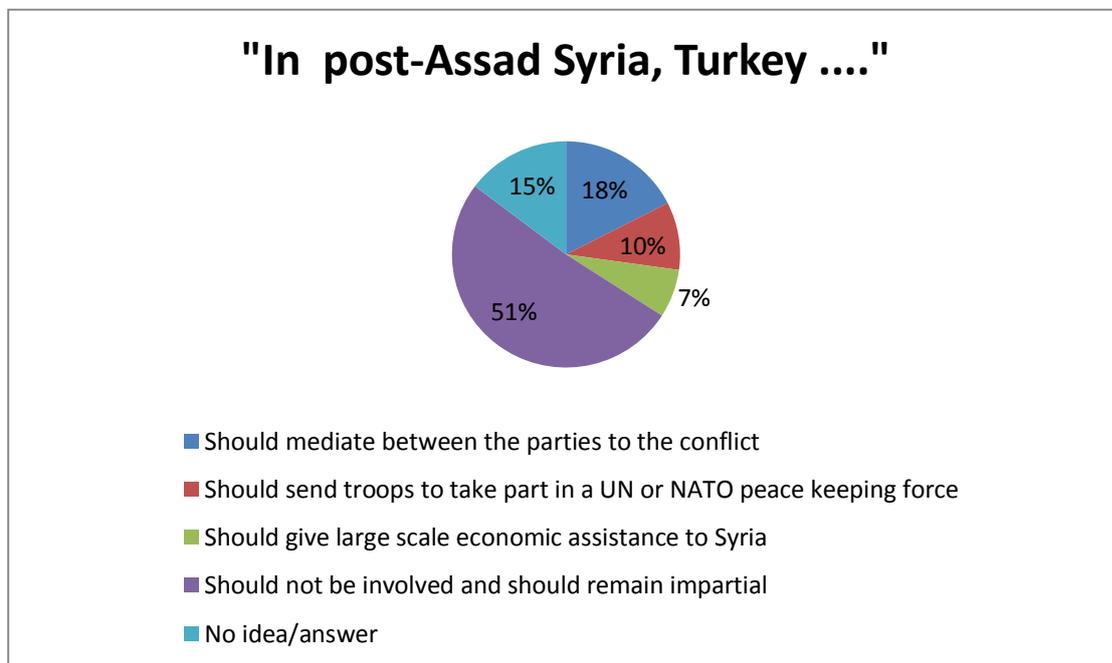


TURKS AGAINST TURKEY'S INVOLVEMENT IN POST-ASSAD SYRIA

Turkey's evolving relationship with Syria has become a topical issue in Turkey and abroad. There is however too little discussion about Turkey's potential role in post-Assad Syria. EDAM's latest survey has therefore decided to focus on this critical issue. In a survey undertaken by TNS-Turkey¹ on behalf of EDAM on 1 September- 4 October 2012, Turks were polled on the question "What sort of role Turkey should play in post-Assad Syria?"



