



IKV MONTHLY

ISSUE:8 JUNE 2015

www.ikv.org.tr / contact: ikv@ikv.org.tr

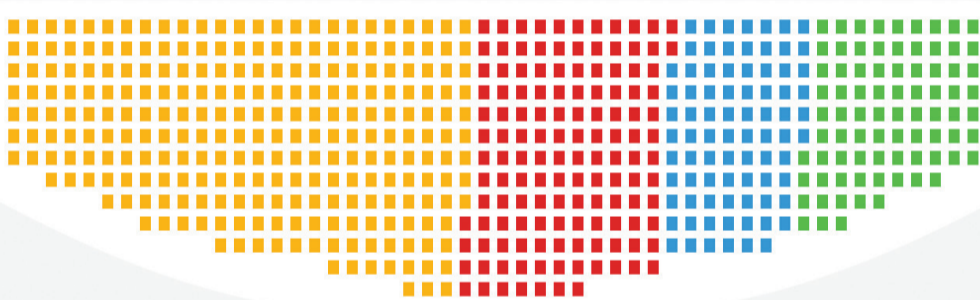
GENERAL ELECTIONS IN TURKEY

The general elections in Turkey took place on 7 June 2015. Turkish voters went to the polls to determine the 550 parliamentarians who will be in office until 2019; yet, none of the political parties, which were in a tight race before the elections, could secure a majority in the parliament to form the government alone.

Distribution of seats in the TGNA



AK Parti 258 CHP 132 MHP 80 HDP 80 Independents 0



Supreme Election Board (YSK) announced the official results of the elections on 18 June 2015. According to the results, the incumbent Justice and Development Party (AK Parti) won 40.87 percent of the votes and obtained 258 seats in the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA). The main opposition party, Republican People's Party (CHP),

won 132 seats with 24.95 percent of the votes. With a slight increase in the votes compared to the previous elections, the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) obtained 16.29 percent of the votes and has 80 seats in the Parliament. People's Democratic Party (HDP), entering the June 7 election as a party rather than as independent candidates as they did in previous elections, surpassed the

10 percent national threshold and secured 80 seats in the TGNA with 13,12 percent of the votes.

According to election results announced by YSK, it is evident that while AK Parti and CHP have lost votes compared to the 2011 election, MHP and HDP increased their vote shares and secured more seats in the TGNA. In 7 June elections, AK Parti has lost about 70

seats and the Party is 17 seats short of a majority. Similarly, CHP has lost about 1 percent of its vote share which was equivalent to 3 seats in the TGNA. On the contrary, MHP slightly increased its vote share from 13 percent in 2011 elections to 16.5 percent and secured 80 seats compared with 53 in the previous general elections. HDP increased its votes by 6.5 percent compared to 2011 elections and succeeded in surpassing the 10 percent national threshold. HDP is the successor to the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) whose candidates stood as independents before the 2011 elections and formed a group of 35 Parliamentarians in the TGNA after the elections.

According to the results of the poll, although AK Parti remains the most popular party with almost 41 percent of the votes, the possibility for a coalition government has emerged since none of the political parties could secure the majority in the Parliament. Leaders of political parties are expected to announce their preferences regarding the formation of a coalition government in the near future.

"MYTHS VS FACTS ON TURKEY-EU RELATIONS" MICRO-SITE WAS LAUNCHED



The English version of the micro-site entitled "Myths vs Facts on Turkey-EU Relations" (<http://dby.ikv.org.tr/en>) prepared by IKV Researchers was launched in June 2015. The micro-site aims to alter the common misperceptions spread among the European audience regarding Turkey-EU relations and Turkey's EU membership. In 2014, a Turkish version was launched with the aim of correcting common misperceptions and misunderstandings on the EU and Turkey-EU relations among the Turkish public opinion.

Social, economic and political reforms undertaken during the negotiation process affect all levels of society. Considering that the accession of Turkey in the EU will have tremendous effects for both Turkish and European citizens, IKV decided to launch this micro-site by integrating debates on the latest developments in Turkey-EU relations.

"We hope that the establishment of a new government will foster Turkey's long term objectives"

Chairman Vardan indicated that the general elections were carried out with a high degree of democratic maturity reflecting Turkey's advancement in liberal and pluralistic politics. He expressed that this general election is a clear indication of the beginning of a new era for Turkey. Chairman Vardan also stated that: "Turkey left another election behind with its 70-year long multiparty democratic experience. During this election, our citizens expressed their will with a strong participation rate and indicated their political preferences in a mood of serenity. We thus left behind a transparent and participatory process which, refuting all concerns that had been expressed, has been conducted in conformity with the EU standards".

