

Original scientific article

THE CRISIS OF CONDITIONALITY AND DEPRIVATION OF SUPPORT IN ENLARGEMENT POLICY: INSIGHTS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION -TÜRKİYE RELATIONS

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ABSTRACT:

This study argues that Türkiye's accession negotiations with the European Union (EU) have been subject to a distinct conditionality framework compared with those of other candidate countries. A novel conditionality model emerges in Türkiye's accession process, characterised by the systematic withholding of political, financial, and institutional support, constituting *deprivation-of-sup-*

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port. This article conceptualises the term as the fourth model of conditionality. Deprivation-of-support in enlargement refers to conditionality without commitment, presence without benefit, and candidacy without progress. Crucially, the continued nominal maintenance of the accession framework, despite its practical emptying, constitutes the defining characteristic of this fourth conditionality strategy. Evidence drawn from the post-2016 period — including Türkiye's exclusion from visa liberalisation, its marginalisation in the F-35 programme, the asymmetric burden of managing Syrian refugees, and its progressive isolation from the Western Balkans enlargement wave. The study further argues that the deprivation-of-support model, when set against the EU's permissive engagement with stabilitocratic regimes in the Western Balkans, in which democratic deficits are tolerated in exchange for geopolitical loyalty. It reveals a significant asymmetry in the EU's conditionality practice and offers a normative template for the consistent application of negative leverage across the enlargement framework.

KEYWORDS:

Türkiye; European Union; Enlargement; Accession negotiations; Deprivation of support; Conditionality

SAŽETAK:

U članku se objašnjava teza da su pristupni pregovori Republike Turske sa Evropskom unijom (EU) bili podvrgnuti posebnom okviru uslovljavanja u poređenju sa drugim državama kandidatima. U procesu pristupanja Turske oblikuje se novi model uslovljavanja, koji karakteriše sistematsko uskraćivanje političke, finansijske i institucionalne podrške, odnosno lišavanje podrške. Ovaj članak konceptualizuje navedeni pojam kao četvrti model uslovljavanja. Lišavanje podrške u kontekstu proširenja podrazumijeva uslovljavanje bez obaveze, prisustvo bez koristi i kandidatski status bez napretka. Ključno je da upravo kontinuirano nominalno održavanje pristupnog okvira, uprkos njegovom praktičnom pražnjenju od sadržaja, predstavlja osnovno obilježje ove četvrte strategije uslovljavanja. Dokazi iz perioda nakon 2016. godine — uključujući isključenje Turske iz procesa vizne liberalizacije, njenu marginalizaciju u programu F-35, asimetričan teret upravljanja sirijskim izbjeglicama, kao i njenu postepenu izolaciju u odnosu na talas proširenja na Zapadni Balkan — ukazuju na postojanje takvog obrasca. Studija dalje tvrdi da model lišavanja podrške, posmatran u odnosu na permisivni angažman EU prema stabilitokratskim režimima na Zapadnom Balkanu, u okviru kojeg se demokratski deficiti tolerišu u zamjenu za geopolitičku lojalnost, otkriva značajnu asimetriju u praksi uslovljavanja Evropske unije i nudi normativni obrazac za dosljednu primjenu negativnog uticaja u okviru politike proširenja.

KLJUČNE RIJEČI:

Turska; Evropska unija; Proširenje; Pristupni pregovori Lišavanje podrške; Uslovljavanje ;