

# **Urbanisation, Land Use, Land Degradation and Environment**

*— Editors —*

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## Chapter 2

# **The Role of Communication Technologies for Access to Environmental Information and Policies: Perspective of Turkey in the Process of Adaptation to the European Union**

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### **ABSTRACT**

European Union, which as a reconstruction has emerged in the context of global and regional constitutions. It is a concrete, influential and important model bearing a potential to generate policies, norms, values and standards on the subject of environment as it does in many other issues. Many technological, economic and social instruments have been put forward concerning environmental policies along with the progress and the experience of EU *acquis* and integration. Information and communication technologies have been one of these main instruments in carrying out environmental policies of EU. The computerized information and communication has taken on a dominant role on flexibility in manufacturing, productivity in the usage of production factors, activity in decision support and problem solving processes and advantage in access to knowledge for citizens of democratic societies. Thus environmental matters have become one of the primary titles of European information society objectives. In this context, applications relevant to use of information-technology infrastructure on solving environmental problems in member or candidate countries are gradually gaining priority in the scope of e-Europe 2002 and e-Europe+ 2003 action plans and their

successor initiatives. These technologies have multi-dimensional effects from technical and operational viewpoint such as monitoring/measuring environmental happenings and empiric data exchange between scientific and expert organizations to political and social aspects of the subject such as public access to information and formation of public opinion concerning environmental agenda about environmental matters. Consequently, it is possible to propound that information and communication technologies have become the one of the main parameters of environmental issues. Depending on this suggestion, we investigated the Turkish and EU policies regarding the role of information and communication technologies in the creation of environmental information, its distribution and public access to environmental information sources. EU's policies and technology-based initiatives have importance at the great extent in this period of serious debates about Turkey's becoming a member of the Union. Furthermore, Turkey geopolitically and geostrategically stands in a focus of regional environmental problems due to its industrial development potential and its crossroads location in the center of Black Sea and the Mediterranean catchment area among the important energy and transportation routes. Therefore, potential of access to environmental information is vital to handle ecological problems of this region. The paper is based on analyzing these potential and possible future developments from the perspective of Turkish and EU affairs.

## INTRODUCTION

It is possible to say that information and communication technologies have taken a position among the main parameters of environmental problems. In the light of this proposition, in this study role of information and communication technologies to track the environmental problems, their solution and pursuit of environmental agenda in the politics of Turkey and Europe will be evaluated on comparative basis. In this connection the political strategies of European Union and introductions related to the communication technologies are of great importance because of the serious discussions held for Turkey's membership to the Union. Moreover, geopolitically and geostrategically Turkey looks like a focal point in the regional environmental problems due to its industrial developmental potential, position on an important intersectional route of energy as well as transport and location in the heart of southeast Europe in particular Black Sea/East Mediterranean basin. The potential to reach the environmental information has thus immense importance in tackling with the regional environmental problems. The presentation is based on the questioning of this potential in the light of future developments within the context of European Union.

### 1. ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AS A FACTOR SUPRANATIONAL

Industrialization and urbanization are the main source of environmental problems. By industrial revolution, the idea of dominating environment came into being. Industrialization at first by industrial wastes caused depletion of forests and other resources, extinct species, air, water, soil and noise pollution. Besides it brings some other problems as well.



Sensitivity to environmental problems in 1960s accelerated in 1972 by Stockholm Environmental Conference. Beyond developed-underdeveloped, socialist-capitalist, and similar dichotomies, the conference with many countries, except the Soviet Union, put forward emergency of environmental problems. Over-systems property of environmental problems was discussed first at the conference as well.

Environmental problems in different economic systems were discussed whether they have some characteristics or not. Although a controversial issue the two views, environmental problems are free from economic systems and the two phenomena are related to each other to a great extent, have prevailed.

