

# INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT RESOLUTIONS APPLICATION AND RESEARCH CENTER WEEKLY JOURNAL



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Mustafa Said ŞAHAN  
August 21, 2020

## TURKEY MAKES BIGGEST NATURAL GAS DISCOVERY IN THE BLACK SEA

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, in the Başkent Organized Industrial Zone during the "Kalyon Solar Technologies Factory Opening Ceremony" in his speech, declared that Turkey would enter a new era.

President Erdoğan announced the promised news in his live broadcast at the Dolmabahçe Work Office. Erdoğan: "Turkey has carried out the largest natural gas discovery in its history in the Black Sea". "Energy is of great importance in the establishment of national independence as well as being a key element of development," Erdoğan said.

Erdoğan continues his speech by saying:

"our Fatih drilling ship has discovered 320 billion cubic meters of natural gas reserves in the Danube 1 well drilling which started on July 20, 2020. We carried out this operation entirely with national means. Data from the well indicates that new natural gas discoveries are highly likely in the same area. Our goal is to make Black Sea gas available to our nation in 2023. Now we will start drilling detection, then wells immediately and then we will determine the production concept and move on to construction facilities."



Cumhurbaşkanı Erdoğan,  
'müjde'yi verdi,  
TÜRKİYE İÇİN MİLAT:

**FATİH, KARADENİZ'DE  
DOĞAL GAZ REZERVİ  
KEŞFETTİ**



Stating that he expects good news from the Mediterranean, Erdoğan continued: "We have carried out 9 deep sea drilling in the Mediterranean and Black Sea so far through our Fatih and Yavuz ships. We have the honor of giving our nation the good news it has been waiting for in the latest round of drilling. I would like to repeat that beautiful word for exploration by adapting it to our drilling activities, not every caller can find it, but the searchers are the ones who find it."

Finally, he concluded his speech by saying: "we are committed to solve our country's energy issue. We do not rest until we become a net exporter in energy. We will continue to march towards our goals without staring at anyone's rights, but without feeding anyone our rights. After the discovery at Sakarya gas field, we believe there is a much brighter path ahead."



Major news agencies such as Reuters and Bloomberg in the Foreign Press also announced that Turkey have found energy sources in the Black Sea. Reuters also reported that natural gas found in the Black Sea will meet Turkey's 20-year energy needs.





Kübra UYSAL  
August 21, 2020

## RISING TENSION IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

The waters in the Eastern Mediterranean are getting warmer day by day. The Greek navy was on red alert after the NAVTEX announced in July that Turkey's Oruç Reis seismic survey ship would be working in the region. As the tension in the region increased, German Chancellor Angela Merkel called Ankara and Athens to lower the tension.



After the initiatives of German Chancellor Merkel, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan stated that Oruç Reis' work was suspended for a while. During this period, Greece took advantage of the situation and signed a so-called agreement with Egypt regarding the determination of maritime jurisdictions.

After Oruç Reis took action for the work to be carried out in the region, the Greek navy once again went on a high level of alarm and the permits of all the Greek Armed Forces were canceled. Prime Minister Mitsotakis called the National Security Council to the meeting with his emergency code.

The first reaction to the so-called agreement on determining maritime jurisdictions signed between Greece and Egypt came from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The so-called agreement on the statement made by the Ministry that no provision for Turkey and the United Nations also reported that the so-called restricted areas where otherwise stated in the Turkish continental shelf. The statement also said Turkey's space will not allow any activity in the eastern Mediterranean and Turkish Cypriots and Turkey's legitimate rights and interests has taken place will continue to resolutely defend well.

After the agreement signed between Greece and Egypt on the limitation of the so-called maritime jurisdiction, Turkey announced the Navtex for the launch of the Oruç Reis seismic survey vessel, which it suspended, and the Oruç Reis ship sailed from the port in Antalya, where it would continue its work in the company of frigates that provided protection to it.

After the Oruç Reis seismic research ship arrived in the region accompanied by frigates, the Greek navy warned that Oruç Reis had to leave the "Greek continental shelf area" immediately, but Oruç Reis continued its work. On the situation, Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias stated that the seismic research vessel and the warships accompanying it should leave the "Greek continental shelf area" and "Turkey's actions will not be tolerated".

In light of the recent developments in the eastern Mediterranean, Greek Prime Minister Mitsotakis called for an urgent meeting of the European Union and called for an end to Turkey's provocative actions. Greek Prime Minister Mitsotakis, who held a meeting with the NATO Secretary General after Greece's call for the European Union, said: "Turkey is damaging the future of NATO's southeast flank. This attitude of Turkey is unacceptable."

