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2015 Turkey G20 TURKEY TOOK OVER THE G-20 PRESIDENCY

During its G-20 Presidency, Turkey will prioritize actions that will contribute to strengthening the global recovery, enhancing the international economic system and supporting sustainability. Turkey aims to play the role of a bridge between the developed and less developed countries by helping the latter to increase their voice in the world economy.

Turkey took over the G-20 Presidency from Australia as of the 1st December 2014. Taking into account the agenda and priorities of previous G-20 Presidencies as well as the emerging topics within the international economic system, the Turkish Presidency has defined three main priorities, "Strengthening the Global Recovery and Lifting the Potential", "Enhancing Resilience" and "Buttressing Sustainability". The G-20 foresees in the course of the year 2015 to take collective actions to ensure a more inclusive and robust growth. Compared to previous G-20 Presidencies, Turkey is the first country to show real determination in tackling the challenges faced by less developed countries with the aim to encourage their integration to the international economic system.

In order to achieve global recovery, a special emphasis is given to improving the macroeconomic policy cooperation among G-20 countries to ensure a strong, sustainable and balanced growth. It is also foreseen to take new measures to improve the investment climate and to encourage investments by the private sector for infrastructure and SMEs. Within this framework, initiatives to develop more efficient Public-Private-Partnerships will be encouraged. Following the recession after the global financial crisis, increasing employment and creating qualified jobs continue to be an important priority for the G-20. In this regard, one of the main missions of Turkey during its Presidency is to monitor the implementation of the Employment Plans where the emphasis is given to the improvement of women's participation in the labour force and to the reduction of youth unemployment. In the light of the commitments made by leaders of G-20 to resist protectionism, the Turkish Presidency will support the efforts in the multilateral trading system. In the meantime, a special attention will be given to better integrate the SMEs particularly those of the developing countries to the global value chains.

In order to enhance the resilience of the international economic system, the Turkish

Presidency will seek to finalize and implement the new financial regulation, to complete the IMF reform by establishing a more effective and efficient international financial framework (especially by strengthening the IMF surveillance), ensuring the smooth transition to a fairer and more inclusive international tax system as well as fighting corruption by ensuring the effective implementation of the 2015-2016 Anti-Corruption Action Plan and by increasing transparency of the relations between government and business.

Within the objective of buttressing sustainability, the emphasis will be put on three areas which are development, energy sustainability and climate change finance. The development constitutes an integral part of the agenda of the Turkish Presidency since G-20 needs to be prepared for the United Nations Summit that will take place in September 2015 where the Post-2015 Development Agenda is expected to be adopted. Turkey gives great importance in integrating developing and low income countries into the world economy as well as ensuring the food security in the developing countries. Turkey will be the first G-20 Presidency to implement the Food Security and Nutrition Framework. Turkey will also give importance in enhancing the role and contributions of the private sector in development.

With regard to energy sustainability, the Turkish Presidency will focus on issues related to the access to energy sources and to boost the investments in the energy. The ways in which to encourage investments in renewable energy will be explored as well to improve the transparency of energy market. Climate change also constitutes an important priority for the Turkish Presidency since it is expected to reach an international agreement on climate change in December 2015 during the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. On the other hand, the Turkish Presidency will give a particular attention to the financial aspects and the needs of the low income developing countries.



B-20 TURKEY LAUNCH MEETING WAS HELD IN ISTANBUL

Turkey's B-20 commencement meeting was held on the 15th December 2014 with the participation of global and Turkish business communities as well as Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan. The opening speeches of the meeting were given by B-20 Turkey Executive Council Chair and TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıođlu and Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan.

In his speech, President Hisarcıklıođlu announced that B-20 Turkish task forces and working groups would remain the same as primary task forces from the previous Australian G-20 Presidency. In this regard, he underlined the themes for the task forces and working groups as follows: trade, infrastructure and investment, financing growth, employment and anti-corruption. In his speech, Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan underlined Turkey's aim to bring a new impetus to G-20 and B-20 through the development of an inclusive approach towards all countries and contribution to global economic recovery. Deputy Prime Minister Babacan also suggested the establishment of a "Global SME Platform" which will give the opportunity for representatives of SMEs around the world to address the various problems encountered by SMEs.

Turkish authorities also announced their plans to establish a "B-20 Advocacy Leadership" with the aim of creating a mechanism for B-20 Leadership as well as the establishment of "SMEs and Entrepreneurship Task Force" to emphasize the important role played by the SMEs and their contribution to economic growth and job creation.