For the first view, environmental problems have equal importance and characteristics both in liberal and command economies. They claim that political systems and economic systems have no sense something different pertaining to environmental problems. As a matter of fact, environmental problems of both systems corroborate their views. Regarding development and industrialization levels, population density and such issues have caused various dimension differences in various geographical and climatic conditions. However, economic systems, political regimes and dominant ideologies have not been influential concerning environmental matters. Environmental problems in a country may even emerge at various dimensions. Effective use of public enterprises emerges at various dimensions. Effective use of public enterprises comparing to that of private ones have affirmed that environmental issues are free from systems. [1]

Whoever responsible is and whatever the reason may be, a serious deterioration of ecosystems and the beginning of its hazardous effects against the life on the earth are turning into one of the main crisis of the humanity today. This situation menaces the whole world along with every aspects from developed to underdeveloped, the Easterner to Westerner, the Southerner to Northerner or socialists to capitalists. As the nature has increased the frequency of warning signals pertaining to the serious results of this fact which has been continuously being expressed by scientists, it has become a major national issue on which various expedients and attempts of solutions have been intensified. Today it has been understood that environmental problems with their cumulative characteristics are closely interrelated with many economic, social, cultural, political and administrative parameters. Ecological deterioration is one of the most important problems such as fast growth in population, consumption of natural resources, starvation, terrorism and regional conflicts being caused by occurrences which are more or less related to industrial and urban phenomenon which has been accelerating since the beginning of second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Moreover it is possible to claim that this is the most important problem among others threatening common future of the whole world. Consequently, environmental questions identically require global solutions in accordance with their global characteristics. There is a common thought in scientific community and public opinion in the world that Western policies, economic development models and lifestyles depending on consumption and prosperity are primary reasons of environmental exhaustion. Though the responsibility is imputed to the West at the great extent by this way, environmental problems stand as a common matter of the whole humanity with their supra-system characteristics. Moreover, the necessity to keep the ecological

changes with their dynamic attributes under control is gaining more importance and constantly getting harder yet. Consequently, these facts require some common preferences and objectives to be determined and effective policies to be generated beyond the national level.

## **2. ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES IN TURKEY**

Population growth, industrial development and environmental pollution, which threaten natural resources in every country on earth, have made environmental problems one of the most important concerns of man in the last quarter of the Twentieth Century. Inventories of environmental problems are a working method in several developed and developing countries. In some countries, in fact, in addition to organizations concerned with the problems themselves, there are also offices whose special function is to conduct inventories of the problems. Such a need has also been felt in Turkey, where environmental problems have recently received increased attention-especially air, solid and water pollution.

Urbanization and industrialization are supposed to be the two fundamental causes of environmental problems. These two causes, though the characteristics and the dimensions are different, are also concerned with the environmental problems not only in developing countries -such as Turkey- but also similarly in developed countries. It consists of the problems and qualities especially on "non-industrialization" and "urbanization-not parallel with-industrialization". Environment is the main problem among the others.

Turkey came across with the environmental problems later in contrast with that of industrialized countries. Since the last period of 1970s, environmental problems have reached the level to threaten men's health especially in urban and coastal regions. Therefore, this point has been taken into consideration within the framework of the politics developed parallel with the rising of problems. Environmental problems have seriously been derived from industrialization and urbanization. [2]

Turkey faced the issues of industrialization and some environmental problems caused by industrialization at the beginning of 1960. However, in some rural areas (due to factors different than industrialization) environmental problems have lasted for years. Therefore, there are some fundamental problems in rural areas. In most agricultural areas there is the danger of erosion and in many regions forest areas are being removed for agriculture. Turkey began its industrialization process in the 1950s with the rise of urbanization in the same years. Thus, the tremendous problems of urban areas increased, especially in the 1970s. Now, Turkey has all sorts of environmental problems, except ones related to radiation. Some environmental problems are at lower levels, while others are at dangerously high levels.

Nowadays, there are increasing environmental problems in Turkey. Air pollution is one of the most serious problems in almost every city in Turkey. Also there is the issue of transportation, noise pollution and the increasing number of shanties in urban areas. One of the biggest causes of these increasing problems is unplanned urbanization. There is a faster increasing rate of urbanization in Turkey than in

many industrialized countries. For the reason that most immigrants come to the big cities, these cities as a result have not been capable of compensating for the needs of their settlers. Thus the problems have increased over time.

In the early years of the Turkish Republic, environmental policies were rarely discussed. Of course, one could hardly expect environmental policies to be a very important issue for a nation just after the end of a war, with enormous problems waiting to be solved. In addition, after Ankara was selected as the capital city of Turkey, the bureaucrats were interested only in the environmental problems of Ankara. Yet, in the years after the Turkish War of Independence, the reconstruction of Anatolian towns corrupted during the war was one of the most important problems to be solved.