A statement on the tensions between Turkey and Greece in the Eastern Mediterranean was made by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. "Today I discussed the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean with Greek Prime Minister Mitsotakis. The situation must be resolved in accordance with the spirit of allied solidarity and international law." Said after his meeting with the Greek Prime Minister Mitsotakis.





Res. Assist.  
**Abdullah Muhsin Yıldız**  
August 21, 2020

## NORTH MACEDONIA ELECTIONS IN THE SHADE OF PANDEMIC

After the ratification of the Prespa Agreement, the people of North Macedonia, under its new name, went to the ballot box to vote on 15 July. While the general elections were planned to be held in November in the normal calendar, the prime minister resigned and called for early general elections last autumn after the visa to start membership negotiations with the EU was not issued. During the COVID-19 epidemic, which has spread in Europe especially since the beginning of March, the state received a positive response from the EU to start membership negotiations. Before the virus epidemic was expected to end, early general elections were held in the country. Although the epidemic reduced the participation rate in the elections, 52% of the voters went to the ballot box and voted.



According to the results of the North Macedonia early general elections in 2020, the alliance of "Mojeme" (We Can), led by SDSM and BESA parties, came first with 46 seats in the parliament. The "Renewal of Macedonia" alliance led by the VMRO-DPMNE came in second, with 44 members of parliament. The Albanian DUI party led by Ali Ahmeti had 15 deputies, the Albanian party AA 12, led by Ziyadin Sela, the Left Party 2, and the Albanian DPA party of Menduh Thaci had 1 MP.

According to the election results, the Mojeme alliance was entitled to take over the authority to form a government from the president. However, in the first evaluation of the election results, it is seen that the number of deputies of the first two major parties that were in struggle during the multi-party period decreased. Due to the declining number of deputies, SDSM had to re-ally with DUI, which was its former coalition partner and had tough discussions during the election campaign. Although discussions about forming an alliance with the AA and the Left party at first appeared, SDSM leader Zoran Zaev decided to meet again with DUI instead of establishing a minority government. When talks officially started after Zaev received the authority to form a government from the president, DUI leader Ali Ahmeti made his promised Albanian prime minister offer during his election campaign. Accordingly, an Albanian prime minister is planned to take office in the last year of the government.

It can be said that the election was successful for Albanians in North Macedonia. The largest Albanian party, DUI, increased the number of MPs in parliament by five. The other Albanian party AA, on the other hand, increased the number of seats in the parliament from 3 to 12. Albanian representation in the North Macedonian parliament has risen to this level for the first time. According to the election results, 32 deputies were elected from Albanian parties in the parliament, which had 120 deputies. The Turkish Democratic Party, which participated in the elections in the Mojeme alliance, will be represented with 1 deputy in the new legislative term.





Kübra UYSAL  
August 21, 2020

## GREECE FAILS TO GET EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORT



The Greek navy was on high alert after Turkey announced the NAVTEX ( Navigational Telex) for the seismic survey ship Oruc Reis in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Greek government, led by Prime Minister Kiriakos Mitsotakis, has called for an emergency meeting with the European Union.

The extraordinary meeting was chaired by Joseph Borell, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Relations and security policy, via videoconferencing. Greece, which reiterated its call for sanctions and condemnation of Turkey on the Eastern Mediterranean, did not respond to this request at the end of the meeting. Borell expressed solidarity with Greece and the Greek Cypriot Administration of South Cyprus at the end of the meeting on his social media account. For Turkey, he called for a dialogue and reduction of tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean.

At a meeting of the Council on Foreign Relations of the European Union, Greece failed to receive the support it had expected from many member states, first Germany. European Union member states vetoed sanctions on Turkey. Spain, Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria and Malta are a few of these countries.





Sevgi HOROZOĞLU  
August 21, 2020

## SOLDIERS SEIZE POWER IN MALI

Soldiers in Mali, West African state, attempted a military coup and seized the power. Mali President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita was elected for the second time in the 2018 election. However, he was widely criticized by public for reasons such as corruption allegations and bad management of the economy.



The soldiers who carried out the coup, after capturing the camp 15 km away from Bamako, entered the capital Bamako with the cheer and acclaim of the people who wanted the resignation of President Keita. Then, the soldiers who raid to President Keita's house arrested Keita and Prime Minister Boubou Cissé. In addition, the President of the Assembly, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Finance were also arrested.

