

In this week's edition of Türkiye in Focus, we explore the following topics:

- President Erdoğan's address at the UN General Assembly.
- The Turkish delegation, led by President Erdoğan, held key discussions in New York.
- Right-wing opposition parties are evaluating potential alliance options.

Erdoğan's UN General Assembly Speech and Türkiye's Foreign Policy Vision

President Erdoğan was in New York this week to attend the UN General Assembly, where nearly half of his [speech](#) centred on Israel's actions in Gaza, which he described as genocidal. Erdoğan strongly criticised the international community for failing to meet its responsibilities, highlighting the ongoing massacre of innocent civilians in Gaza. He delivered a powerful statement:

"Not only are children dying in Gaza; the United Nations system is also dying, the truth is dying, the values that the West claims to defend are dying, the hopes of humanity to live in a fairer world are dying one by one."

Politically, the most significant aspect of Erdoğan's speech was Türkiye's emphasis on de-escalating current global tensions. The President began by reminding the audience of Türkiye's geopolitical significance: "I am addressing you today as the leader of a country that is not far from the tensions, but right in their epicentre." After discussing Palestine, Erdoğan stressed the importance of peace in conflict zones such as Azerbaijan-Armenia, Serbia-Kosovo, Ukraine, Libya, and the Eastern Mediterranean, underlining Türkiye's constructive role in these areas.

Erdoğan's focus on the failures of the international order and Türkiye's constructive role should be viewed together. As the global system faces challenges, particularly from powerful nations like the United States, the role of middle powers like Türkiye is becoming increasingly significant. Türkiye is fully aware of this position and is crafting its foreign policy accordingly.

One particularly noteworthy part of Erdoğan's speech was his criticism of attacks on the institution of the family. He delivered an ideological critique of the dominant Western powers, con-



(Celal Güneş - Anadolu Agency)

demning their role in promoting degenderization and undermining family values. Referring to scenes from the 2024 Paris Olympics, he remarked: "A sports event followed by innocent children and hundreds of millions of people of all ages and faiths has been used, in a very ugly manner, for degenderization propaganda. Those wicked scenes have deeply wounded not only the Catholic world, the Christian world, but also Muslims and everyone who respects the sacred."

Considering the entirety of Erdoğan's speech, Türkiye's foreign policy vision becomes clear. On the one hand, Türkiye maintains its position within the international system and the Western world. On the other hand, it positions itself as a mediator and facilitator of dialogue in conflict zones. Simultaneously, it seeks to act as a voice for those marginalised due to ideological, cultural, economic, and political circumstances.

Turkish Delegation's Meetings in New York

During his visit to the United States, alongside his speech at the UN General Assembly, President Erdoğan held meetings with leaders from several countries, including Italy, Iran, Arme-



(Hazine ve Maliye Bakanlığı - Anadolu Agency)

nia, Greece, Germany, Ukraine, Lebanon, and Guinea-Bissau. He also met with UN Secretary General Guterres and ICC Prosecutor Khan. These discussions took place at the Turkish House in New York.

President Erdoğan was accompanied by key figures, notably the Minister of Treasury and Finance, Mehmet Şimşek. Şimşek presented at the Türkiye-US Business Council meeting and engaged in bilateral discussions with Nick Clegg, Head of Global Affairs at META, and Makhtar Diop, President of the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

These meetings focused on providing updates on the Turkish economy and efforts to attract foreign investment to Türkiye. Şimşek reportedly [assured](#) that no additional taxes would be imposed on investors.

Right-wing Opposition Parties Seeking Merger

With the new legislative year just a week away, right-wing opposition parties are in a flurry of activity. Last week, Ali Babacan, leader of the DEVA Party, announced the beginning of merger talks with the Future (Gelecek) Party. Meetings between Babacan and Future Party leader Ahmet Davutoğlu, along with various discussions between their respective committees, have taken place.

However, [comments](#) made by Davutoğlu during a live broadcast suggest that DEVA has some reservations about the merger. Despite these concerns, the possibility of the two parties forming a joint parliamentary group in the upcoming legislative year remains on the table.

Amid these negotiations, Fatih Erbakan, leader of the New Welfare Party (YRP), expressed openness to a broader alliance among right-wing parties. However, party spokesperson Suat Kılıç [clarified](#) that a merger is not currently being considered by the YRP, though other alliance models may be explored.

Collectively, the Gelecek, DEVA, Saadet (Felicity), and YRP parties hold around 40 seats in parliament. Forming a joint group could enable them to wield more influence in parliamentary proceedings than they would individually. Such a coalition could also strengthen their position in constitutional negotiations and future election processes.

However, significant challenges remain. The ideological stance of the YRP, which often leans towards far-right rhetoric, differs markedly from that of the other parties. While the YRP, which holds the highest vote share among these parties, may adopt more conservative positions, the DEVA Party, which has the most MPs, maintains a liberal discourse. The parties occupy distinct places within the right-wing spectrum. DEVA, in particular, prides itself on being more inclusive and representative of Türkiye's diverse cultural landscape, which may explain why a merger with Gelecek, a party that appeals primarily to religious segments of society, has not materialised.

In conclusion, while these smaller parties are currently struggling to achieve their desired impact individually, the potential alliances being discussed are not yet fully developed.



(Utku Uçrak - Anadolu Agency)

Highlights

- As Israeli attacks on Lebanon continue, a Turkish cargo plane delivered medical supplies to Lebanon.
- First Lady of Türkiye and Chairperson of the UN Advisory Board of Eminent Persons on Zero Waste, Emine Erdoğan met with UN Secretary General Antonio Gueterres at the UN headquarters in New York. During the meeting, the issues of global waste management and the upcoming COP29 in Azerbaijan were discussed.
- A young police officer, Şeyda Yılmaz, was tragically shot and killed by a criminal in Ümraniye, Istanbul. The suspect was apprehended and imprisoned, but it was soon revealed that he had a record of 26 prior offenses. This revelation has reignited a public debate on capital punishment.

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