During the first years of the republic, both the establishment of the chairmanship of Public Improvement in Ankara and the Ankara Plan, prepared by H. Jansen, can be counted as the first arrangements related to the environment. Accordingly, in 1930s many important arrangements are made on that basis. In 1930, the Municipality Law (code 1580) and the General Healthcare Law (code 1593) came into practice. However, until 1960, except for the Forest Law, there were no major laws to protect the environment. Only a few minor regulations came into practice, none of which appear to be related to the problems that resulted from industrialization. However, at that times there were some important improvements in Europe.

If Turkey had applied some of the environmental precautions that Europe did, we wouldn't have the same environmental problems today. Turkey started a development programme in 1960 with progressive plans. Industrialization and development efforts were included in the 1961 Constitution. Starting with that period, Five-Year Development Plans were prepared. After the second Five-Year Development Plan, the "Environment Sector" took place according to these plans. Particularly after the 1972 Stockholm Environment Conference this issue became very significant. When we look at the third Five-Year Development Plan, we see that the main problem in solving environment problems was the negative effect on funds for development and for targets of developing with industrialization.

The Fourth Five-Year Development Plan gave a large place to environment. This plan emphasized man-environment relations and health in the period of urbanization, as well as saving the country's historical and natural wealth with economic integrity. The Fifth Five-Year Development Plan was more sensitive. The main approach of this plan with regard to the environment dealt not only with removing current pollution and preventing possible pollution, but also with using and improving resources in the best way so that the next generations could benefit from them as well. Despite the preceding plans, the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan had different characteristics in giving a wide and detailed place for environmental problems.

Turkey, which has not had any serious environmental problems until the 1970s, has not shown important developments in producing environmental policies. Some policies in a few problematical areas remained the same from the Ottoman Empire time to 1980s. Environmental pollution appeared in 1980s and sensitivity of the people for environmental pollution increased in the 1970s especially after the 1972 Stockholm Environment Conference. The Assembling Rank of the Environment and

some other foundations are the results of these developments. The sudden and the rapid changing period of environmental politics started in 1980s.

This new period started with the 1982 Constitution, which has topics about the environment directly. In 1983 this period continued with the development of regulations such as the Environmental Law, the Culture and Natural Sources Saving Law, and the Straits Law. In a short time, new legal arrangements about every topic of the environment were made. Despite these positive developments, there were many inconsistencies and contradictions in the policies of this period. In addition, laws change often and mistakes are made, so legal permission is likely to be given for polluting the environment. There still has not been a consistent or positive environmental mentality at the administrative level. [3]

### **3. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND GLOBAL AND REGIONAL EFFECTS**

The need and idea for national politics in Turkey has come to the front first time during the UN Environmental Conference organised in 1972, which played an important role in the EU environmental politics as well. As a matter of fact, the topic of environment was first time considered in the 3rd Five Year Development Programme prepared in 1973, stressing the need for inclusion of measures for environmental protection and regulation in legislations without hindering economic development. In this way, the plan to determine the environmental problems in Turkey was started, which entered an important stage with the articles in 1982 Constitution together with the Environmental Law that become effective in 1983. The changes published continued to formalise during 6th and 7th Development Plans with a backing from this law. [4] Particularly in the 7th Plan attention was drawn towards the global and regional developments, and collaborations in the economic globalisation together with fast developments in the regional integration activities were underlined. EU, NAFTA and Pacific Region are mainly becoming important within this framework and a three poled structure comes into being. Parallel to these developments the international norms and rules seem to gain weight with a support from the increasing force of sanctions. It is not possible now for the countries to prepare effective politics in this connection with abstraction from the developments in other countries. [5]

Other important development in the formation of environmental politics in Turkey has been National Environmental Strategy and Application Plan. The plan prepared with the financial sources of World Bank and a technical support from the Ministry of Environment and Secretariat of DPT (Government Planning Office) was published in 1998. One of the most important features of the Plan is efforts for an establishment of a balance between the development and environment. The Plan, in addition to its providing integration with the National Agenda 21, it has also been adapted to the approaches underlined in the UN development programme. The goals for the next 20 years in the environment have been determined together with this, at the same time a projection outlined for the 8th Five Year Development Plan. [6] In view of the global and regional developments same approaches with increments are continued in the 8th Plan. According to the Plan, the regional integral developmental activities are developing under an interactive influence with the globalisation in the economic

field. Foreign trade is developing new norms and standards in the fields of environment and intellectual rights during the globalisation period and activity of international organisations is steadily increasing in this field. The organisations above the national level are steadily becoming determinative particularly in the economic politics of EU, and intensified joint interferences are following in the political and social fields as well. [7]

