**Ties between Russia and Turkey are growing closer than ever.**

Russia and Turkey have a long-term history counted down from the XV century. There have been many wars and conflicts in the past, but now it is fertile time to consolidate common interests and build strong relations between these two countries in order to make new profitable deals and contribute to world peace. Present time provides a productive environment for cooperation in political, economic, social and cultural aspects. Some specialists in Russia researches say that Turkey is among other countries (like China) which have special relations with Russia. Moreover, Turkey is often said to be the independent on western countries, regardless being a part of some Euro-Atlantic organizations. This is an important factor for building a stable relationship with Russia in the tense atmosphere on world arena, where the globe is divided in political blocks being at enmity and where it is really important to have strong associates.

It is to admit that Russia and Turkey have mutually beneficial relations based on national interests: Russia has influence on Balkans and Central Asia, providing the ability to embody its geopolitics. There is an opportunity for Blue Stream and Turkish Stream Projects realization: a natural gas pipeline across the Black Sea bypasses Ukraine as a transit corridor into Europe and provides gas to Turkey. Moreover, this kind of projects are able to expand Russia’s influence in energy economic sector on other countries, to stabilize and establish relations with them, being a great example of profitable deal – tankers carry oil from Russian Black Sea ports to international markets through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. Turkey is a big field for Russian investment: it is one of the main foreign trade partners of Russia. Turkey ranks 6th among Russia's foreign trade partners, including 5th for export and 13th for import. Russia accounted for 6,2% of its total foreign direct investment and for around 1% of outbound external investment. Another key-point is tourism. Turkey is a favorite destination for Russian tourists. With almost 3,5 million visitors, Russians are the second-largest group of tourists in Turkey (after Germans). It is almost 10% of total number of tourists in Turkey. This is a huge contribution to Turkey’s economics, as they spend $2,7 billion, which equals to 9,7% of total tourism revenues.

Russia being a powerful associate for Turkey on the world arena is providing it with energy, which is half of Turkey’s natural gas imports. Russia has helped Turkey in investing and building its first nuclear power plant – Akkuyu. It was largely provided with contribution of Russian atomic energy company “Rosatom”. Investment in Turkey’s economics from Russia obviously develops it, strengthening the positions of Turkey as it acquired a strong economic companion. Russia’s Sberbank’s purchase of Turkish Denizbank, Credit Europe as Turkish bank effectively operating in Russian banking market, developers ENKA and Renaissance Construction are carrying out a number of investment projects. Turkey is not only a tourism distributor, Turkish products are known for their affordable prices and good quality. Turkey exports to Russia fabrics, clothes, food, dishes and constructions. All in all Turkey is a great economic partner and associate for Russia’s trading and national interests.

Although there are a lot of advantages of Russia-Turkey relationship establishment, there are some difficulties too. The jet crash in 2015 had a negative impact on both political and economic relations. After the crash Russian Ministry of Defense announced that all military contacts with Turkey would be terminated, the sale of trips to Turkey was suspended, Russian Foreign Secretary S. Lavrov announced the suspension of a visa-free regime with Turkey, President of the Russian Federation V. Putin signed the decree, according to which, a ban or restriction of foreign economic operations is temporarily introduced in Russia. Fortunately, the relations between Russia and Turkey were restored. On June 27, 2016 Turkish President R. Erdogan expressed his interest in resolving the situation related to the crash of the aircraft. After that the sale of trips to Turkey was renewed in Russia.

Since the end of 2016, Russia and Turkey have been cooperating during a military operation in Syria. On January 18, 2017, the Russian Aerospace Forces, for the first time in history, began to strike at terrorist groups in Syria together with the Turkish Air Force, after Turkey began to buy Russian weapons. This is a positive tendency as two countries are to continue their cooperation in political ways and so in others: cultural ties are still growing, no matter the political situation. There a huge number of mixed marriages and Russian citizens settling in southern region of Turkey, who gain the residence permission there.

As a result, many researchers conclude that there is a positive growth in Russia-Turkey relations. It is also important to note that Russia is not as dependent on Turkey as Turkey is dependent on Russia, but still they have a lot of points of connection to be developed. “Russia and Turkey do not compete, they complement each other”.