Furthermore, he expressed that: "On this occasion, as the representatives of the business community, we hope for the establishment of a new government that will foster Turkey's long term objectives, pursue Turkey's achievements, finalize ongoing projects and launch the planned projects. With its newly elected Parliament, Turkey must focus on its economic agenda, find solutions to its social problems and tackle ongoing challenges that stem from regional risks. We believe that our country should focus on its long term objectives of growth and development by preserving the gains from previous achievements and pursue the EU accession process."



TURKISH AND GREEK CYPRIOT LEADERS AGREE ON FIVE CONCRETE MEASURES

President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) Mustafa Akıncı and leader of the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus (GCASC) Nicos Anastasiades came together on 28 May 2015 for the second leaders' meeting within the scope of the latest round of UN-led reunification talks.

During their meeting on 28 May 2015, the leaders agreed on five concrete steps regarding confidence-building measures. The measures announced by the UN Secretary General's Special Adviser on Cyprus Espen Barth Eide are as follows:

- Opening of new crossing points starting with Lefka-Apliç and Deryneia, as well as further crossing points are to be examined;
- Ensuring the interconnection of the electricity grids of the two sides;
- Ensuring the interoperability of the mobile telephone networks between mobile phone operators on both sides;
- Ending the radio frequency interference between the two sides;
- Establishing a committee for gender equality.

During the press conference following the leaders' meeting, Special Adviser Eide stated that in addition to the comprehensive negotiations, the parties have agreed to explore potential confidence-building measures.

TURKEY'S REPRESENTATION IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE INCREASED

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe voted in favour of increasing the number of seats allocated to Turkey from 12 to 18 in accordance with its increased population. Turkey will be one of the six major contributors to the budget of the Council of Europe and its contribution margin will increase from 13.6 million euros to 34 million euros as of 1 January 2016. The number of the Turkish staff in the Council of Europe Secretariat will also be increased to the level of the major contributor countries to the budget. In addition to all these important developments, Turkish language will become one of the working languages in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

IKV ORGANIZED A SEMINAR ON TURKEY-EU RELATIONS IN RIGA

IKV, in cooperation with Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, organized a seminar entitled "Turkey and the EU: Opportunities and Obstacles for Further Integration" on 9 June 2015 in Riga under the framework of IKV's project entitled "Presidencies of Council of the EU and Turkey-EU Relations".



In the opening remarks of the seminar, Senior Vice-President of Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, Gunnar Ljungdahl stressed that Turkey's internal dynamics have changed in the historical process. He also underlined that Turkey and Latvia are united in a common ground in political aspects. IKV Vice-Chairman and Dean of Faculty of Law of Yeditepe University, in his opening speech Prof. Haluk Kabaalioglu drew attention to the Cyprus issue, visa requirements and structural problems of Turkey-EU Customs Union which does not allow Turkey to compete in equal terms with its European counterparts. Turkish Ambassador to Latvia, His Excellency Hayri Hayret Yalav, in his opening speech, underlined that the EU membership is essential for Turkey due to historical and geographical ties. Defining Turkey's accession process as a comprehensive reform movement, His Excellency Ambassador Yalav highlighted that Turkey's EU membership will be a catalyst for strengthening universal values.

During the panel moderated by IKV Vice-Chairman Prof. Kabaalioglu, Prof. Daunis Auers from the University of Latvia and Stockholm School of Economics in Riga explained in his presentation that while EU's enlargement perspective prior to the 2004 Enlargement was not seen as a priority for EU citizens, after 10 years citizens took a more active role in this process. Prof. Auers underlined that migration has become an important issue both for citizens and decision-makers especially in the aftermath of the 2004 Enlargement.

During her presentation, Jean Monnet Chair-holder and Chair of EU Studies Department of the Graduate School of Social Sciences at Dokuz Eylul University Prof. Canan Balkir noted that Turkey's potential in terms of competitiveness in the international market is not being fully realized, although Turkey has already become a country attracting European investors. Prof. Balkir added that although Turkey is the 17th biggest economy

in the world, it is ranked as 44th among 148 countries in regard to R&D technologies which is considered to be a "relatively innovative" country according to the European Commission's Innovation Union Scoreboard.