IKV MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS

IKV organized a brainstorming meeting in cooperation with SAM (Center for Strategic Research) at the European Parliament on the 9th December 2014 in Brussels. The opening remarks of the roundtable meeting were made by Dutch liberal MEP Marietje Schaake and SAM Director Prof. Dr. Ali Resul Usul. Under the moderation of Prof. Dr. Usul, the issue of "communication, trust and credibility in Turkey-EU Relations" was discussed as the key agenda of the meeting. Representatives of the IKV Board of Directors, TOBB Brussels Representative Office and other business associations in Brussels attended brainstorming session at the Parliament.

During the discussions, participants drew attention to the remaining obstacles within the negotiations process such as the Customs Union, visa liberalization dialogue, Cyprus issue, Turkey's inclusion to the ongoing TTIP negotiations and the opening of chapters which are still blocked. Taking into account the changes within the EU institutions, the need for further efforts to create a new momentum in Turkey's EU accession process was strongly emphasized. Participants underlined the potential positive effect of the visa liberalisation dialogue to restore trust in bilateral relations and they explored the ways to address the issue of mistrust and lack of credibility in Turkey-EU relations.

On the 10th December 2014, IKV held a series of meetings with the European Commission and the European External Action Service officials in Brussels. The meetings were organized within the framework of IKV's "Window to EU" meeting series. IKV delegation was led by IKV Chairman Ömer Cihad Vardan and comprised of representatives of the IKV Board of Directors, TOBB, other business associations as well as the academia and civil society.

IKV delegation was informed about the current state of play in Turkey's accession negotiations, the latest trends in Turkey-EU foreign policy cooperation as well as the recent developments regarding the visa liberalisation dialogue initiated in December 2013. During the meetings, IKV delegation held a productive exchange of views with EU officials on various significant issues in Turkey's EU accession agenda. The need to find an acceptable solution to the Cyprus issue, the recent debate regarding the need to upgrade the Customs Union and to find a way to address Turkey's concerns regarding EU's free trade agreements were among the main issues that were highlighted during the meetings.

TOBB PRESIDENT AND IKV CHAIRMAN HELD A MEETING WITH EU AMBASSADORS

TOBB President Hisarcıklioğlu: "If the EU shows a real commitment along with a strong will, the motivation to pursue the reform process in Turkey shall be greater."



TOBB in cooperation with IKV and the Embassy of Italy in Turkey held a breakfast meeting on the 25th November 2014 with Ambassadors from the EU Member States. The opening speeches were made by TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, IKV Chairman Ömer Cihad Vardan and Italy's Ambassador in Ankara his Excellency Gianpaolo Scarante on behalf of the rotating presidency of the EU Council currently held by Italy. The meeting was followed with the presentation from TEPAV Director Prof. Dr. Güven Sak and

concluded with remarks from the ambassadors.

In his opening speech, TOBB President Hisarcıklioğlu emphasised the importance for Turkey to pursue its reform program in its path towards EU membership. Furthermore, in regard to Turkey's accession process, he stressed that "if the EU shows a real commitment along with a strong will, the motivation to pursue the reform process in Turkey shall be greater." He also pointed out to the continuing discrepancies within the current functioning of the Customs Union. In this regard, he called upon the

revision of the Customs Union by further widening its scope. Furthermore, by emphasizing that "a country such as Turkey which is engaged in a Customs Union with the EU should not be held outside of the TTIP", President Hisarcıklioğlu emphasised the importance for Turkey to take part in this process.

In his speech, IKV Chairman Vardan pointed out that considering the established Customs Union, the ongoing accession negotiations and the participation to EU Programmes such as Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020, Turkey has already ensured

a high degree of integration with the EU. IKV Chairman Vardan further underlined that Turkey's alignment with the Community acquis has been achieved to a large extent. He also affirmed that the EU continues to present an impulsive force for Turkey to achieve its objectives related to democratisation, the rule of law and the establishment of a welfare society. IKV Chairman Vardan strongly believes that problems related to Turkey's EU accession, functioning of the Customs Union, visa liberalisation, the cooperation in the field of foreign and security policy, the control of illegal immigration, could be tackled within the framework of the EU.

As for the Ambassador of Italy to Turkey his Excellency Gianpaolo Scarante, he stressed that the EU was undergoing an important phase of restructuring. In an allusion to the difficulties related to the accession process, he ensured that Italy would continue to support Turkey's EU membership process. Furthermore, he underlined the importance to open new chapters in the negotiation process, such as those of the Judiciary and Fundamental Rights and Justice, Freedom and Security. His Excellency Scarante also asserted that progress made within the framework of the visa liberalisation dialogue would contribute to Turkey's accession to the EU.

