Relations between Turkey and the European Union (EU) have been unexpectedly revitalized since October 2015 by the current refugee crisis, which compelled the EU to seek Turkey’s partnership in order to solve its migration problem. However, the timing of the agreement and subsequent revitalization of membership talks after years of stalemate is quite problematic given the situation regarding the internal affairs of the country as well as the international conjuncture. Today realpolitik has taken over the value-based anchor of EU membership and left Turkish citizens with vague promises. In addition, since the optimum solution for refugees deserves a more complex and far-sighted policy, not just a political brokering, there has been very little progress regarding the situation.

In this event, the recently published policy brief titled “Reshaping Relations in the Midst of Crisis: A Bitter Anniversary for Turkey-EU Accession Negotiations” by İlke Toygür and Melih Özsöz will be presented. The speakers then will discuss the current situation in Turkey-EU relations and explore its present challenges. The current refugee crisis and the ongoing deal between Turkey and the EU will be given special focus.

The event will be held in English. There will be no translation.