



New global context assessed at the Davos Summit

The World Economic Forum (WEF) was held in Davos, Switzerland, with the theme of new global context. Attending the meetings in Davos this year were heads of state from over 40 countries to discuss the drop in petroleum prices, economic slowdown in China, cyber security and the spread of the Ebola virus as well as exchange views in regards to

the conflicts in the Middle East and the Ukraine. Attending the Davos Summit as G20 Term President, Prime Minister Davutoğlu relayed Turkey's G20 Term Presidency priorities to the Forum.

Representatives of the business community attended the G20 Agenda Development meeting hosted by B20 Executive Council and the Union of

Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu. Hisarcıklıoğlu, along with Güler Sabancı, Ferit Şahenk, Hüsni Özyeğin and Ali Koç who are heading the B20 Turkey Task Forces, provided information on B20 Turkey's Term Presidency, its endeavors and developments.

81 academic consultants for 81 provinces from TOBB

The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) has undertaken a project to contribute to local development and develop university-business collaboration, the "81 Academic Consultants for 81 Provinces" project. The project plans to enable chambers/

exchanges in 81 provinces and 160 counties of Turkey to produce data and information, increasing their capacity to generate regional strategies with cities.

TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, stating that cities need to be given priority in order to pull ahead of the global competition, "We

must rekindle to flame of development. At the moment academic consultants for 70 provinces have been appointed. The remaining academic consultants for 11 provinces will be appointed in the coming days. The consultants will produce projects for local development."





Contents of the second Transformation in the Economy Program package

The 5 Year Development Plan spanning 2014-2018 prepared by the Development Ministry (ratified at the General Assembly of the TBMM on July 1st 2013) differs from the previous transformation programs of development plans and their implementation. There will be 25 Transformation Programs, implemented via 1,300 action plans. Planned to be announced in three groups to the public, the first of the Prioritized Transformation Programs was announced on the 6th of November, 2014. The second Prioritized Transformation Programs was announced on the

18th of December, 2014, along with the relevant action plans.

The Tenth Development Plan (2014-2018) Prioritized Transformation Programs, second package was announced on the 18th of December, 2014, by Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu. The second package of the Prioritized Transformation Programs is comprised of 8 sections relevant to the macro fields. Providing information on seven programs, PM Davtuoğlu said that they would be sharing the details of the program for decreasing off-the-record economy separately.

President Erdoğan urges Islamic countries for financing



The President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, also the President of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) Meeting was held at the İstanbul Congress Center. Attending the meeting in addition to the President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan were Development Minister Cevdet Yılmaz, the Union of Chambers and

Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary General İyad Medeni and representatives of COMCEC member states.

During his opening speech, the President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, stated that they been keeping track of activity closely and made every effort to provide support during his terms as Prime Minister to COMCEC, and reported that they would be working together for 5 years. President Erdoğan drew attention to the importance of the utilization of the financial power of Islamic countries amongst themselves, suggested that COMCEC form a gold and commodity exchange.

Hollander entrepreneurs

embark to seize opportunities in the Turkish market



The economic network under Turkey's Embassy to the Netherlands has kicked off the "Holland-Turkey Business Tour 2015" project, inviting Hollander companies to a tour lead by Ambassador Ron Keller. The tour is being organized by Hollander and Turkish business partners. Hollander Ambassador Keller said, "TOBB has an extensive network and detailed information in regards to the sectors in each region. We will be working together with TOBB in regards to our Holland-Turkey Business Tour 2015 project."

Ambassadors of EU countries convened at TOBB



Speaking at a working breakfast held for ambassadors of EU countries, TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkhođlu stated that it is their desire to exchange views in regards to the present state of Turkey – EU relations, as well as developing and these relations, “As the business community, we believe that a united Europe is the most trustworthy instrument of sustained peace and security in our continent.”

Hisarcıkhođlu said, “None of

the issues affecting Turkey’s EU accession process can be solved by technicians. The process is completely political. In order to have the process be successful, we need the leadership, overview and guidance of courageous politicians.

Emphasizing that no country alone can handle the problems of the 21st century, Hisarcıkhođlu said, “Turkey, like the 28 EU countries, wants to be a part of the EU in order to better cope with globalization.”

Turkey needs a sustainable animal husbandry policy



Speaking at the Livestock Husbandry and Technologies Summit held in Afyonkarahisar TOBB Treasurer Faik Yavuz stated that the problem of livestock feed and therefore livestock husbandry would be one of the most fundamental issues of not just Turkey, but the whole world.

Stating that, especially in densely populated Far East countries like China and India, demand for protein in conjunction with increasing prosperity, Faik reported that interest in meat and animal products was also increasing.

He went on to say, “Countries are forming their livestock husbandry policies in accordance with these long term projections. Livestock husbandry in the 21st century is a matter of economic income as well as national security.”

Time for disarmament

The International Arms Trade Agreement signed by Turkey and accepted at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on the 2nd of April, 2013, has entered into effect as of the 24th of January, 2014. The Agreement, which entered into effect without fanfare has been signed by 130 countries to date while only 60 countries have ratified the agreement –

the agreement is signed by governments then approved by parliament. Among the 10 countries conducting the highest exports of arms, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and UK have approved the agreement while the largest arms producer and exporter in the world, the USA has signed but not approved the agreement. The USA by itself holds 30% of arms exports.

