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The Montreux Convention: A Regional And Global Safety Valve

Teoman Ertuğrul TULUN

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TERAZİ YAYINCILIK

Terazi Yayıncılık Bas. Dağ. Dan. Eğt. Org. Mat. Kırt. Ltd. Şti.
Abidin Daver Sok. No. 12/B Daire 4 06550 Çankaya/ANKARA

Tel: 0 (312) 438 50 23-24 • **Fax:** 0 (312) 438 50 26

E-mail: terazi yayincilik@gmail.com

Center for Eurasian Studies (AVİM)

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AUTHOR

Teoman Ertuğrul Tulun

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FOREWORD

The Center for Eurasian Studies (AVİM) has been continuing its work in the framework of the Eurasia concept that covers Europe and Asia. In this general context, AVİM particularly focuses on the Balkans, the Caucasus, the Wider Black Sea Region, the Caspian basin, and Central Asia.

There is no doubt that developments in the Black Sea region have come to the fore in recent years, particularly with regard to security issues in the wider Black Sea area. AVİM recognizes the merit of the principle that the Black Sea must be an area of peace where rule of international law should reign supreme to sustain cooperation as opposed to creating conflicts. The existence of peace, stability, and security in the Black Sea region is of great importance not only for the Black Sea littoral countries but for Europe and beyond.

The Turkish Straits of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles are deemed to constitute a natural border between Europe and Asia. However, at the same time, they bring together these two continents. Hence, from our perspective, they very much symbolize Eurasia.

As part of the Eurasian geography, the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles are strategically a vital link between the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea. Their control has historically been an important issue for Europe and wider Eurasia. The Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits of 1936 endowed Turkey with full control of the Turkish Straits. Throughout those years, the Convention has maintained its validity and importance. It continues to serve as the security valve for regional and global security. With this in mind, we considered that it is timely to highlight it with a report on the Montreux Convention.

It is our hope that this report by PhD candidate Teoman Ertuğrul Tulun entitled “The Montreux Convention: A Regional and Global Safety Valve” will contribute to recall the various historical aspects of this historical convention and to help us better understand its current validity.

Alev KILIÇ

Ambassador (R), AVİM Director

Teoman Ertuğrul TULUN



Teoman Ertuğrul Tulun completed his undergraduate studies at McGill University by graduating from the Department of Political Science in 2003. He served as a Senior Research Fellow between 2003 and 2004 at the European Union Communication Group (ABİG) in Ankara. He was a Research Assistant at Bilkent University's Department of International Relations between 2004 and 2006. He received his master's degree from Bilkent University Department of International Relations in 2009. Between 2010 and 2015, he worked as a Research Assistant and Teaching Assistant at the same department and taught courses there between 2012 and 2015. He has been continuing his doctoral studies at Bilkent University Department of Political Science and Public Administration

as PhD candidate. Teoman Ertuğrul Tulun has been serving as an Analyst at the Center for Eurasian Studies (AVİM) since 2016.

Contact: tetulun@avim.org.tr

ORCID iD : <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7749-4956>

PREFACE

This report is prepared to draw attention the significance of The Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits of 1936 which entrusted Turkey with the full control of the Turkish Straits and restored Turkey's absolute sovereignty over one of the most strategic waterways in the world that converge Europe and Asia.

The report starts with explaining the historical background of the regime of the Turkish Straits until the Montreux Convention and incorporates detailed analysis of the core articles of the Convention, dwells on the current developments in today's crisis-ridden world that bring the Montreux Convention to renewed prominence. The report, furthermore, suggests that Montreux Convention continues to be a functional regional and global safety valve for today's world.

I would like to sincerely thank for the guidance and support given to me by AVİM Director Alev Kılıç and AVİM Consultant Yiğit Alpogan for writing this report. I commemorate with great respect the Founder and Honorary President of AVİM Ambassador Ömer Engin Lütem.

Teoman Ertuğrul TULUN
AVİM Analyst