MINISTER FOR EU AFFAIRS AND CHIEF NEGOTIATOR BOZKIR MET WITH IKV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Volkan Bozkır attended IKV Board of Directors' regular meeting to discuss and evaluate the current situation in Turkey-EU relations and Turkey's new EU Strategy. Underlining the importance of pursuing with Turkey's EU membership process, Bozkır acknowledged IKV as being the most influential institution during this process. Minister Bozkır highlighted the need for increasing the living standards of Turkish citizens, and to that end, stressed the importance of continuing the implementation of reforms. In this regard, Minister Bozkır also emphasised the importance of the progress achieved within the EU accession negotiations. He also mentioned that the strong emphasis on EU membership in Turkey's new programme surprised the EU decision makers in a positive way. Reminding the important role played by the civil society in the communication with the EU, Bozkır ensured that efforts would also be strengthened in regard to visa liberalisation dialogue, TTIP as well as the Customs Union.

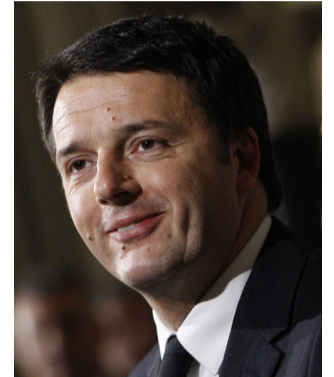
During the meeting, referring to the recent official visit made by three European Representatives to Turkey, IKV Chairman Vardan stressed the importance of such a high level visit for Turkey-EU relations. IKV Chairman



also pointed out the positive effect of the possible opening of the Economic and Monetary Policy Chapter to negotiations. On the other hand, reminding the encouraging attitude of the former Head of the EU Delegation to Turkey Ambassador Stefano Manservigi towards Turkey, IKV Chairman stated that his appointment as EU High Representative Federica Mogherini's Head of Cabinet would contribute to Turkey's EU membership process. IKV Chairman Vardan also underlined IKV's commitment as a representative of the civil society and business community in further strengthening its efforts within Turkey's EU accession process in its 50th anniversary in 2015.



ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER RENZI'S VISIT TO TURKEY



Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi visited Turkey on the 11th-12th December 2014. Prime Minister Renzi met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Prime Minister Prof. Dr. Ahmet Davutoğlu and also attended the Turkey-Italy Business Forum in Istanbul which was organized in cooperation with DEİK and Confindustria.

Turkey-Italy relations, Turkey's EU accession negotiations, Turkey's G-20 Presidency as well as international and regional issues were among the main topics discussed during the official meetings. Prime Minister Renzi ensured that Italy would continue to pressure other EU countries to open new chapters to negotiations with Turkey, especially the chapter on Economic and Monetary Policy. In terms of fostering the economic cooperation between the two countries, it has been agreed to mutually increase investments, especially in the area of defense industry as well as to work together on investment projects in third countries. The possibility of founding a Turkish-Italian University has also been discussed by the two countries' leaders. Furthermore, Italy and Turkey aim to reinforce their cooperation on regional issues, especially in regards to the situations in Libya and Syria.

“VISIT OF EU HIGH REPRESENTATIVE MOGHERINI AND COMMISSIONERS HAHN AND STYLIANIDES TO TURKEY”

The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini together with the European Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn and Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides visited Turkey on the 8th and 9th December 2014.

The three EU Representatives met in Ankara with Turkish Prime Minister Prof. Dr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Volkan Bozkır. Speaking at a joint press conference, Commissioner Hahn stressed the importance of opening a chapter in Turkey's accession negotiations during the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Commissioner Hahn came together with Minister Bozkır and representatives of the business community during a lunch which was also attended by IKV Chairman Ömer Cihad Vardan. Turkey-EU relations, accession negotiations, the strengthening of cooperation between European and Turkish business communities, the importance of SMEs for both parties were among the main topics discussed during this meeting. IKV Chairman Vardan informed Commissioner Hahn about IKV's activities and emphasized the key role played by the business community in Turkey-EU relations. IKV Chairman also took the opportunity to stress the importance to include Turkey in the process related to TTIP.