## **4. ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES OF TURKEY IN THE PROCESS OF ADAPTATION TO THE EU**

### **4.1 Environmental Policies of Turkey in Process of EU**

The environmental politics in Turkey are embodying many problems during the adaptation to the EU beyond this net and detailed approach by DPT. Environmental politics should be handled with an integral perspective due to its close relationship with all economic, social, political and administrative parameters. The work on the adaptation to EU Environmental Legislation is presently carried out by DPT. However, this work should not remain on the papers; Turkey should prepare its politics in a concrete form together with alternative scenarios during this transitory phase. It should not be forgotten that this topic has dimensions beyond the legal adaptation procedure. It can be said that these evaluations and goals regarding both environmental politics as well as environmental management are positive as compared to the earlier plans and are in accordance with the steps outlined above. But these should be handled in a more detailed and developed form in the application plans and should be applied effectively after preparing an organisational infrastructure. This is a must for Turkey; during this phase of fast developing informative society and technology together with new administrative thinking and developments; which has covered measure steps in its relation with EU. The cumulative characteristics of environment beyond the national and international levels, and international and regional organisations in this field together with the standards and rules originating in this connection too make it necessary. [8]

Environmental politics and organisational developments in this connection are important topics both in regional and global dimensional perspective for whole humanity, as in the group of countries named today as EU. Turkey has a close relationship with this topic due to its geo-economic, geo-strategic as well as political position as well as its requirement for local, regional and global situation. The steps followed within the framework of developments and expectations particularly during the entrance and adaptation steps to EU, the environmental politics in the Union and a similar approach in Turkey towards their joint evaluation is very important. As a reality, the acceptance of environment as a mere pollution problem has passed this level in parallelity with the regional-global reciprocal effects in the development, and speeded up the work on new concepts in the environmental governing with many regional and global organizational impacts coming to the forefront and similar other developments, both at UN, OECD and EU levels as well as international and above the national level organisations. European community as one of the effective

organizations in leading the international developments on environment has been attempting to develop joint politics and actions for the members starting from 1970. These attempts have become more effective particularly after the enforcement of 5th Action Programme in 1993, in accordance with new global and regional developments and have become a concrete in the sense of communities environmental politics. The environmental politics of the Union together with other economic and social politics is closely related to Turkey both as a regional country as well as a country on its way to enter EU. Turkey is expecting structural changes in many fields by selecting socio-economic politics of the EU and its arguments as the goal for its integration and has submitted its stableness in this connection to the world community through Ankara agreement. It is openly known that Turkey's membership in EU requires a change in the present structural features or bring these to a suitable EU level in the fields covering economy to agriculture, industrial relation to infrastructural administration and environment. One of these changing fields will be environmental management and politics. [9] Particularly with the start of negotiation period this topic has become more important and environmental politics is one of the major fields seen in the EU standards.

The technology and production stages form one of the economic aspects of the environmental protection. In particular the steps taken by Turkey at the Customs Union level makes it necessary to undertake detailed studies on the economic dimension and cost/competition analysis of environment, due to its aim for a close connection with EC. The developmental model applied by the EC until now has in general been on the negative side. Insufficient use of labour force against the overuse of natural resources has resulted in a fast degradation of environmental conditions in Europe. As a result of these developments EC has underlined a series of goals in the member countries for development and spread of clean technology, their encouragement and application of environmental costs to the market within the framework of micro/macro-economic politics. The aims under question clearly point out that some solid measures are taken for the future developments in the field of environment. Turkey is a little below the European standards due to high rate of industrialisation as well as overuse of pollution producing technologies, but it is possible to say that it is more advantageous than most of the European countries as regards the measures to be taken for protection of environment. For a continuation in the industrial development and production of industrial products together with an entrance of the Turkish industrial products in the EC market, adaptation to the EC environmental and quality standards under question accepted by the producers of the EC are important for competition. The target for creation of full competitive surroundings at the same time within the Customs Union, Turkish Firms involved in the productions for industry particularly need investment in environmental infrastructure as well as standardisation, quality control and education in environmental protection for an easy trade with the EC. The protection and development of Turkish industrial efficiency both in quality as well as environmental safety will be possible through a production on European standards. [10] While upgrading the standards in quality and environment both conditions for competition and legislation for environment should also be adapted to the Community legislation and applied too.

