
THE BEYLIKOVA DILEMMA: TURKEY WEIGHS ECONOMIC BOOM AGAINST TOXIC RISKS IN RARE EARTH PUSH

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Turkey recap (4 August 2026)

Diego Cupolo

ESKİŞEHİR [1] an eastbound railway from Istanbul, past a series of narrow mountain valleys, the Anatolian plateau opens wide, inviting Turkey's high-speed trains to zip by the town of Beylikova.

Apart from its farmers market on Fridays, this enclave of about 6,000 residents draws little attention from outsiders beyond the occasional glance from a train passenger. However, beneath Beylikova's soil lies the fuel for a 21st-century geopolitical rivalry, placing this region on the front lines of the US-China race for resources.

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