

## Mehmet Ali Birand

Editor-in-Chief and Chief Anchor, Kanal D



With his accurate, even-handed, independent and liberal approach to reporting, Mehmet Ali Birand is widely respected among U.S. and European political correspondents. He has been described the “eyes and ears” of Turkey abroad for over 40 years. He has authored eight books and has been the focal point of numerous conferences on Turkish-EU relations, the Kurdish problem, Cyprus and Turkish-Greek relations.

Mr. Birand began his career in 1964 in Turkey’s leading newspaper, Milliyet. In 1972 he became the newspaper’s European editor, reporting from Brussels on the EU and NATO. In 1984, he also became Milliyet’s Bureau Chief in Moscow, commuting between the two capitals. He returned to Turkey in 1991 and became a columnist with Sabah, a well-known Turkish newspaper, and in 1999 with Posta, Turkey’s highest circulation newspaper.

In 1985, Mehmet Ali Birand began producing “32nd Day,” which has become a pioneer in its genre. The program is known for its independent and liberal outlook. Many world leaders have appeared on the show, including Premiers Thatcher and Kohl, Presidents Mitterrand and Chirac, King Hussein of Jordan and his son King Abdullah, Russian Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin, Israeli leaders Yitzhak Rabin and Simon Peres, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, and Saddam Hussein after the first Gulf War.

Mr. Birand’s eight books focus on Turkish domestic and international politics (on topics such as relations with the EU since 1963, structure of the Turkish army, the 12 September military coup, the Kurdish problem, the 1974 Cyprus intervention and Turkish-Greek relations). His books have been translated into English, German and Greek.

Mehmet Ali Birand was born in 1941 in Istanbul. He is married and the proud father of a son. He is fluent in English and French.