EU High Representative Mogherini also met with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. During the meeting, they had important discussions

EU High Representative Mogherini: “The visit to Turkey, together with Commissioners Hahn and Stylianides is a strong indication of the strategic importance of the EU-Turkey relationship and our desire to step up engagement in view of shared interests and common challenges”.

on the Syrian crisis and other regional issues. In this respect, EU High Representative Mogherini emphasized the importance of a deeper cooperation on common challenges especially within the framework of the Syrian crisis.

During the second day of their visit, EU High Representative Mogherini and Commissioner Stylianides visited Kilis and Gaziantep refugee camps, situated near the border between Turkey and Syria and examined the living conditions of the refugees. The EU Representatives welcomed the efforts made by the Turkish authorities to help Syrian refugees and ensured that they would step up assistance with an additional 10 million euros in humanitarian funding for Syrian refugees.

PRIME MINISTER DAVUTOĞLU'S VISIT TO GREECE

Prime Minister Prof. Dr. Ahmet Davutoğlu visited Greece on the 5th - 6th December 2014 within the framework of the Turkey-Greece High Level Cooperation Council. Prime Minister Prof. Dr. Davutoğlu met with Greek President Karolos Papulyas. He also attended the Turkey-Greece Business Forum hosted by DEİK along with nine Turkish Ministers, Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras, Minister of Foreign Affairs Evangelos Venizelos, Minister for Development and Competition Konstantinos Skrekas. During the Forum, Prime Minister Prof. Dr. Davutoğlu stressed the importance of strengthening

the economic cooperation between the two countries and emphasized that Greece's economic stability is as much important as Turkey's own stability.

Prime Minister Prof. Dr. Davutoğlu made a joint press conference with his Greek counterpart Antonis Samaras where they explained their plan to further strengthen the cooperation especially in areas such as trade, customs, culture and tourism. Prime Minister Prof. Dr. Davutoğlu also insisted on the importance of Greece's continuing support for Turkey's EU accession process. In this respect, Greek Prime Minister

Samaras ensured that Greece would continue to support Turkey's EU accession. In regard to the Cyprus issue, Prime Minister Prof. Dr. Davutoğlu expressed his

wish that negotiations between both parties would be renewed soon and also underlined the importance of avoiding any unilateral moves in that respect.



IKV LAUNCHED A NEW MICRO WEBSITE: DICTIONARY OF THE EU ECONOMY

IKV's new micro website entitled "Dictionary on the EU Economy" (in Turkish) was launched in December 2014. This website inspired from IKV's previous publication "Dictionary of the Crisis: In 100 Words The Economic Crisis in Europe" presents a chronology retracing each steps of the crisis in Europe and in the Eurozone since 2008 along with basic information regarding the economies of EU Member States and Turkey. It also provides detailed information on the new financial terminology originated from the crisis and the new EU economic governance.

THE OFFICE OF US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OPENED IN TURKEY

The US Chamber of Commerce Regional Office was opened during a ceremony attended by Minister of Development Cevdet Yılmaz, TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkıoğlu, Executive Vice-President and Head of International Affairs at the US Chamber of Commerce Myron Brilliant and US Consul General his Excellency Charles Hunter. At the opening ceremony, TOBB-US Chamber of Commerce Cooperation Protocol was signed.

Pointing out that the US Chamber of Commerce Office is the second foreign office in the world after Brussels, TOBB President Hisarcıkıoğlu stressed the importance given by global American companies on further developing US-Turkey relations. Minister of Development Yılmaz stated that the opening of this office would create new cooperation opportunities between the two countries especially in areas such as tourism, education transfers and health tourism. He also stressed that Turkey should not be left out of the TTIP process.



TURKISH AIRLINES OFFERS DISCOUNT IN FLIGHT TICKETS FOR ERASMUS STUDENTS

Turkish National Agency (TNA) and Turkish Airlines (THY) signed a cooperation protocol on the 26th November 2014 that will enable Erasmus students to get 20 percent discount for their travels and an extra 10 kg of free baggage from THY. According to this protocol, people taking part in international mobility will be able to benefit from these privileges as part of the grant offered by TNA. Furthermore, institutions and organizations that are project partners can also benefit from this discount and the right of extra baggage if they are a member of the Erasmus+ Program Online Project Management System (TURNA).