The last and final steps in the responsibilities of Turkey regarding the adaptation to the EU environmental legislation have been laid through "Participation Joint Document" prepared after the 1999 Helsinki Summit, which entrusts Turkey with some short and medium range responsibilities within the framework of EU legislation and Copenhagen Criteria. [11] The "Participation Joint Document" (PJD) declared first in November 2000, and reviewed in April 2003, is a document determined by EU giving the conditions required to be fulfilled by Turkey for a full membership in EU. Turkey's responsibilities for adaptation to the EU environmental politics have been discussed on short and medium term basis in accordance with the reviewed form of PJD announced in April 2003. According to this, the short term topics are listed as; acceptance of a programme for a transfer of the acquisitions/expenses for adaptation of acquisitions and preparation of a plan for financial investments depending on real verified current public and private sources/legislation framework regarding the environmental protection legislation, legislation for water quality, starting transfer and application of legislation regarding the joint pollution control and management of wastes/enforcement and application of the directives for Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE). The medium term responsibilities have been outlined as; integration of legislation into internal law for environmental protection and strengthening organisational, administrative and observatory capacities including data collection[12].

In addition, in the Reviewed National Programme related to the Turkey's acceptance of EU legislation and published in the Official Bulletin on 25 July, 2003; a list is given mentioning the achievements in the environment and the points which will be given a priority after this. According to this, the law regarding the participation of Turkey in the European Agency and European Information and Observation net has been put into force after its publication in the Official Bulletin of 28 January, 2003. At the same time, "Turkish Environmental Legislation Investigation Project" supported by the MEDA fund has been completed in 2002. A comparison of the present environmental legislation with EU legislation together with the determination of gaps and calculation of investment costs on the basis of directives needing investment have been made within this project. In the financial tables under this heading the results from "Turkish Environmental Legislation Investigation Project" the estimations related to the investment needs are given, but net investment needs will be produced exactly after the completion of "Integrated Environmental Adaptation Strategy Project for Turkey". First of all for the development of sectoral strategy followed by the finalisation of strategies under question, integrated adaptation strategy and general financial strategy will be prepared towards an adaptation and application of legislations.

The question of integration of principals of sustainable development in all other sectoral politics definitions and application is seen among the 2003 medium term goals of PJD. A project index has been prepared with this precaution and has been approved by the Commission within the framework of 2004 Financial Cooperation Programme. Moreover, the Draft Law pertaining to the changes in Environmental Law present in the Turkish Parliament includes the topic of communication on environmental information. The education of personal has been started in April 2003 for formation of national data bank and development of administrative structure



within the "environmental information communication and development of administrative structure" component undertaken within the Project on Capacity Building in the field of Environment in Turkey (TR-362.03), which was accepted in the 2002 Financial Cooperation programme. Lastly in the National Programme it has been stressed that within the EU environmental legislation changes regarding the reporting, adaptation to the legislation, its application and infrastructure will be considered after the start of work. In the list of priorities in the National Programme; improvement of air and water quality, protection of nature, activation of waste management and strong environmental impact assessment, adaptation to the Strategic Environmental Assessment directives, management of environmental noise and chemicals, genetically modified organisms and nuclear safety problems have been taken into consideration<sup>[13]</sup>.