Dr. Sait Akman from the TEPAV Trade Studies Centre touched upon the impact of the new Free Trade Agreements signed by the EU on Turkey. He explained that it was unacceptable that the industrial goods originating from these countries which have signed a trade agreement with the EU can enter Turkey through the EU without paying customs while Turkey's exports continue to be subject to high tariffs of these countries. Dr. Akman stressed that this situation creates an asymmetrical structure.

IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Cigdem Nas in her speech explained that, taking into account the effect of EU reforms upon Turkish Foreign Policy, one can discern an Europeanization effect on Turkey's foreign

policy. She noted that Turkey's increasing activism in foreign policy is evident since 2002 and a total of 65 new diplomatic representations have been opened abroad. Furthermore, IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Nas reminded that the official development aids of Turkey have reached 3.3 billion dollars. However, she added that Europeanization of Turkey's foreign policy came to a halt due to the stagnation of Turkey's EU accession process and the overwhelming priority given to the Middle East and adjacent regions among foreign policy priorities. Assoc. Prof. Nas further explained that the recent turmoil in close proximity to both Turkey and the EU necessitates effective cooperation among both sides in foreign policy, and added that currently Turkey and the EU lack a common strategic cooperation in the field of foreign policy.

Lastly, IKV Deputy Secretary-General and Research Director Melih Özsöz shared with the participants the results of the Visa Hotline Project carried out in cooperation with ECAS and with the support of TOBB. Özsöz further pointed out that a new process had started in December 2013 with the signature of the Turkey-EU Readmission Agreement. Within the framework of this process, in the light of the 72 criteria determined in the Visa Liberalisation Dialogue, Özsöz pointed out that Turkey has fulfilled or is close in fulfilling 22 criteria, it has partially fulfilled 40 criteria and it has not fulfilled at all 10 criteria.

ON THE EXPULSION OF MAHİNUR ÖZDEMİR FROM HER PARTY

Regarding the expulsion of Mahinur Özdemir from CDH, IKV Chairman Ömer Cihad Vardan stated:

"A well-known and successful Belgian citizen of Turkish origin, Brussels Capital Member of Parliament Mahinur Özdemir has been expelled from her party (French-speaking Human Democratic Centre, CDH) for refusing to sign a *communiqué* recognising the

1915 events as genocide. No court decision describing 1915 events as genocide exists and neither the EU nor the Belgian government have an official approach towards the recognition of these events as genocide. The decision to expel a Member of Parliament from her party because of her opinions is a violation of the EU's principles and universal norms of democracy and human rights.

Instead of taking part in the

remembrance of the tragic events of 1915, taking such a decision should be regarded as a discriminatory approach adopted towards the Turkish community of Belgium. This clearly shows that the genocide allegations are increasingly becoming politicized and used as ammunition for political disputes. It is unacceptable that a historic and tragic event is manipulated today for political reasons and that the expression of adverse opinions

is being denied in such an authoritarian manner. Such decisions will not produce positive results regarding the integration and democratic representation of the 220,000 strong Turkish community living in Belgium. We call the CDH to review its expulsion decision within the framework of the principle of freedom of expression and democratic representation."

EP'S 2014 TURKEY REPORT CAUSES CONTROVERSY

The European Parliament (EP) resolution on the 2014 Turkey Progress Report, also referred to as the "EP 2014 Turkey Report", was adopted on 10 June 2015 with 432 votes in favour to 94 votes against and 127 abstentions. The vote planned to be held on 21 May was postponed due to heated debates and increasing number of controversial amendments tabled by some far-right, Turkey-sceptic MEPs.



The 2014 EP Turkey report, which is the first Turkey Report drafted by Dutch MEP Kati Piri from the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, caused controversy with the record number of amendments tabled. In total, a record number of 480 amendments were proposed to the 2014 EP Turkey Report, whereas the number of amendments tabled for the 2013 was 338.

Ensuring that a deepened Turkey-EU relationship is in the interest of both parties, it is stressed that the EU should become the main anchor of the democratization process in Turkey by encouraging the development of solid and democratic institutions. The report welcomes the 7 June General Elections as the most inclusive and representative parliament of Turkish modern history and regards the elections as an illustration of the resilience of Turkish democracy.

As regards to the rule of law and democracy, the report welcomes the changes to the legal framework allowing political campaigning in languages other than Turkish and party co-chairmanship, however it reiterated the need to decrease the 10 percent threshold. The report highlights that drafting a new constitution promoting pluralism and tolerance would underpin the reform process. The adoption of an EU Strategy by the Ministry for EU Affairs and the process initiated by the government for the settlement of the Kurdish issue are regarded as positive developments. The criticisms in the report centre around the amendments introduced to the law on the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors and freedom of the press.

