

Abstract

The accession of Turkey to the EU has become one of the major unresolved issues of European integration and leads directly into bigger debates about the underpinnings and purpose of the EU. Should Turkey be a Member State with full rights or be connected to the through a yet undefined special relationship? That is the kind of question many are asking nowadays. Every Member State of the European Union has a different vision of Europe, with different views of how the Union should be defined and on what foundations it should be based. This work explores the relationship between the concept of Europe held by a country's political elite, through analysing its discourse, and the country's position towards Turkish EU membership. Three cases are presented: France, Germany and the United Kingdom.