#### **4.2 Environmental Information, Communication Technologies and Environmental Policies of Turkey in Process of EU**

It will be useful to open up a little more the relations on the environmental politics between EEA and Turkey as one of the topics in the National Programme, because the steps taken in this connection during the EU adaptation period and efforts spent have a special importance. Turkey applied for membership to the EEA in June, 1999; the discussions were started by the EU commission with a representation from Turkey during the meeting held on 27 March, 2000 at Brussels. The topic under question has been taken into consideration in the meeting held on 17-18 May, 2000 with the authorities of Environmental General Directorate of EU Commission visiting Turkey during the renegotiations on "Participation Strategy" towards Turkey's participation in the programmes and membership in EEA. In this meeting it has been openly stated by the EU Commission authorities that EEA is the first EU organisation opening the doors towards the full membership of Turkey in EU. In the meeting of "EU and Standing Member Countries Ministers for Environment" a participation agreement was signed between "Turkey and EU on EEA and European Information and Observation Net" on 9 October, 2000 at Brussels. A validation of the Agreement under question was ratified by Turkish Parliament on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2003 with the 4794 number law. Within this framework as in other countries, EEA requires that the data needed should be collected according to the EU standards, all required information on environment and other fields (industry, agriculture etc.) should be provided by Turkey during the period of adaptation to the European legislation, provision of all required information to the decision makers, provision of all information and data during the formation of politics, provision of information and data during the Environmental Impact Assessment for an acceptance of the projects prepared by the Standing member Countries of the EU as a prerequisite for getting financial support from EU, formation of a standard not attained due to different formats used by the public sectors/organisations, and private organisations related to the data on environment in Turkey, for this purpose in order to get support on the "Project on Structural Development and Communication on Environmental Information" was started by the "Ministry of Environment and Forests" with a participation from other organisations and sectors in this connection under a coordination of the Ministry, so as to create a National Data Bank for observation and



reporting on environmental situation in Turkey, activation of EIONET in Turkey in order to reach on time the data of all member countries, and finally provision of data and information on environment to the public<sup>[14]</sup>.

According to the progress report 2003 for Turkey, a limited progress has been made on such topics as air quality, nature conservation, chemicals, noise pollution, nuclear safety and protection from radiation, for the purpose of operation of EU legislation and strengthening of administrative capacity in Turkey. However there is a great need to spend more efforts in Turkey, both from the point of legislative adaptation and within the application aim of all subheadings in this section. In the case of air quality, steps are to be taken for applications on the adaptation of acquirements in legislation including development of observation system in air quality. The legislation on waste management although coinciding with acquirements, requires that more efforts should be spent on its application and transfer to the internal law. There is a need for allotting enough financial sources to this area. Due to this, the Twinning Project on Waste Sector which will run for 2 years as a part of 2003 Financial Cooperation "Project on Administrative Capacity Building in the Environment in Turkey" and expected to start on September, 2004, will allow an adaptation to the concerned legislation. According to the report the application of White Paper on Regulation of Wastes has been planned for last quarter of 2005, the Regulation on the Control of Waste Oils has been put into force after its publication on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2004 in the official bulletin number 25353.

As regards the transfer and application of legislation on water quality to the internal law, in addition to the acceptance of a new framework law regarding the water sources, additional efforts should be spent on the adaptation of standards on drinking water and wastewater disposal with the acquirements of legislation. Due to this, the enforcement of Regulations on Water Products and Control of Water Pollution are planned for 2005. The regulations for prevention of waters from nitrate pollution originating from the agriculture were published on 18.02.2004 in the official bulletin number 25377. Although a series of regulations have been put in to force on nature conservation, legislative adaptation level is still low. Acceptance of a white paper on nature conservation and transfer of application of the legislative decrees to the internal law regarding the birds and habitat is of great importance. As such, changes are planned to be made in the new laws to be issued on conservation of biodiversity and nature, 2872 Environmental Law, 3167 Land Hunters Law, 2873 National Parks Law and 2863 Protection of Cultural and Natural Objects Law. The changes were made in the 3167 Land Hunters Law with the number 4915 Law and it was enforced after its publication in the official bulletin number 25165 on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2003. Legislative changes are planned to be made in this field till the end of 2006. The efforts are needed to be spent on the chemicals and genetically modified organisms in order to achieve an adaptation in this connection. An evaluation of the Regulations on Dangerous Chemicals is planned till the end of 2006. <sup>[15]</sup>

One of the papers supplementing the development of environmental politics in Turkey during EU integration and prepared by the European Commission for Turkey, emphasizes the important topics under the Environment heading in the 2004 Progress Report. According to this, aims of the community for environmental politics are to

protection of environment for the present and future generations and improvement of sustainable development. In the integration of environmental protection to the other political fields in the community basic thoughts are; preventive measures, rule of polluter pays, destruction of environmental pollution at the source and sharing of responsibility.