As regards to respect for human

rights and fundamental freedoms, the report welcomes the adoption of the Action Plan for the Prevention of Violations of the ECHR. The report highlights that the most effective way to strengthen Turkey's reform process and harmonization with EU values would be with the opening of Chapters 23 and 24 to negotiations.

As regards to shared interests between both parties, the report highlights the benefits Turkey and the EU have acquired from the Customs Union and stresses the need to extend its scope so as to cover agricultural products, services and public procurement. In the report, the MEPs underline the importance of strengthening Turkey's economic and institutional framework in the area of economic and monetary policy and its compliance with EU standards on public procurement, competition and social policy. Regarding the Turkey-EU Readmission Agreement, the report calls upon the necessity to pursue the Visa Liberalisation Dialogue and fully implement

the criteria laid out in the Visa Liberalisation Roadmap. Furthermore the report underscores Turkey's strategic importance for the EU's energy security and its huge potential for renewables. While the MEPs call on the EU to enhance negotiations on the chapter on Energy, they express concern about the close energy cooperation between Russia and Turkey.

Emphasizing on Turkey's strategic position as a NATO member and key EU partner, the report argues that the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs should be invited to attend the EU Foreign Affairs Council meetings whenever needed, and calls for the establishment of a framework of structured dialogue on foreign, security and defence policy matters.

As regards to the Cyprus issue, while confirming EP's support to the UN-led reunification talks, the report echoed the arguments traditionally put forward by Greek Cypriot MEPs. In this context, the report urges Turkey to fulfil its obligations

stemming from the Additional Protocol, to ratify the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and to respect the Greek Cypriot Administration's 'sovereign rights' in its so-called 'EEZ'.

The 2014 EP Turkey Report has caused major criticism on the part of Turkey, mainly because it included a reference to the EP Resolution of 15 April 2015 on the 1915 events, which was rejected by Turkey on the grounds that it adopted a one-sided perspective favouring the Armenian side's arguments. Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Volkan Bozkır, who had earlier conveyed Turkey's sensitivity on the issue, stated that the Turkish government will not accept the EP resolution had it included a reference to the 1915 events.

In a press release, while criticizing the EP Turkey Report for bringing up an issue which was not related to the negotiation process regardless of Turkey's sensitivities and constructive attitude, IKV Chairman Ömer Cihad Vardan highlighted that this year's report includes issues and articles which have not made the report more balanced, constructive and fair from Turkey's perspective.

IKV Chairman Vardan welcomed the MEPs' demand to the Council to convey the opening criteria for chapters 23 and 24 to be delivered to Turkey and the negotiations on several chapters including the one on energy to be speeded up. IKV Chairman Vardan regarded the concern expressed about Russia-Turkey energy cooperation as "inappropriate". He also criticized the report for voicing only the concerns of the EU side as regards to the Customs Union, while disregarding the problems experienced by Turkey for the last 20 years.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING TURKEY'S G20 PRESIDENCY



Coordination meeting with Directors of G20 Engagement Groups

Within the framework of the activities of Turkey's G20 Presidency, Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan chaired the coordination meeting with the participation of the Directors of G20 Engagement Groups on 4 June 2015. Turkey's G20 Sherpa Ambassador Ayşe Sinirlioğlu, TOBB and B20 Chairman M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, TÜRK-İŞ and L20 Chairman Ergün Atalay, TEPAV Executive Director and T20 Chairman Dr. Güven Sak, IKV Vice-President and Chair of C20 Turkey Zeynep Bodur Okyay, YCDC and Y20 Vice-President Serpil Meto and Honorary Board Member of KAGIDER and W20 Chairperson Gülden Türktan attended the meeting. IKV Secretary-General and President of C20 Inclusive Growth Working Group Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas and IKV Deputy Secretary-General and C20 Turkey Sherpa Melih Özsoz also participated to the meeting.

A great importance is attributed to the activities carried out by the G20 Engagement Groups and their close coordination. As a matter of fact, the G20 Engagement Groups whose chairmanship is ensured by representatives from prominent national institutions and organisations who provide valuable contribution to the priorities of Turkey's G20 Presidency under the heading of "Inclusiveness, Investment and Implementation". These activities will be pursued in close cooperation and cooperation with G20 Engagement Groups till the Antalya Summit. Within this context, G20 Engagement Groups pursue their activities in Turkey with the organization of various meetings but also abroad in close cooperation with our foreign counterparts.