MINISTER FOR EU AFFAIRS AND CHIEF NEGOTIATOR BOZKIR'S VISITS

Minister Bozkır visited Brussels and Luxembourg on the 19th-21st November 2014. During his visit to Brussels, Minister Bozkır met with representatives of the European Commission to discuss Turkey-EU relations and the accession negotiations. During his visit to Luxembourg, Minister Bozkır met Prime Minister Xavier Bettel and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Jean Asselborn. During his visit to Schengen village, Minister Bozkır stressed that the lifting of visa requirements for Turkish citizens would enable Turkey to become a full member of the Schengen Area in a very short period of time.

Minister Bozkır visited Stockholm on the 27th-28th November 2014. During his visit, he met with the Speaker of the Swedish Parliament Urban Ahlin, Minister of Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström, State Secretary for Foreign and EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren, Minister for Housing and

Urban Development Mehmet Kaplan and with the former Premier and Foreign Minister Carl Bildt. During these meetings, views on EU-Turkey relations, Turkey's EU accession process and bilateral relations were exchanged.

Minister Bozkır visited TRNC on the 3rd December 2014. During his visit, Minister Bozkır met with the President of the TRNC Derviş Eroğlu, President of TRNC Assembly Sibel Siber, Prime Minister Özkan Yorgancıoğlu and Minister of Foreign Affairs Özdil Nami. During these meetings, the Cyprus issue, bilateral relations and latest developments on Turkey's EU accession process were discussed comprehensively. In regard to bilateral relations, seismic survey activities, chapters blocked within Turkey's EU negotiation process, Direct Trade Regulation and negotiation talks under the auspices of the UN were the main topics brought up during the discussions.

MINISTER BOZKIR CLARIFIES THE EU ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TURKEY

Following the wave of arrests regarding alleged attempts to overthrow the government on the 14th December 2014, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission Federica Mogherini and the Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn made a joint statement declaring that these actions were incompatible with the freedom of media which is the core principle of democracy. Similar concerns were raised by several members of the European Parliament. At the General Affairs Council held on the 16th December, the recent police raids and detention of journalists and representatives of the media in

Turkey were also severely criticized within the principle of the freedom of the media. In this regard, while reaffirming the importance it attaches to EU relations with Turkey, the Council also "recalls that progress in accession negotiations depends on respecting rule of law and fundamental rights."

Following these concerns, Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Volkan Bozkır spoke on the phone with Commissioner Hahn to give more detailed information in regards to the ongoing investigations and ensured that Turkey is a country which observes the rule of law and the separation of powers. He also asserted that the independence and impartiality of the judiciary should be respected.



TOBB PRESIDENT RECEIVED THE "GOLDEN AWARD" FROM THE AUSTRIAN CHAMBER OF ECONOMY

TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkıoğlu has been deemed worthy of receiving the "Golden Award" from the Austrian Chamber of Economy. During the ceremony in Vienna, TOBB President Hisarcıkıoğlu stressed that Austria is one of the most important investment partners of Turkey. In regards to the ongoing TTIP negotiations between the EU and the US, TOBB President Hisarcıkıoğlu asked the Austrian business community for their support to Turkey's inclusion to the TTIP process. During his speech, he also announced that he will be leading B-20 during Turkey's G-20 Presidency. Within this framework, the organization of around 100 meetings is planned with the aim to foster cooperation between business communities.

SECOND PHASE OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR EU ACCESSION WAS ANNOUNCED

The Second Phase of the National Action Plan for EU Accession presents a roadmap for the realisation of political reforms and pursuit of the socio-economic transition in Turkey.

Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Volkan Bozkır announced the "Second Phase of the National Action Plan for EU Accession" on the 1st December 2014. The second phase of the Plan which covers the period between 2015 and 2019 foresees the enactment of 53 laws and 246 secondary legislation as well as 136 institutional capacity building initiatives. By adopting a "new and constructive" discourse towards the newly-elected President of the European Commission and the European Parliament, Minister Bozkır stressed Turkey's commitment to the EU membership objective. According to Minister Bozkır, the Second Phase of the Plan presents a roadmap for the realisation of political reforms and pursuit of the socio-economic transition in Turkey. Within this framework, Minister Bozkır emphasises the importance of the participation and contribution of the public during Turkey's EU accession process.

CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE MEETING WAS HELD IN ISTANBUL

Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Volkan Bozkır organised a meeting under the framework of Turkey's new EU Communication Strategy on the 26th November 2014 with the participation of almost 2,500 participants from over 400 Turkish NGOs. In his opening speech, Minister Bozkır stressed the importance of



consulting NGOs and gaining their support with respect to Turkey's EU membership. During the meeting, representatives from different NGOs shared their expectations from the Turkish government in regard to Turkey's EU accession negotiations.