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## WHY THE EU NEEDS TURKEY IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

- 23.05.2025

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Strategic Europe (22 May 2025)

Zaur Shiryev

As the South Caucasus undergoes a strategic realignment, the EU and Turkey have an opportunity to recalibrate their engagement. Converging interests in connectivity, stability, and regional integration might foster cooperation if long-standing assumptions are set aside.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas is renewing the unions effort to recalibrate its approach to the South Caucasus, aiming to ensure the region remains within Europes strategic orbit.

Thus far, the EUs approach to Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia has been largely ad hoc and lacked a coherent regional strategy on which long-term engagement can be built. While the bloc has developed bilateral relations with the three countries in various sectors, its broader regional posture has not been cohesive.

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