Acquirements embody more than 200 legislative regulations for side legislation, water and air pollution, management of waste and chemicals, biotechnology, nature conservation, industrial pollution and risk management, protection from radiation and noise. The adaptation to the acquirements needs important investments, but at the same time these provide important advantages for the human health, and reduce degradation of fisheries, landscape planning, buildings and forests. The presence of a well equipped strong administration at national, regional and local levels is a must for the effective application of environmental regulations. In the report developments achieved since the last progress report and topics not showing any development were also dealt. Accordingly, from the last progress report till now some advances have been made regarding the transfer to the internal law, but no progress has been recorded in the integration of environmental topics to other politics. In the side regulations limited advances have been made. A new regulation and law for EIA (environmental impact assessment) as well as regulations for reaching data information have been accepted. Turkey has also approved the UN Climate Change White Paper Agreement. In the field of air quality limited advances have been made, changes have been made in the regulations regarding the fuel quality of petrol and diesel, as well as CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and enlightening consumers on fuel economy in the new passenger buses. Moreover, in July 2004 a communication has been published on the quality of petrol and diesel fuels.

Some advances have been made in the field of waste management. Pouring wastes into the Mediterranean and a law related to the reduction of this pollution originating from their movements beyond the borders has been accepted. At the same time regulations for the wastes from packaging, soils from excavations, control of building and demolition wastes, waste oils, management of wastes from the establishments around the ports and bays, and for batteries and accumulators have been accepted. In the case of water quality, limited advances have been made. The regulation related to the protection of water sources from nitrate pollution has been accepted. A limited advancement has been made in the nature conservation. The changes have been made in the regulations regarding the application of CITES agreement. Advances have been made in the fields of industrial pollution and risk management as well as genetically modified organisms. In the case of chemicals, very limited advancement has been achieved. In this connection the changes towards a prohibition of marketing and use of pesticides and related products have been accepted. As regards the noise no advance has been made, but a limited progress has been achieved in the case of nuclear safety and protection from radiation. The regulation for the wastes originating from the use of radioactive substances has been accepted. As a result of merger of Ministries of Environment and Forest in 2003, Turkey has taken some measures to strengthening the administrative capacity. Together with this, limited advances have been made in the development of

administrative capacity including the conflict on powers and application rules. A governing statute has been accepted for the formation of a special commission that will provide scientific support on environmental problems. [16]

The formation of environmental policies has come up as one of the important parameters during the discussions, and its measure aspect has been information and communication infrastructure regarding this topic. Although the steps taken by Turkey regarding EEA and EIONET have been dealt with above, it will be useful to open up this topic a little more, because as in other topics the importance of information and communication is great for Turkey and EU particularly in the adaptation of politics in environment. As such, the steps taken to form e-Europe within EU and affords in connection with the participation and supplementations from Turkey in E-Europe+ are very important. In view of the e-Europe+ planning, E-Turkey was started under the chairmanship of TUBITAK in Turkey and many working groups formed results were discussed at the 1. Information Council on 10-12 May, 2002. In the Urgent Action Plan prepared by the 58th Government, place was given to the e-Transformation Turkey Project and for this project Undersecretariate of GPO was entrusted with the responsibility for coordination, follow up, evaluation and leading. In addition, in the circular; number 2003/12 dated 27 February, 2003; issued by the Prime Ministry, aims, organisational structure, and application rules of the e-Transformation Turkey Project have been determined. An Information Society Section Head was established within the GPO in March, 2003 in order to fulfil this responsibility. The aims of this project are; first of all a reorganisation of the policies and legislation on information and communication technology within the framework of EU legislation, application of the action plan to Turkey under e-Europe + for candidate countries, development of mechanisms for the participation and decision making capacity of public with the help from information and technology, supplementation by official administration which should be open to accountability, make maximum use of information and communication technology while securing services from the government, application and supplementation of the good administrative rules, spreading the use of information and communication technology, in order to reduce the loss of source extravagancy merger of the official investment projects which resemble or show duplication, observation, evaluation and coordination among the investing official services, and enlightening the activities of private sector within the above rules. The work done with the coordinators from 28 April, 2003 created after the approach accepted for the execution of e-Transformation Turkey Project, e-Turkey interference started after its participation in the e-Europe+ interference with the use of work done till now, scientific knowledge and formations and ended up with the preparation of Short Term Action Plan (STAP) within this framework. In the STAP a total of 73 projects were outlined in the fields of strategy of the informed society, technical infrastructure and security of information, education and human resources, legislative infrastructure, standards, e-Government, e-Health, e-Trade, and e-Environment.

