IMPACT of EU NEGOTIATION PROCESS on SOCIAL DIALOGUE MECHANISM in TURKEY

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Abstract

The EU accession process has been leading substantial changes in Turkish socioeconomic structure since the first membership application in 1987. Labour life and relations, or broadly speaking, industrial relations has been affected directly by this ongoing process. Accordingly, discussions among and demands from all relevant parties on a developed social dialogue have been the case for a long time. This study aims to analyse whether the EU accession process is transforming the weak social dialogue mechanism in Turkey. In this sense, the current structure of social dialogue in Turkey and the critics of the EU in this matter will be evaluated. Despite social dialogue has never been the strong suit of Turkish industrial relations system in general, it still keeps its key role in socio-political system and industrial relations since the EU requires strong and well-institutionalised social partners and social dialogue mechanism in candidate countries as one of the most important preconditions for the full membership.

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