapid progress is expected in Ukraine's counter-attacks, a number of technical challenges remain, such as the delivery of German and American tanks and training for their use, as well as the training of F-16 pilots.



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During a meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart Vladimir Zelenski on 21 September 2023, US President Joe Biden said that he would send ATACMS long-range missiles to Ukraine. [5] However, until now, the US had refrained from sending this system to Ukraine for the fear that Ukraine would use it to hit targets inside Russia and spread the conflict to a wider area. However, the US has abandoned this strategy and started to favour Ukraine to carry the war to Russian territory. In fact, it can be said that the pressures of the USA and the UK were effective in Ukraine's decision. Because this also represents the West's war against Russia and China

Within Europe, Germany, too, has a negative view of Ukraine's taking the war to Russian territory. For this purpose, Ukraine requested long-range Taurus missiles from Germany, but Germany did not agree to deliver them to Kiev and even made efforts to shorten their range.[6] The US decision to send long-range missiles to Ukraine could therefore serve as a guideline for Germany to follow suit.

It seems that the US is calling on European countries, and Germany in particular, to provide more assistance to Ukraine, while refraining from doing so itself. However, Germany also expects this support from the United States. In short, the White House's decision to send long-range missiles to Ukraine is largely intended to encourage Germany to send Taurus missiles to Ukraine.

Stoltenberg stated that the war in Ukraine will be long-lasting and that the only way to end the war is to speed up arms deliveries to Kiev.[7] "Refusing or delaying the transfer of modern weapons to the Ukrainian armed forces is a direct incentive for the Kremlin to continue the war," Stoltenberg said.[8] Stoltenberg, who gave the most important message to the USA, said: "If the USA wants to deal with China, it must first ensure that Ukraine wins." [9] According to Stoltenberg, if Europe emerges victorious from the war in Ukraine as soon as possible, it can easily turn to the fight against China. This is also in the interests of the United States. [10] Realising this, the US and Britain are forcing the European countries to increase their military aid to Kiev in order to achieve a decisive victory in Ukraine. Because without the end of the war right next to Europe, these countries will not be able to lift their heads and turn towards China.

On the other hand, China's calls to Russia to end the war in Ukraine are also noteworthy. This war is causing the Western powers to focus their energies on Europe. If the war in Ukraine ends, perhaps the whole of Europe will be engaged in a struggle with China. China, on the other hand, favours stability and peace in the world. Beijing's aim is to gain Russia's support in the Asia-Pacific. The way to do this is to end the war in Ukraine. The US plan is to distract Russia with new crises in Europe. However, these crises also distract Europe in the same way. In this dilemma, the US will try to continue its struggle both in Europe and in Asia-Pacific simultaneously.

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[7] "NATO Chief Warns Ukraine Allies to Prepare For 'Long War'", Politico, <https://www.politico.eu/article/nato-chief-jens-stoltenberg-warns-ukraine-allies-to-prepare-for-long-war/>, (Erişim Tarihi: 23.09.2023).

[8] Same page.

[9] "NATO Chief: US Has to Ensure Ukraine Wins If It Wants to Deal with China", AA, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/nato-chief-us-has-to-ensure-ukraine-wins-if-it-wants-to-deal-with-china/2998104>, (Erişim Tarihi: 23.09.2023).

[10] [Same page]



ANKASAM ANALYSIS

Cyber Attack on Finland and Regional Security

As a country located in Northern Europe, Finland offers an internationally prominent model for cybersecurity. The country has developed various strategies and policies to strengthen its information technology infrastructure and effectively protect against cyber threats.

Cyber attacks increasingly pose a threat to the national security of states. Many states seek to gain strategic advantage in cyberspace through espionage, information leakage, infrastructure attacks and various cyber operations. The Finnish Security and Intelligence Service (SUPO) has revealed that Russia has been one of the most active perpetrators of intelligence operations targeting Finland, amid heightened tensions following the country's accession to NATO and the war in Ukraine. On 12 October 2023, SUPO warned of a "significant deterioration of relations with Russia" following a suspected act of sabotage targeting the country's maritime infrastructure.[1] It was underlined that Russia is pushing the country with various threats, such as cyber attacks and disinformation. "Russia's espionage attempts against us have increased during the war, especially in the cyber sphere," said Suvi Alvari, a senior analyst at SUPO.[2]

In June 2023, Finnish President Sauli Niinistö declared that the attacks violated the Vienna Convention. Following the expulsion of several diplomats from Helsinki, Russia appears to have shifted its intelligence gathering focus to online activities. Norway and Sweden have also expelled a number of Russian figures in recent months for alleged intelligence work. Suvi Alvari stated that the attacks will continue: [3]

"It's clear that Russia is skilled in cyber. That is why we are prepared. We consider it likely that Russia will continue with Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks against us. Russia wants to weaken Finland's image in the eyes of its own people and that is why there is a lot of negative news about us."



