



## Hisarcıklioğlu: “The Soma disaster has struck at our hearts”

The aid campaign spearheaded by TOBB for the families of the workers who lost their lives at the Soma disaster has accumulated a total of 16,838,164 TRY with the support of chambers/exchanges as well as independent institutions, business people and citizens. A large portion of the population, setting aside from their allowances or their pensions,

displayed sensitivity to the plight of the families of those who lost their lives in Soma.

On the 27th of June, 2014, TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu presented the cheque for the sum of the collected donations to the Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to be relayed to the Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency

Management Directorate.

Presenting the cheque to the Prime Minister Erdoğan, TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu expressed his wishes to never be subjected to such grief again; stating that the nation has once again shown its ability to stand united in solidarity in times of hardship, expressing his gratitude to everyone who contributed.

## TOBB’s 70th Financial General Assembly held

The 70th Financial General Assembly of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) was held at the TOBB University of Economics and Technology Auditorium in Ankara, hosted by TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu. The “Key to Success is Unity” themed Financial General Assembly was attended by PM Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, CHP Chairman Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, MHP Deputy Chairman Emin Haluk Ayhan, Deputy PM Ali Babacan, Customs and Commerce Minister

Hayati Yazıcı, Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci, MHP Konya MP Faruk Bal, CHP MP and many guests. Along with the presidents of TOBB’s 365 chambers/exchanges, the attendance for the Financial General Assembly exceeded 3,000 people.

The Soma disaster was the primary matter on the agenda during the 70th Financial General Assembly. Financial General Assembly, work safety was discussed thoroughly as well as economic growth problems.





TOBB/DEİK President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu:

## “Italy will become one Europe’s greatest driving forces”

As a part of President of the Republic of Turkey Abdullah Gül’s state visit to Italy, the Turkey-Italy Business Forum was held. Attending the Forum were, President Abdullah Gül, Deputy PM Ali Babacan, EU Minister and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB)/ Foreign Economic Relations Council (DEİK) President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, Italian Minister of State Emma Bonino, Deputy Minister for Economic Development Carlo Calenda, DEİK Turkey-Italy Business Council President Zeynep Bodur Okyay, Network Globale President Aurelio Regina and many businesspeople.

Giving the opening speech of the Forum, TOBB/DEİK President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, emphasizing the importance they put on Italy, said “We believe that Italy will become one of Europe’s largest driving forces and that Italy will begin a new period of growth; we are making our preparations with this in mind. The most concrete evidence of this is the increased amount of investments from our companies to Italy.”

## TOBB PRESIDENT M. RIFAT HISARCIKLIOĞLU: “Turkey needs a new growth model”

Giving the opening speech of TOBB’s 70th Financial General Assembly, TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu stated that, looking back at 2013 as the private sector, they see a promising outlook and that Turkey is in need of a new growth model, listing the necessary reforms for rapid growth as:

- Tax reform,
- Industry strategy to reduce current deficit,
- Employment incentives,
- Cost reduction,
- Improvements to the real sector’s work environment with banks.



## Sector by sector Turkey economy



The 7th Turkey Sectoral Economic Summit organized by TOBB was held at the Union Center on March 4th, 2014. Representatives of the 59 sectors in production and service which make up the economic power of Turkey found opportunity to relay their problems and suggestions for solutions to Deputy PM Ali Babacan, relevant ministers and bureaucrats during TOBB’s organization.

The 7th Turkey Sectoral Economic Summit, hosted by TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu and presided over by Deputy PM Ali Babacan with the attendances of Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci

and Development Minister Cevdet Yılmaz at TOBB’s Conference Hall.

Speaking during the opening of the Summit TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu stated that the Turkey Sectoral Economic Summit is Turkey’s biggest meeting in its field with the participation of 59 main sectors, “Opinion leaders of the sectors, our friends, will relay their issues and suggestions directly to the economy administration.”

Proliferation of service types, improvement of service quality, convergence of chamber systems and completion of integration with the European chamber/exchange system.

## 2014 European Parliament election results



European citizens elected the parliament members who will represent them in the European Parliament, the 8th time since 1979. A democratic platform wherein the main political trends of 28 EU member states, the European Parliament's 751 newly elected members were determined during the elections taking place between the 22nd and 25th of May, 2014.

The lowest participation

ratio of 43% since 1979 was observed during the last elections in 2009; this figure was not improved greatly with only 43.09% attendance in the 2014 elections. Despite joint candidates of political parties, campaigned throughout Europe, and even being held alongside local elections of various countries, the lack of significant change in participation is noteworthy.



## New approaches to the 1915 Armenian Deportation assessed at TOBB ETU

The "New Approaches to the Armenian Deportation in Nearing Its Centennial Anniversary" panel was held at the TOBB University of Economy and Technology (ETU). Speaking at the opening of the panel, journalist/author Taha Akyol emphasized that Turkey has been slow in addressing the Armenian Issue, "Publications consistent with scientific criteria which support Turkey's thesis need to increase."

During his speech at the opening of the panel, Foreign Affairs Ministry Research and Security Director General, Ambassador Tunç Üğdül stated that Turkey understands and appreciates the hardships and pain suffered by Armenians during the deportation. Emphasizing, however, that this cannot be defined as genocide, Ambassador Üğdül stated that Armenians, in defending their theses, only take into consideration their own collective national memories.

### TOBB PRESIDENT M. RİFAT HİSARCİKLIOĞLU:

## "The Erasmus+ Program will increase cooperation between business and education communities"

Hosted by EU Ministry and Turkey National Agency Bakanlığı, Erasmus+ Program and The Opportunities for the Business World Meeting was held in İstanbul with the attendances of EU Minister and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Science, Industry and Technology Minister Fikri Işık, TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu as well as professional organizations, chambers of commerce and industry, universities, development

agencies, syndicates, NGOs and the prominent representatives of the business community.

TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu stated that the Erasmus+ Program, which will enable training of qualified personnel needed by the industry, will bring education institutions and industry closer together and contribute to Turkey's EU adaptation process and the generation of the human resources necessary for this process.