The affords to create this information and communication infrastructure at the national level is closely related to the environmental policies and its formation, although it has gained momentum in the affiliation to the EU there is still a long way to go. The collection, storage, functionalising, distribution and communication of all

sorts of information are critically important for the economic, societal and technical progress in our country as well like the countries entering information age. But in our country the importance of information in the economic progress and societal development has not been fully perceived by the Government. Although "information" is the basic factor in almost all fields like production, education, health, research, public administration, and information services and information technology are closely related to these fields, but until now its integration in the 5 years development plans at the national level in the information management and organisation has not been dealt with. Still we do not have national information politics embodying strategies for effective and productive management of information technology, sources, systems and services. Although we do come across few developmental cases on national information politics in our country from the year 1925 onwards, but their incompleteness and lack of integrity has not made it possible to achieve continuity in these affords. Until now no cooperation has been achieved among the universities, research-developmental organisations in the public and private sectors, TUBITAK, Government Institute of Statistics, Institute of Turkish Patents, Institute of Turkish Standards, National Library, Directorate General of Government Archives, in the Universities, School and Public Libraries, organisational archives, information centres and museums in the production, management and organisation of information at the national level. [17] However, it can be said that particularly in the period following the discussions with EU, important steps have been laid towards the formation of information net and information communication which will affect different fields including the environmental politics in a positive way. It can be said that activities on the e-Government together with internet as well as covering formation of information communication net and efforts for the creation of information net for telecommunication infrastructure on a wide scale has fastened this type of work on the way to EU.

It seems that, environmental politics has taken an unforgettable place in the relations between EU and Turkey within the acceleration gained following the 1999 Helsinki summit. In the last five years with a gradual speed up and concretisation of the relations, topic of environment has acquired a position among the foremost topics and important steps have been laid in the Turkey- EU standards towards the environmental politics. The topic of environment is holding an important position among the discussion headings in the new period starting on October, 2005. The use of EU funds has brought the topic of environment to the forefront and this can be evaluated singly as an important indicator as regards the importance given to the topic in the Turkey-EU relations. [18]

## CONCLUSIONS

EU environmental legislation reflects the progressiveness from the point of environmental models applied in the present day world. As pointed out in the Union decisions summarised above real, effective and good examples for all countries in the world towards the protection and development of environment have been produced. It should be mentioned here that the shape of formation of environmental management in all countries and particularly in Turkey should be considered and applied within

this perspective. If we look at the conditions of environmental management applied in Turkey an important backwardness as compared to the system put forward by EU is openly visible. A long and troublesome period is required by Turkey in order to reach such an understanding on environmental management for a successful transition and adaptation on its way to become a member of EU. National legislation should be reorganised in this direction and the truth is that both national and local environmental focal points will face some difficulties for reaching a level to apply this legislation. However, an upperhand of EU political authority as compared to the member countries and acceptance for adaptation to the Union legislation by the member country at the start does not leave any other choice in his direction. In a way, most probably adaptation of Turkey to the EU on the topic of environment will be more difficult and painful than political and economic integration. The effectiveness in this case and in the final analysis the important catalyser and easiest factor for a formation and application of successful environmental politics will be an establishment of an information and information-communication infrastructure. This seems as a must for Turkey on its way to EU, particularly its adaptation to the environmental politics or from the point of view of achieving the standards put forward.

Although an important step is laid towards the EU standards through the formation of legislation regarding the environment, it should be accepted that this is not everything. The environment is a change in the mentality and needs willpower towards transfer and application of legislation beyond this. It should not be forgotten that an integrated approach is needed because environment is intermingled with technological, economic, social, cultural and political administrative factors. The approaches bringing to the forefront scientific technology and information should be transferred to applicability by tackling with the topic in national, regional and global perspective in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Five Year Development Plans and particularly in the 9<sup>th</sup> Plan, and policies creating balance between the national requirements and regional and global realities should be created and transferred for application.

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