Sena BİRİNCİ

Finland's NATO membership and its support for Ukraine are among the most important reasons for Russia to increase its intelligence motivation. Finland's NATO membership was not welcomed by Russia. This led to a hardening of Russia's attitude towards Finland. It is a well-known fact that the two countries had stable relations before Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but today Russia considers Finland as an unfriendly country.

With elections expected to take place in Russia and Finland next spring, security forces will be vigilant against possible interference. The Finnish National Bureau of Investigation has announced that its work is ongoing. Sweden has said that it is experiencing the same situation as its neighbor Finland and that cyber warfare threats from Russia and other actors have increased. Swedish authorities then announced that a submarine telecommunications cable with Estonia had been damaged. Swedish Civil Defense Minister Carl-Oskar Bohlin said the cause of the incident was unclear. [4]

Russia's cyber espionage attempts against Finland could have devastating effects on regional security. It is argued that Finland is prepared for cyber-attacks and that Russia is using these attacks to undermine the country's image. Finland claims that Russia is trying to influence international public opinion through disinformation. In conclusion, cyber-attacks are rapidly deteriorating the security environment in Scandinavia and the Baltic region. If Russia continues these attacks, the states in the region may resort to collective measures.

[1] Alexander Martin, "Finnish Intelligence Agency Warns Russia Treating Finland As A 'Hostile Country'", The Record News, [1] "AB Elektrik Piyasası İçin Reform Teklifi Verildi", AA, <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/dunya/ab-elektrik-piyasasi-icin-reform-teklifi-verildi/2845489>, (Erişim Tarihi: 14.03.2023), (Erişim Tarihi: 19.10.2023).

[2] Miranda Bryant, "Finland Faces Growing Russian Online Threat, Finnish Security Services Say", The Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/18/finland-faces-growing-russian-online-threat-finnish-security-services-say> (Erişim Tarihi: 19.10.2023).

[3] Aynı yer.

[4] Niklas Pollard, "Sweden Says Telecom Cable With Estonia Damaged But Operating", Reuters, [4] "AMB'den Enerjide Dönüşüm Vurgusu", Bloomberg, <https://www.bloomberght.com/amb-den-enerjide-donusum-vurgusu-2339281>, (Erişim Tarihi: 29.09.2023).



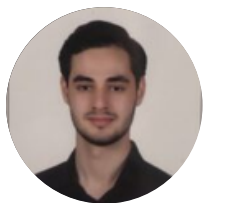
ANKASAM ANALYSIS

European Union Energy Reform

In 2023, there were many developments that deeply affected the global energy sector. In particular, the restriction of oil production by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) had a major impact. In order to maintain the supply-demand balance and energy security in energy, a reform was signaled, including many issues such as health, agriculture and industry. The European Union (EU), in particular, has sought solutions to mitigate the negative impact of the Russia-Ukraine War on sustainable energy supply and to prevent growth in the sector.

On March 14, 2023, Brussels prepared a reform proposal to change electricity market rules to protect consumers from price increases and to expand the use of fixed-price electricity contracts.[1] The content of the proposal in question is quite broad. In this way, it is aimed to encourage long-term contracts with those who produce electricity from renewable energy sources, reduce the negative effects of fossil fuels, provide clean and flexible solutions to the system, promote renewable energy sources, ensure transparency and integrity in the electricity market and fair competition in Europe. Therefore, the European industry will be decarbonized, a green transformation will take place, and it will reach renewable and affordable energy. This will bring price stability in renewable electricity production and benefit both suppliers and consumers. [2]

Spanish Energy Minister Teresa Ribera announced on October 18, 2023 that the differences between France and Germany were resolved and EU members reached an agreement on the reform in the energy market. Minister Ribera stated in his statement to journalists that the most important factor was almost unanimity. Because only Hungary abstained on this issue. The agreement focused on a section of the law that explains how state aid can be used to support energy projects. The talks in question had been stalled for months due to Germany's approach. [3] As a matter of fact, Berlin had concerns that the plan in question could disrupt competition and give an advantage to France, which has the second largest nuclear fleet in the world after the United States.