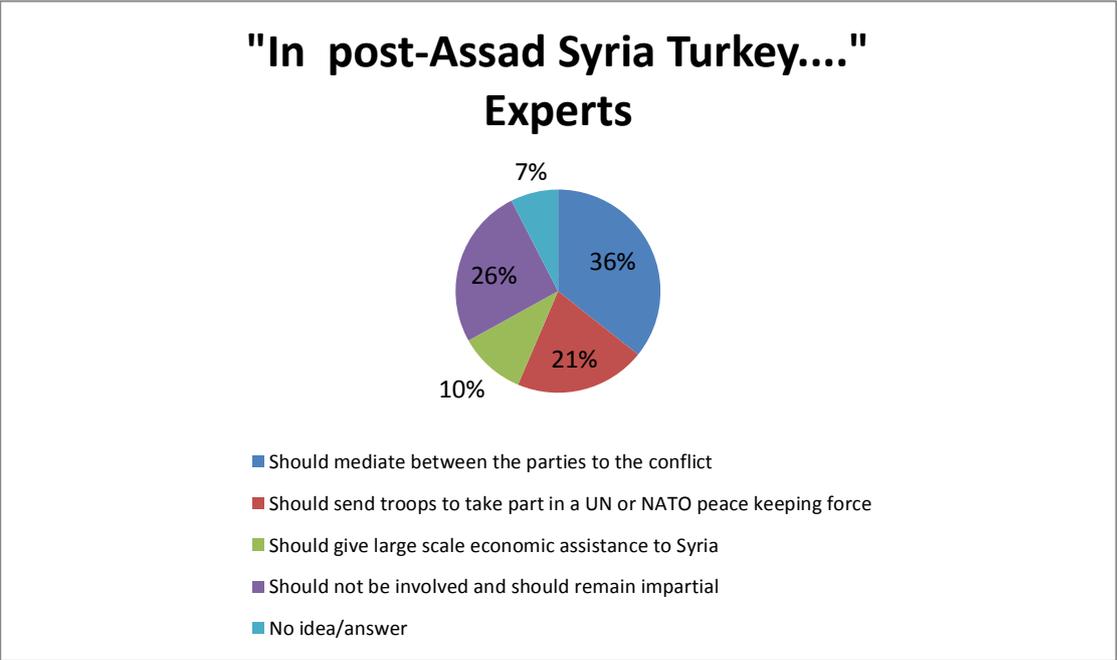
Survey results demonstrate that a majority of Turks (51 %) want Turkey to remain non-involved or impartial in post-Assad Syria. 18 % of those that were polled, support Turkey's potential role as a mediator between the parties to the conflict while only 7 % support Turkey's large scale economic assistance to Syria. 10 % of survey participants gave their support to the option of Turkey sending troops to participate in a multinational (UN or NATO) peace keeping force in Syria. 14 % remain undecided.

The survey also illustrated substantial differences across party lines. Among polled AKP supporters, the option of "mediation" reached a level of support of 27 % while 40 % of the

¹ This public opinion survey was carried out between 1 September– 4 October 2012 in Turkey with the participation of 1500 people representing a cross section of the urban and rural population above the age of 18. The cities which were included in the survey: Adana, Ankara, Antalya, Bursa, Diyarbakir, Manisa, Erzurum, Gaziantep, Istanbul, Izmir, Kayseri, Kirklareli, Konya, Içel, Samsun, Zonguldak, Denizli, Malatya.

AKP electorate favored non-involvement and impartiality. Among the main opposition CHP electorate, the option of “mediation” was favored by a slim constituency of 6 % whereas the “non-involvement and impartiality” option was favored by a large majority of 60 %. The nationalist MHP electorate also favored the “non-involvement” policy with 60 % support. The same option gathered 83 % support among the electorate of the Kurdish dominated BDP. There were however no significant differences among the party electorates regarding Turkey’s potential participation in a multinational peace keeping force.

There were also some gender based differences. Men tended to favor the “non-involvement and impartiality” option by 56 % while for women the level of support dropped to 47 %. For mediation, women’s support was 21 % higher than the 14 % support among men. Age also made a difference. Older generations tended to favor the “non-involvement and impartiality” option and lowered their support for the mediation policy. In the age group 18-24, the “non-involvement and impartiality” found a support of 41 % which increased to 63 % for the population above the age of 55. The “mediation” option was supported by 17 % of the 18-24 age group but only 12 % of the 55 + age group.



In parallel to this public opinion poll, EDAM carried out an expert survey held by Infakto RW with the participation of 266 foreign policy experts. The objective was to ascertain potential differences regarding policy preferences between the public opinion at large and the expert community. The expert community tended to give the highest support to a “mediation” policy with 36 %, the “non-involvement and impartiality” option remained the second most favored policy outcome with 26 % of support. Support for a Turkish participation in a potential UN or NATO peace keeping force was also higher in the expert community with a support base of 21 %. It can be stated that the foreign policy expert community in Turkey is backing a more active Turkish policy in post-Assad Syria than the population at large.