President Keita was forced to resign after his arrest. After the coup, soldiers announced that they are planning to form a civilian transition government and hold elections.

### INTERNATIONAL REACTION

After the coup, the United Nations and the African Union told the soldiers to release people who are arrested. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), of which the Mali government is a member, announced that its 15 member states agreed to close the borders with Mali, to stop all financial flows to the country and remove Mali from the decision making bodies of the community.



# NEWS







Sevgi HOROZOĞLU  
August 21, 2020

## WHAT IS HAPPENING IN BELARUS?

In the past few days presidential elections in Belarus, Aleksander Lukashenko, who has been in power for 26 years and he is mentioned as "Europe's last dictator" in the western media, was said to have won the election with 80.23 percent of the vote. The public, who thought that the results did not reflect the truth, started to protest the election results. Local police teams were placed at many points in order to prevent the public who are appear in the streets.

Protests, which are against the election results, have been going on the different parts of the country for about a week and some streets and shopping malls were closed due to security. With the rising tension, the protester came face to face with the security forces who wanted to prevent the protests. It was announced that about six thousand people were taken into custody, and two of the protester died.



### BELARUS STATEMENT FROM EU

The European Union announced that some authorities in the country would be sanctioned because of the police violence in the protests that started after the elections. Josep Borrell, who is the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Relations and Security Policy, said that EU-Belarus relations will be reviewed and measures can be taken for responsible people for issues such as the use of violence and manipulation of the election results.

In the last statement made by the President of the Belarus Republic Council, Natalya Kocanova, the country's leader demanded that the legality of the detentions made during the protests be investigate and announced the release of thousands of people.



Mustafa Said ŞAHAN  
August 21, 2020

## RUSSIA ANNOUNCES THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRST CORONAVIRUS VACCINE

Russian President Vladimir Putin informed the public about the completion of the research of a vaccine against coronavirus (COVID-19). Putin's announced claim has made Russia the leading state that developed the first coronavirus vaccine. The vaccine is called as "Sputnik V". Sputnik was the name of the first Soviet satellite sent into space in 1957 during the arms race with the US.

Putin said that he intended to start mass production of the vaccine very soon, adding that his daughter has been already vaccinated. His daughter's fever went up to 38 degrees on the first day, then down to 37 degrees, Putin added: "I know the vaccine works quite well and creates a strong immunity. I repeat, the vaccine has passed all necessary checks."



In addition, the Russia Direct Investment Fund (RFID) announced that it has agreed with the Brazilian state of Parana for the production and distribution of Sputnik V, the first coronavirus vaccine registered in the world. In addition, the reliability of the vaccine is also questioned. Professor Alexander Chuchalin, a member of the Ethics Commission of the Russian Ministry of Health, resigned. Chuchalin explained the reason for his resignation that Sputnik V had approved the necessary checks without being carried out and that efforts to block the situation were inconclusive.





## IATA ANNOUNCED 7 MILLION EMPLOYMENT AT RISK

The Covid-19 epidemic also negatively affected the aviation industry. IATA (International Air Transport Association) announced that these negative effects endanger 7 million employment.

Continuing to apply restrictions at border crossings due to the epidemic affected the European aviation industry. IATA indicated that the number of passengers across Europe indicates a worsening of employment. It also urged governments to coordinate with the abolition of border controls and alternatives to quarantine.

There has been an increase in the number of flights in the European market in recent months. However, IATA emphasized that the flights are still 50% below the 2019 period and they continue to forecast that the number of passengers will decrease by around 60% in 2020.

It was stated in the current report that air travel is not as expected. At the same time, IATA had estimated employment at risk at 6 million in its June report.



## US TERMINATED 3 AGREEMENTS WITH HONG KONG

US State Department Spokesperson Morgan Ortagus announced a written statement. The Communist Party of China signed the Sino-British Joint Declaration in 1984. Within the scope of this declaration, China declared promises to the people of England and Hong Kong. Ortagus stated that China has taken drastic steps that eroded Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy.

At the same time, Ortagus stated that US President Donald Trump will approach Hong Kong with a "one country, one system" policy from now on. In addition, Ortagus added that they have notified the Hong Kong authorities that 3 bilateral agreements have been suspended or terminated.

It was stated that the agreements cover the capture of fugitive criminals, return of punished persons, and mutual tax exemptions on revenues from international operations of ships.

Finally, Ortagus also noted that these steps were taken because Beijing has deep concerns about its decision to implement the National Security Act, which violates the freedom of the Hong Kong people.



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