Ömer Faruk
PEKGÖZ

The EU, which initiated green transformation reforms before the Russia-Ukraine War, had difficulty meeting electricity demands after the war. The main difficulties in question are the deactivation of base power plants, the suspension of the nuclear energy program and the inability of renewable energy to produce sustainable production. Increasing production costs and the increase in investment costs per megawatt in solar and wind energy to millions of euros have disrupted investments in this field.

European Central Bank (ECB) President Christine Lagarde spoke at the Energy Transition conference held in Paris on 29 September 2023. The International Energy Agency drew attention to renewable energy at the conference organized by the European Investment Bank and the ECB. He pointed out that rapidly changing energy prices and permanent changes in energy markets may have significant effects on inflation dynamics. President Lagarde emphasized that the regular clean energy transition is for the benefit of everyone. He also reminded that natural disasters have become more frequent and severe due to climate change, and stated that the number of weather-related disasters has increased 5 times in the last 50 years: [4].

"If we do the green transformation wrongly, there will be high social costs."

President Lagarde emphasized the need for investment by the majority of companies in the euro area within the scope of combating the climate crisis and green transformation reform, but added that these investments were postponed due to increasing financial costs. The EU states that, despite the creation of additional budgets in the reforms, it has made an additional expenditure of 792 billion euros since the Russia-Ukraine War to maintain energy stability and combat the negative effects of the war. [5].

The main investment areas for the EU are; The development of energy storage, hydrogen-based production and consumption, solar energy, wind energy and fusion technologies. The continuation of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor project on fusion energy has become the project that comes closest to the dream of an "energy-free world", even though it shows that fusion in this field is still at its infancy. There is a budget of approximately 2 trillion dollars to complete the relevant targets by 2040.

The following statements were used in the statement made by the EU regarding the reform: [6].

"This reform, which aims to stabilize long-term electricity markets, aims to popularize two-way contracts for difference (CfDs) by supporting the market of energy purchase agreements and increasing the liquidity of the forward market. Two-way contracts for difference will be used to invest in new energy production facilities such as wind energy, solar energy, geothermal energy, unreserved hydropower and nuclear energy. This will provide predictability and assurance. The rules for two-way CfDs will only apply after a three-year transition period (five years for offshore hybrid asset projects linked to two or more bidding zones) after the regulation comes into force, in order to maintain legal assurance for existing projects."

In this context, in the post-G20 period and before the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference, the EU has made progress on the issues it has committed to and has placed energy stability on a legal basis. It has become possible to say that the decisions taken on this issue will set an example on a regional and global scale. The completion of legal reforms, which are the most important component of energy stability, has once again been shown as the formula for economic independence in this field.

[1] "AB Elektrik Piyasası İçin Reform Teklifi Verildi", AA, <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/dunya/ab-elektrik-piyasasi-icin-reform-teklifi-verildi/2845489>, (Erişim Tarihi: 14.03.2023).

[2] Same page.

[3] "AB Üyeleri Enerji Piyasası Reformu Üzerinde Anlaştılar", EkoTürk, <https://www.ekoturk.com/haber/ab-uyeleri-enerji-piyasasi-reformu-uzerinde-anlastilar/>, (Erişim Tarihi: 18.10.2023).


[4] "AMB'den Enerjide Dönüşüm Vurgusu", Bloomberg, <https://www.bloomberght.com/amb-den-enerjide-donusum-vurgusu-233928/>, (Erişim Tarihi: 29.09.2023).

[5] "Avrupa, 2040'ta 2 Trilyon Dolarlık Yatırımla Tamamen Yenilenebilir Enerjiye Geçebilir", Yeşil Haber, <https://t.ly/SaffM>, (Erişim Tarihi: 7.10.2023).

[6] "Reform Of Electricity Market Design: Council Reaches Agreement", European Council Council of the European Union, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/10/17/reform-of-electricity-market-design-council-reaches-agreement/>, (Erişim Tarihi: 17.10.2023).

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 ANKASAM Chief Advisor to the President, Retired Ambassador Aydın NURHAN evaluated the latest developments on the Israeli-Palestinian Line to TVNet.



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