



From Istanbul to Madrid towards Spanish Presidency

Public Talk – William Chislett

23 June 2009 – İstanbul / Turkey



Along with bilateral meetings, links and cooperation between Spanish and Turkish governments noticeably increased this year. Together with various the similarities in history and culture, Spain can be recognized not only as an ally in Mediterranean region, but also as a “friend” who is supporting Turkey’s accession to the European Union. The upcoming EU Presidency of Spain (starting from January 2010) can be an opportunity both for membership negotiations of Turkey and for expressing herself better to whole Europe.

As the leading institution devoted to the relations between European Union and Turkey, IKV decided to run a comprehensive project before Spanish Presidency. The *Public Talk* dimension of this project (project also includes a Summer School and a conference in Madrid) will be held in Istanbul, on **23rd June 2009** at **14.00**. William Chislett will make a speech titled ***“Spain and Turkey: Converging and Diverging EU Paths”***. Following the speech, a general discussion will take place on Spain’s experiences before and after EU membership and Turkey’s ongoing negotiations in a comparative perspective. Chislett, who has been scrutinizing social and political transformations in Spain after 1975, is also very much interested in Turkey and published a number of working papers and newspaper articles. His work ***“Spanish Trajectory: A Source of Inspiration for Turkey?”*** has also been published in Turkey.



William Chislett (born Oxford, 1951) reported on Spain’s 1975-78 transition to democracy for *The Times*. Between 1978 and 1984 he was based in Mexico City for *The Financial Times*, covering Mexico and Central America, before returning to Madrid in 1986 as a translator (principally for Grupo Santander) and writer.

He has written books on Spain, Portugal, Chile, Ecuador, Panama, Finland, El Salvador and Turkey for *Euromoney Publications*. The Writers and Scholars Educational Trust published his *The Spanish Media since Franco* in 1979.

Banco Central Hispano published his book *España: en busca del éxito* in 1992 (originally published that same year by Euromoney), *Spain: at a Turning Point* in 1994, and *Spain: the Central Hispano Handbook*, a yearly review, between 1996 and 1998. Banco Santander Central Hispano published his dictionary of economic terms in 1999 and his *Spain at a Glance* in 2001. He wrote the section on Latin America for *Business - The Ultimate Resource* (Bloomsbury, 2002).

In 2002 the Elcano Royal Institute published his book *The Internationalization of the Spanish Economy*, in 2003 *Spanish Direct Investment in Latin America: Opportunities and Challenges* and in 2005 *The United States and Spain: In Search of Mutual Rediscovery* (all are available in PDF format on the Elcano website). He has also written three Working Papers on Turkey for Elcano and writes a monthly essay on Spain for the Institute called Inside Spain. He writes the article on Spain for the Annual Register (founded in 1758 by Edmund Burke). He contributed to the book produced by the German Presidency of the European Union to mark the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. His latest book on Spain (*Going Places, Economic, Political and Social Progress, 1975-2008*) was published in January, 2008, by Telefónica. The Open Society foundation published his paper comparing Spain and Turkey's EU paths in December 2008.

In November 2003 he was a visiting scholar at Bilkent University, Ankara, and in April 2005 at the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Centre, New York University. He has spoken at Oxford, Princeton, Harvard, Chicago, Georgetown, Suffolk and Bogazici (Istanbul) universities. He writes a weekly column for the online newspaper *El Imparcial* and is a member of its Editorial Board. He is a member of the

Committee of Ambassador Brands and Image of Spain (Foro de Marcas Renombradas Españolas) and a member of Spain's Public Diplomacy Commission (in an independent capacity), chaired by Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, which is expected to be launched in 2009. He is married and has two sons.