



A year full of opportunity ahead **of the automotive sector**

One of the most important sectors in Turkey, the automotive industry has been the number one export sector for the last 7 years while providing employment to approximately 400,000 people. Turkey's automobile and light

commercial vehicle market shrunk by 10.04% in 2014 in comparison to the previous year, amounting to a total of 767,681 vehicles. The goal is to move forward to a better state in the automotive sector in 2015.

Science, Industry and Technology Minister Fikri Işık stated that Turkey has risen to 17th place in global automotive production and spoke in regards to domestic car production, "We plan to produce a domestic car before."



The other side of the drop in petroleum prices

Petroleum prices fell in an unexpected amounts at the end of 2014. In July, Brent petrol was priced at 115 USD, falling to 85 USD in October; 60 USD in November and finally to 45 USD in January in a historical drop. This may seem to be a net positive for Turkey which is dependent on foreign

oil. However the international side effects of it can cause significant issues for Turkey. Two positive points for Turkey are in regards to the current deficit and inflation. Considering that petroleum prices will stay around the 50 USD mark throughout 2015, it will be possible to save almost half the

amount in deficit in currency exchange rates. This is very important for Turkey at a time when currency fluctuations have increased. This drop may result in decreases current deficit, improving inflation expectations and decrease in inflation.

Last Prioritized **Transformation Program** package announced



Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu held a press conference to announce the 8 programs and relevant actions plans of the 25 Prioritized Transformation Programs of the Tenth Development Plan. The eight announced programs cover the employment market, real sector as

well as many others ranging from education to healthcare.

Attending the meeting were Prime Minister Deputy Ali Babacan, Development Minister Cevdet Yılmaz, Labor and Social Security Minister Faruk Çelik, Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci, Interan Affairs Minister Efkan Âla, National Education Minister Nabi Avcı, Minister of the Treasury Mehmet Şimşek, Minister of Health Dr. Mehmet Müezzinoğlu. Youth and Sports Minister Akif Çağatay Kılıç.

Emphasizing that Turkey has been undergoing an extraordinary paradigm shift in the last 12 years, Prime Minister Davutoğlu stated that governments who neglect continuity in social life and change cannot succeed.



Afghanistan Seminar lays trade relations on the table

The Afghanistan Seminar organized by the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV) and EastWest Institute took place at the TOBB İstanbul Service Building. Attending the seminar in addition to the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu was EastWest Institute Vice President Ambassador Martin Fleischer, who in his speech stated that prosperity and stability are not possible for any one country by itself in a sustainable manner.

Hisarcıkloğlu stated that Afghanistan is among TOBB's prioritized policies and said, "Significant projects are underway to ensure Afghanistan's development and normalization. Due to their work towards the same goals, the EastWest Institute's endeavors are important for us as well."

Stating that sustainability is dependent on the wholesale development of the region and stability, Hisarcıkloğlu stated that Afghanistan should be entering an intense period of normalization and development with the withdrawal of troops in January.

Is this the end of the **EU expansion process?**



European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker stated in July 2014 that there would be no expansion for the Eu in the coming 5 years. Following the postponement of expansion, the reasons for it were assessed, pointing to the anti-expansion lean which has been gaining momentum for some time.

The European consolidation process has been going through a critical and tumultuous period, a crisis of legitimacy or an existential crisis. Effecting the expansion process, these upheavals has been feeding back on itself, losing synergy between deepening and expanding. An environment has been formed, inhospitable to the EU's expansion policy, viewed in favorable light in the past.



Europe closing ranks in the fight against terror: Towards a joint PNR implementation

Following the attack on Charlie Hebdo in Paris at the beginning of January and the events which followed, the European Union has been forced to review its internal and external security policies. EU member internal affairs ministers convened in Paris following the attacks stating that a more effective mechanism for EU Passenger Name Records (PNR) needs to be implemented with the information gathered being consolidated and shared. EU Council Chairman Donald Tusk and Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Executive Representative Federica Mogherini urged the European

Parliament to move forwards with the implementation of EU's own PNR system.

PNR is a tool which has been in use by many countries for years as a part of the fight against crime and terror. Many members in the EU have their own PNR system, however, due to legislative gaps, PNR data is unable to be shared amongst the Union. Another problematic area in regards to is the matter of intra-European flights. Only limited information in regards to passengers traveling inside Europe is accessible, gathered by companies and have significant obstacles to being disseminated among member states.

Key word "participation", its friend "voluntary"

Graduating from the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey University of Economy and Technology (TOBB ETU) Industrial Engineering Department in 2010, Cihan Tuğrul Çiçek thinks that his career owes a lot to being able to take advantage of the opportunities afforded him. Stating that he doesn't plan too far ahead, Çiçek said, "Saying 'this isn't what I planned' and being left out of spontaneous developments may mean turning down opportunities which you can never again reacquire."



Wage gap decreasing in Turkey



The International Labor Organization's (ILO) 2014-2015 Global Wage Report was hosted by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey University of Economy and Technology (TOBB ETU) in İstanbul. The meeting held in cooperation among the Labor and Social Security Ministry, ILO, TOBB ETÜ, Social Policy Implementation and Research Center (SPM) and the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey

(TEPAV), was also the first meeting in which Turkey's G20 Term Presidency logo was used.

TOBB ETÜ Deputy Rector Prof. Dr. Adem Şahin stated during his opening notes that wage is one of the most critical matters in the world; that its level, fair distribution and continuity is important for the basic balance of economy. Prof. Dr. Şahin, expressed his honor in hosting ILO, public institution and academic representatives at TOBB ETU.