

# Turkey



**GDP real growth rate:** 5.0% (2008 est.)  
**GDP per capita:** 12,900 \$ (2008)  
**GDP per sector:** Agriculture 8.5%,  
Industry 28.9%, Services 62.9%  
**Human Development Index:** 0.806 (rank 79)  
**Number of inhabitants ( in 000's ) :** 73,914  
**Major industries:** Textiles, food, oil, steel, automobile,  
mining, electronics, construction, agriculture, wood and  
paper.

## Main Issues related to SCP

The fast economic growth experienced by Turkey in recent years is having a significant impact on the environment due to accelerated urbanisation, increased consumption of natural resources and the growth of industry. The major problems are waste generation, industrial contamination, depletion of coastal areas and biodiversity degradation.

### Waste:

Waste is generally illegally dumped. Recycling, composting and incineration are not common practice. Industrial waste, which represents less than 1% of the country's total waste contains highly toxic substances such as mercury, lead, chrome and zinc.

### Water

Despite sufficient water resources, current demographic growth could lead to supply and provision shortage. The environmental strategy focuses on improving the water supply system in terms of loss and leakage and implementing a price model for a more efficient consumption of resources.

### Energy

Turkey is increasing efforts to improve energy efficiency. The electricity generated from renewable energy resources; mainly water and biomass; accounts for 12.3% of the total primary energy supply, according to data from 2004.

### Atmospheric emissions

Per capita greenhouse gas emissions are between 4 to 5 tonnes of equivalent CO<sub>2</sub>; well below the average of Annex I countries. Turkey does not have any specific reduction objectives; however it has taken important steps towards reducing its green house gas emissions. Industry, population growth, rapid urbanization, unsustainable urban planning and the use of low quality fuels are the main factors contributing to atmospheric pollution.

## Policies and Strategic Framework

In spite of the advances gained with the Seventh five-Year Plan (1997-2001), such as the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), the Eighth Plan (2001-2005) recognises that a major deficit was not including environmental policy in previous economic and social plans. A number of different objectives have been outlined to highlight the importance of improving environmental issues, such as a revision of priority areas for the NEAP, the elaboration and implementation of strategies for Cleaner Production, the integration of environmental policy within social and economic policies, the improvement of environmental management systems and the minimisation of environmental risks.

Studies have been undertaken on methods to develop Waste Water and Water Quality Management Action Plans and to provide recommendations for improvement of the current situation.

## Legal and Regulatory Framework

Since 2005 several regulations have been approved to improve waste management and to prevent and control water pollution. A series of By-Laws have also been enacted to regulate medical and hazardous waste, prevent and monitor pollution and determine discharge standards and quality criteria.

In 2006 the permit system for the control of atmospheric pollution was revised, readjusting the limits of emissions. Furthermore, a decree for Large Combustion Plants will be elaborated in 2009 to incorporate EU standards.

Although the IPPC EU Directive has not yet been applied, the Government is conscious of its importance and is taking action to implement the system in the future. The concept of best available techniques (BAT) in industry is being developed within this framework.

Although support from private or international organisations is possible, economic instruments to support SCP such as subsidies, loans, tax deductions have not been reported. The main measures are punitive and include specific taxes and fines for non-compliance.

Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) is currently not integrated in public procurement. It is expected that a number of environmental issues will be included within the framework established by the EU.

## Greening Industry and Society

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is still at a very early implementation stage. Companies showing a higher level of CSR practices are those associated with EU or other OECD countries. UNDP has started a CSR implementation process by studying potential in the field and enabling the creation of a Global Compact national office. Nevertheless, although many companies have become members of the initiative, studies have shown that the majority have little knowledge of CSR. The government cooperates with UNDP in CSR promotion programmes as well as in the creation of partnerships between government and business representatives with social responsibility objectives. Worthy of mention is the creation of the CSR Turkey Association and its work to promote CSR.

Harmonizing with EU legislation regarding environmental certification and labelling has not yet taken place and studies on how to adopt EMAS have not been integrated.

## Main Actors and Projects

The **Ministry for the Environment and Forestry (MoEF)** is the main national actor for promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production. The **Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)** is also an important actor focussing on promoting sustainable development and energy efficiency through training programmes, workshop publications, scholarships and funds. Several universities and technological institutions including the **Middle East Technical University (METU)**, the **Marmara Research Centre**, and the **Bogazici University** (which hosts a Cleaner Production Centre) are undertaking studies on the protection of the environment, cleaner technologies, and sustainable development.