G20 Third Sherpa Meeting

G20 third Sherpa Meeting was held in Bodrum on 14-17 June 2015. Before the G20 Summit which will be held in November 2015 in Antalya, this meeting has been the largest Sherpa meeting organized to which all representatives of G20 Member States attended. During this meeting, the Sherpas were informed about the current activities of C20, B20 and Y20. IKV Vice-President and Chair of C20 Turkey Zeynep Bodur Okyay informed the participants about the C20 Summit which will be held in September 2015 as well as about the four Working Groups under the C20 Turkey and their draft policy recommendations. IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas and Deputy Secretary-General and C20 Sherpa of Turkey Melih Özsoz also attended the meeting.

PRESIDENT HISARCIKLIOĞLU ATTENDED EUROCHAMBRES GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EUROCHAMBRES General Assembly took place in Latvia on 5 June 2015. TOBB President and EUROCHAMBRES Vice-President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu attended the General Assembly together with TOBB Board Member Selçuk Öztürk and Alaşehir Commodity Exchange Chair Hüseyin Soyğür. As the President of the Council of the EU, Latvian Prime Minister Laimdota Straujuma also attended the meeting.

This meeting was an opportunity to define and explore economic cooperation opportunities between Europe and Central Asian countries such as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.



TURKEY SIGNS AN AGREEMENT WITH BULGARIA AND GREECE TO FORM A CONTACT CENTRE FOR JOINT BORDERS

Turkey, Bulgaria and Greece signed a joint agreement on 25 May with the aim of tackling waves of migration and forming a contact centre for border security. Turkish Minister of the Interior Sebahattin Öztürk, Bulgarian Deputy Premier and Minister of the Interior Romyana Bachvarova and Greek Alternate Minister of Public Order and Citizen Protection Yanis Panusis signed the agreement paving the way for the establishment of a Police and Customs Cooperation Joint Contact Centre. It is expected that these centres will enable border police, immigration, customs and law enforcement units of the three countries to share real-time information. It is envisaged to establish this Centre on the Bulgarian side of the border at Kapitan Andreevo.

IKV MONTHLY

June 2015 No:8

On behalf of IKV

Ömer Cihad Vardan

Editor -in- chief

Melih Özsöz

Editorial Directors

Selen Akses, İlge Kivilcim,
Büşra Çatır, Deniz Servantie

Istanbul Office

Esentepe Mahallesi Harman Sokak
TOBB Plaza No:10 Kat:7-8
34394 Levent İstanbul/Türkiye
Tel: +90 212 270 93 00
Faks: +90 212 270 30 22
E-posta: ikv@ikv.org.tr

www.ikv.org.tr

Preparation for Publication



General Director

Gürhan Demirbaş

General Assistant Director

Eser Soygüder Yıldız

Art Director

Hakan Kahveci

Editor

Yağmur Bahar Polat

Graphic Designer

Şahin Bingöl

Printing House:

İstanbul Basım Promosyon
Basın Ekspres Yolu Cemal Ulusoy Cad.
No:38/A 34620, Sefaköy-İstanbul
info@istanbulprinting.com
Tel: (0212) 603 26 20

SEMINAR ON WAYS OF GAINING ACCESS TO THE EU INTERNAL MARKET BY NON-MEMBER STATES

IKV organized a seminar on 12 June 2015 entitled "Gaining access to the European Union's internal market: EU accession vs. alternative models for non-Member States" with the participation of Prof. Ruth Christa Tobler from Leiden and Basel Universities.

During his opening speech, IKV Vice-Chairman and Dean of the Faculty of Law of Yeditepe University Prof. Halûk Kabaaloğlu stressed that although the Customs Union established 20 years ago was perceived as the final phase of Turkish association before its accession to the Community, Turkey is still far from accession.

During the seminar, Prof. Tobler from Leiden and Basel Universities gave a presentation on the alternative models of relations with the internal market. Indicating that the EU internal market is currently the most powerful single market in the world, she added that there are several levels of integration to this market: accession to the EU, association, specific agreements (Switzerland) and micro-state relations (Andorra, Monaco and San Marino). Regarding the current challenges to the internal market, Prof. Tobler indicated that remaining outside of the internal market can create disadvantages for non-member European countries. Whilst the internal market is currently composed of 28 Member States, Prof. Tobler explained that there are different groups of countries as regards to their relationship with the EU: EU candidates (and potential candidates), EFTA Member States, Micro States, countries of the Eastern Partnership, other neighbours which have a special partnership with the EU (Russia) and countries that are negotiating comprehensive trade agreements



with the EU such as TTIP and CETA. Prof. Tobler stressed that in the current globalised economy, no country can be an economic island as there is growing interdependence between virtually all regions of the world.

