



## Conference European Foreign Policy ASSESSING EU'S ROLE IN THE WORLD

**Joseph Joseph**, Jean Monnet Chair, University of Cyprus: *EU Enlargement: the Challenge and Promise of Turkey*

### Abstract

Following the commencement of accession negotiations in October 2005, Turkey politically is at the threshold of the EU. While preparations are under way, the debate over Turkey's European prospects is heating up and a variety of perspectives, positions, opinions and arguments are put forward. Europe's confusion and ambivalence about Turkey is not a new phenomenon, although now it is becoming more visible. At the same time, there are strong voices arguing that Turkey can play the role of "a cultural and physical bridge between the East and West". This paper will address the issues raised and the challenges faced by both the EU and Turkey.