



Turkey's BRICS bid ahead of Russia summit plays both sides

By Stephanie L. Freid / September 17, 2024

Ahead of Russia hosting the 2024 BRICS Summit from Oct. 22-24, Turkey's application to join the group of major emerging economies is coming under scrutiny.

The BRIC, or Brazil, Russia, India and China, platform was initiated by Russia in 2009 as an informal club to provide members with a conduit for challenging the world order dominated by the U.S. and its Western allies. South Africa joined in 2010, making them BRICS.

[...]

"There's a process of enlarging BRICS that China and Russia are engaged in," **Gallia Lindenstrauss, a fellow at the Tel Aviv-based Institute for National Security Studies Turkey Policy Research**, told VOA Mandarin. "This bid announcement is directly tied to the S-400 sales to Turkey, and it comes as a prelude to the upcoming October BRICS meeting in Russia."

[...]

"Turkey may ultimately be in BRICS," Lindenstrauss said. "But there's no practical serious meaning here in terms of trade partners and it doesn't change export/import trade factors."

In June, Turkish Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek, during a talk at London's Chatham House think tank, referred to BRICS as "a dialogue platform" versus a formal economic bloc like the EU.

"The EU remains our core partner in terms of trade investments, tourism flows ... so we remain focused (on the EU), but that doesn't mean we do not look at alternatives if they present value," he told the forum.

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