AVİM ON THE ROAD TO THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

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The Center for Eurasian Studies (AVİM), a non-profit think tank based in Ankara, has celebrated its 14th anniversary on 2 January 2023. Even though its institutional identity began on 2 January 2009, as indicated in one of our articles in 2020, AVİM's research within the framework and understanding of a think tank stretches back to early 2000s.[1] As noted in that article, it took a relatively long time for the work of think tanks to gain traction in Türkiye. While the effectiveness of Türkiyes think tanks began to increase, the world community went through periods of severe crises.

For example, the Covid-19 pandemic has swept humanity like the 1918 flu (influenza) pandemic, resulting in millions of people losing their lives. It has caused the greatest health crisis in recent memory, rivaling the destructive effects of the 1918 pandemic. The pandemic has not only taken lives but has also turned the economies and working orders of countries upside down. While trying to heal the wounds caused by the pandemic in the world order, the old continent, Europe, has begun to face a hot war for the first time since the Second World War. Russia's military action against Ukraine has turned into a bloody war. Türkiye, which some in the European Union endeavor to cast as being outside of Europe and even the Balkans, suddenly found itself in the middle of the region where this hot war is taking place. These developments have implications for the intellectual community. Universities, research centers, and think tanks were also significantly affected by these developments. Amidst the public war hysteria, these organizations came under intense pressure to produce works embracing a particular worldview. Such organizations that did not bow to such pressures, remained impartial and brought objective views to the agenda were accused of sitting on the fence or were arbitrarily attributed to have taken one of the opposing sides in the Ukraine-Russia war.

As in the past, AViM has maintained its independent stance against these pressures and continued its activities that prioritizes the objective interests of Türkiye with academic meticulousness at every stage.[2] As part of its objectives, it has sought to illustrate the negative impacts of a Eurocentric approach to regional politics that claims to uphold universal values, but is in truth a power projection tool for Western European (and also North American) countries. AVİM has instead defended Constructive Eurasianism, which considers Türkiye being in the enviable position to act as a true Eurasian nexus because of the countrys unique geographic location.

AVİM continues to serve as a non-profit organization that is open to discussing contrary ideas and cooperating with other organizations that may have starkly different worldviews. It continues to operate with limited domestic contributions and modest budget, and receives no contributions from international private funds or foreign foundations, neither on a project-by-project basis nor as part of financial aid.

AVİM, which is approaching the fifteenth year of its founding, will continue its essentially academic oriented studies and research, to publish its journals of Ermeni Araştırmaları, Review of Armenian Studies (RAS), International Crimes and History / Uluslararası Suçlar ve Tarih (UST/ICH) and Eurasian World/Avrasya Dünyası with the same care and diligence while keeping in mind the objective interests of Türkiye above all other interests.

[1] Teoman Ertuğrul Tulun, AVİM On The Eleventh Anniversary Of Its Founding, *2020* 5 (May 2, 2020): 3, https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/8yefa , https://avim.org.tr/en/Yorum/AVIM-ON-THE-ELEVENTH-ANNIVERSARY-OF-ITS-FOUNDING .

[2] Teoman Ertuğrul Tulun and Mehmet Oğuzhan Tulun, Turkeys Interests And Constructive Eurasianism, *Center For Eurasian Studies Analysis Series* 2022, no. 22 (May 5, 2022): 4, https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/72c8d , https://avim.org.tr/en/Yorum/TURKEY-S-INTERESTS-AND-CONSTRUCTIVE-EURASIANISM .

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