Prof. Tobler stressed that the EU is currently Turkey's and Switzerland's biggest trade partner. Although the EU-Turkey Customs Union enables free circulation of goods between Turkey and the EU, there remains a discrepancy in terms of attaining full association as the customs union has yet not been followed by a free movement of services and people. Nevertheless, Prof. Tobler further stressed that the standstill clause which is enshrined within the framework of Turkey-EU association law, i.e. Article 41 of the Additional Protocol, does not allow the creation of more obstacles regarding the movement of services.

Prof. Tobler also underlined the existence of two different approaches

regarding the relationship with the EU when comparing Turkey and Switzerland. Whilst Turkey signed with the EEC an association agreement in 1963 which included from the very beginning a perspective for future accession to the Community, there is no such agreement between Switzerland and the EU. Furthermore, Prof. Tobler indicated that the Swiss people were reluctant in their majority to the perspective of accession to the EU and were more supportive of a close economic cooperation with the latter.

In her presentation, Prof. Tobler also gave detailed information on the establishment of the EEA (European Economic Area) in 1992 following an agreement concluded between the EEC and EFTA. Whilst the EEA constitutes a far reaching association, Prof. Tobler explained that it does not include aspects such as EU citizenship or adaptation to common external trade policy.

Upon accession to the EU, Prof. Tobler explained that the internal market provides the same benefits and obligations for all Member States, a common external trade policy (such as the representation of all Member States through the EU delegation at the WTO), a tax agreement (Directive 2006/112) and a common currency (the euro). Institutionally speaking, Prof. Tobler indicated that with the accession to the EU, a Member State fully participates to the EU institutional system.

Lastly, referring to the ongoing TTIP negotiations between the EU and the USA, Prof. Tobler added that non-Member States such as Turkey regularly express their concern because of possible disadvantages. In that respect, Prof. Tobler underlined the importance of engaging in a comprehensive dialogue to take on board those concerns.

SEMINAR ON HEALTH AND SECURITY STANDARDS AND IMPORT IMPLEMENTATIONS ON MATERNAL-INFANT PRODUCTS

IKV and BAGIDER (Baby Appliances Manufacturers, Importers and Retailers Association) organized on 17 June 2015 a seminar entitled "Health, Security Standards and Import Implementations in Maternal and Infant products".

During the opening speeches of the seminar, while IKV Member of the Executive Board, Mehmet Nuri Görenoğlu gave detailed information on the activities carried out by IKV and its FTA Information and Capacity Building Center, BAGIDER Chairman Perviz Aran presented the newly established BAGIDER and briefed the audience about the problems faced by the sector.

In the panel chaired by BAGIDER Chairman Aran, BAGIDER Vice-Chairman Sami Herman gave an overview of the sector on maternal and infant products in Turkey. While emphasizing the importance of reaching

EU standards in these products, Herman explained the problems encountered in this sector due to additional taxes, high prices for consumers, remaining loopholes within Turkish Legislation as well as the lack of qualification and knowledge of products among workers. BAGIDER Vice-Chairman Herman stressed the importance of conducting product testing and analyses in the Turkish market.

İstanbul Customs Laboratory Manager Yaşar Çiftçi gave a detailed presentation regarding product testing and analyses applied in the customs on imported products. He informed the audience about the initiatives taken by Turkey to

harmonize the working principles of customs laboratories with EU standards. He also gave information on the current legislation regarding banned chemicals.

Atilla Saka, Expert at the Turkish Ministry of Customs and Trade gave a presentation on the legislation regarding market surveillance and inspections and its implementation. In this regard, he touched upon the analyses based on EU Legislations, international standards and EU Rapid Alert System (RAPEX). He pointed out that approximately 260 technical products legislation in Turkey were aligned with EU acquis.

Lastly, IKV Senior Researcher

Selen Akses retraced the latest developments on the world trading system and on the EU's trade policy to highlight the importance given during the trade negotiations to the protection of consumers and safety products. In this respect, she gave the example of TTIP to illustrate that both the EU and the USA were working on harmonizing or approximating technical regulations and approaches with regards to preventing children's textiles' flammability in order to guarantee the product safety and ensure a higher level of consumer protection.