



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Institut du Bosphore President Bahadır Kaleağası's note on the occasion of Europe Day**

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*Paris, 9 May 2012*

Europe celebrates today its 62nd birthday, in a critical context.

Projection to a common future is bedimmed by the current economic and political crisis. The European project was then described as an utopia. Candidate countries, especially Turkey, prefer to speak about European dream: because when necessary efforts are made, dreams come true.

Enlargement of the European Union is in this spirit.

The world is changing rapidly. There are many challenges in the XXIth century: economic emergence of Asia, security, military and civil issues, energy challenge, climate change, new technologies, information flows, action for freedom ...In a world in motion, Europe should not shut itself off from the rest of the world.

To face challenges of the XXIth century, Europe must become a more integrated political entity and a wider economic area. It must continue to build and strengthen in order to remain credible and attractive to the candidate countries and to the rest of the world.

As for Turkey, we will continue to promote its transformation to strengthen its democracy and consolidate its economy. Turkey is already well integrated into the European economic and legal area. It will join the European Union when it will be able to fulfill the membership conditions. This will then be a great victory for European values and interests.

To build our common future, we have a choice to make: More Europe, or even more Europe?

**Institut du Bosphore** : [www.institut-bosphore.org](http://www.institut-bosphore.org)

Conceived as an organization fostering ongoing, free and objective dialogue, Institut du Bosphore tackles the full range of geopolitical, economic, societal and cultural issues, in order to highlight Turkey's involvement in the international fabric of society, the G20 and in particular its proximity to France and integration to the European Union.