



**Prof. Aristotle Tziampiris**

**"The European Union, Islam and Turkey: Finding the Limits of European Soft Power"**

**Abstract:**

The European Union uniquely links her soft power capabilities with the accession process of prospective member states. However, this model is challenged by the case of Turkey, since large numbers of European citizens appear to want to deny membership even if all her obligations were fulfilled. This presentation will examine a host of 'identitarian' criteria (religious, historical, cultural and identity-related) as potentially explaining this resistance to Turkish accession. We will thus focus on various perceptions and claims based on a specific reading of the historical, social, cultural and demographic interactions of Islam with Europe. The validity and potential consequences of such claims will be evaluated. By extension, there will also be an attempt to assess whether Europe's enlargement-based soft-power capabilities might be limited (or even negated) by suspicion, hostility or dismissal of Islam in a post 9/11 world.

**CV**

**Dr Aristotle Tziampiris** is Assistant Professor of International Relations at the Department of International and European Studies of the University of Piraeus; member of the Scientific Board (and former member of the Board of Directors) of the Institute of Defense Analyses (IAA-Athens, Greece); Research Fellow at the Center for European Studies (Brussels, Belgium); a member of the Steering Committee of the Center for European and International Affairs (Piraeus, Greece) and a member of the Scientific Board of the Institute of Democracy (Athens, Greece) He is the author of *Greece, European Political Cooperation and the Macedonian Question* (Aldershot: Ashgate Press, 2000), *International Relations and the Macedonian Question* (Athens: ELIAMEP, 2003-in Greek); *Kosovo's Endgame: Sovereignty and Stability in the Western Balkans* (Athens: IAA, 2006) and *Faith and Reason of State* (forthcoming) Dr Tziampiris has also published a series of essays primarily on international relations and Greek foreign policy in the Balkans. He holds a PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science.