

**TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE MARITIME SECURITY IN ITS SURROUNDING SEAS,
PARTICULARLY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. (ABSTRACT)**

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MARITIME DOMAIN PROVIDES AN IDEAL MEDIUM FOR THE NEW TYPE OF RISKS TO EXPLOIT AND FLOURISH THEN TO TRANSFORM THEMSELVES INTO THREATS. SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE IS COVERED BY SEA AND OVER TWO-THIRDS OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION LIVE WITHIN 100 MILES OF THE COAST. OVER 150 OF THE 192 MEMBER STATES OF THE UN ARE LITTORAL STATES. 99,7 PERCENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IS CONDUCTED BY OVER 50 THOUSAND SHIPS SERVICING NEARLY 4.000 PORTS.

IN TODAY'S WORLD, ALL MARITIME STATES ARE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFEGUARDING THE MARITIME DOMAIN, AS GLOBALIZATION TAKES BOTH ITS POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EFFECTS OVER THE SEAS. THIS TREND IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE.

THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF SEA BASED ENERGY CORRIDOR CROSSING BLACK SEA, AEGEAN, AND MEDITERRANEAN SEAS THROUGH TURKISH STRAITS ALONG WITH "BLUE STREAM" GAS PIPELINE IN THE BLACK SEA, AS WELL AS BAKU-TBILISI-CEYHAN; KIRKUK-YUMURTALIK AND FUTURE SAMSUN-CEYHAN PIPELINES WILL MAKE TURKEY'S MARITIME JURISDICTION AREAS MORE VITAL AND IMPORTANT THAN BEFORE.

NOT ONLY IN THE BLACK SEA, BUT ALSO IN THE AEGEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN SEAS, MARITIME SITUATIONAL AWARENESS HAS BEEN DEVELOPED THROUGH AIS AND VTS.

THE BAY OF ISKENDERUN AS THE TERMINAL AREA OF BAKU-TIBILIS-CEYHAN (FULL CAPACITY 50 MILLIONS TON/YEAR) AND KIRKUK-YUMURTALIK (FULL CAPACITY 82 MILLION TONS/YEAR) PIPELINES PRESENTS ITSELF AS A SPECIAL LOCATION.

IN ORDER TO DETER, DISRUPT AND PREVENT TERRORISM, PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND OTHER ILLICIT ACTIVITIES AT SEA, THE TURKISH NAVY HAS LAUNCHED A MARITIME SECURITY OPERATION UNDER THE NAME OF "OPERATION MEDITERRANEAN SHIELD – OMS" IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA UNDER THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS, ON 1 APRIL 2006.

SINCE ITS BEGINNING IN OCTOBER 2001, THE TURKISH NAVY HAS SUPPORTED OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR. STATISTICALLY, TURKEY HAS PROVIDED MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ASSETS FOR THIS IMPORTANT MARITIME SECURITY OPERATION OF NATO.

OPERATION MEDITERRANEAN SHIELD, AND OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR, ARE COMPLEMENTARY AND PROVIDE UNINTERRUPTED PRESENCE OPERATION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN WITH MUTUAL COORDINATION AND COOPERATION.

FURTHERMORE, UNIFIL MARITIME OPERATIONS WHICH IS CONDUCTED TO POLICE LEBANESE MARITIME AREAS UNDER UN AUSPICES ALSO PROVIDES SECURITY IN THE REGION THROUGH ACTIVE PRESENCE.

MARITIME SECURITY AND ENERGY SECURITY IN EURO-ATLANTIC SPHERE IS DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE SECURITY AND STABILITY IN ITS SURROUNDING SEAS. TURKEY AS A MEMBER OF NATO AND A CANDIDATE TO THE EU HAS BECOME A SECURITY PROVIDER IN SURROUNDING SEAS CONTRIBUTING TO REGIONAL AS WELL AS GLOBAL PEACE AND STABILITY.