

In this week's *Türkiye in Focus*:

- The political momentum in Ankara regarding the “Terror-Free Türkiye” process continues. The criminal enforcement law amendment and the formation of a parliamentary commission are at the top of the agenda.
- President Erdoğan announced that a ten-member working group has been formed to work on a new constitution.
- As the CHP congress lawsuit continues, intra-party conflict is also increasing.

A Noteworthy Meeting Between AK Party and DEM Party

Ankara has been particularly active in recent days. The expected introduction of a new criminal enforcement regulation in Parliament ahead of Eid al-Adha is not merely viewed as a technical legal change but rather as part of a more comprehensive transformation. However, whether the debates will allow the legislation to pass swiftly remains to be seen next week.

This regulation carries both symbolic and practical weight, particularly within the reshaped political climate influenced by the “Terror-Free Türkiye” process. The DEM Party’s meetings this week—first with the MHP and then with the AK Party—have drawn attention. Notably, the long meeting with the AK Party indicates that negotiations regarding the scope of the regulation are still ongoing. The release of ill and elderly inmates is reportedly among the key priorities.

It is worth noting that this flurry of political activity in Parliament followed the PKK’s declaration to lay down arms. In this context, the meeting between MHP Chairman Devlet Bahçeli and Parliament Speaker Numan Kurtulmuş also hints at future steps. One of the topics discussed was the possible formation



(Cem Genco - Anadolu Agency)

of a broadly inclusive commission to oversee the “Terror-Free Türkiye” initiative. These developments go beyond a simple amnesty or legal change; they reflect an effort to recalibrate the balance between security and democracy in Türkiye.

Altogether, these dynamics signal that “Terror-Free Türkiye” is becoming an increasingly central agenda item. With Parliament likely to continue its activities into the summer, developments related to disarmament are expected to influence the domestic political climate further.

President Erdoğan Announces the Start of Constitutional Reform

President Erdoğan’s announcement that he has tasked a ten-member team with drafting a new constitution marks another strong signal in Türkiye’s current political trajectory. Erdoğan’s initiative can also be read as a continuation of efforts to give tangible form to the “Century of Türkiye” vision, which has been a central theme since 2023.

The ruling alliance’s pursuit of a new constitution is not a new development. The “Century of Türkiye” vision, shared with the public since 2023, aims to lay new foundations for resolving long-standing issues of identity, belonging, and representation that have persisted in the Republic’s first century. In this light,



(Turkish Presidency/Murat Kula - Anadolu Agency)

the new constitution aims to update the spirit of Türkiye’s social contract. The evolving political climate—now more open to dialogue and compromise—also strengthens the groundwork for such constitutional efforts. Growing cross-party consensus increases the likelihood of parliamentary approval.

MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli’s speech this week—his first since a long illness—underscored the significance he places on the process. His words, “*This will be symbolized by the Century of Türkiye and distinguished by a new era of national unity and brotherhood,*” are not only aspirational but also reflect an effort to articulate the ideological foundation of the transformation underway. These steps in Ankara—from the judiciary to political institutions, from social peace to inter-institutional dialogue—signal the early stages of a much broader shift. The capital’s accelerating political tempo strongly suggests that change may come faster than expected.

Although some opposition factions—particularly within the CHP—appear to view the constitutional initiative through the lens of short-term electoral calculations. However, not all opposition parties share this view. Notably, the DEM Party has emerged as a key participant in the process. Statements from other opposition parties with parliamentary presence—such as the Future Party, DEVA, and the Felicity Party—suggest they may also be open to supporting this reform effort.

Mounting Tensions Between Former and Current Leadership in CHP

The Republican People’s Party (CHP) has once again found itself at the centre of internal discord following a judicial process sparked by allegations of procedural irregularities during the party congress that brought the current leadership to power. The case has entered a new phase, especially after the term “absolute nullity” appeared in last week’s court transcripts—leading to speculation that the previous leadership could potentially be reinstated by court order. These claims have gained traction, particularly among journalists close to the current CHP administration, many of whom have expressed growing frustration toward Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu.

On the other hand, the Kılıçdaroğlu camp does not appear to be passively watching events unfold. The former chairman’s public remarks and posture suggest that he is still politically engaged and possibly interested in reclaiming influence. The presence of some current MPs still loyal to Kılıçdaroğlu adds another layer of complexity to the situation. The ongoing legal case has further exacerbated the factional divides that were already present within the party.

All eyes are now on the upcoming court hearing scheduled for June 30. This case is not merely a technical debate about procedural validity; it also holds clues about how the balance of power within the CHP may evolve. The party is now facing a fresh test of its internal cohesion and institutional stability.



(CHP - Anadolu Agency)

Highlights

- President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced that Russia-Ukraine peace negotiations may resume in Istanbul following a statement by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov requesting second-round talks in the Turkish metropolis.
- Five employees working in the joint initiative of the Türkiye-based international NGO IHH under the framework of the UN World Food Program in Gaza were killed in an Israeli attack. Director of Communications Fahrettin Altun issued a message of condolence and condemnation regarding the incident.
- Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan met with President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov during his visit to Russia. The Russia-Ukraine war, Gaza, and Syria were among the topics on the agenda.

Recent Publications by TRT World Research Centre

- [End of the Liberal Ethos or a Normative Deficit? Responsible Powerhood and The Case of Türkiye](#) Discussion Paper by Burak Elmalı

No Edition Next Week

Due to the official public holidays declared in Türkiye for Eid al-Adha next week, Türkiye in Focus will not be with you. We'll return the following week with fresh perspectives and updates on the latest developments in Türkiye. Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding!

The Türkiye in Focus Team