



## Turkey aims for a strong entrepreneurship ecosystem



The Turkey Entrepreneurship Strategy Action Plan 2015-2018 has been announced. The Plan dictates that awareness will be raised in regards to the individual participation system; entrepreneurship will be placed in elementary and middle school curriculum; entrepreneurship training aimed at youth will be made widespread; issues effecting women entrepreneurs will be researched; special incubation centers for young entrepreneurs will be encouraged and entrepreneurship incentives will be issued with preliminary payments.

The action plan aims to “Spread entrepreneurship culture in Turkey, created a strong ecosystem and develop entrepreneurship”.

### TOBB Youth Entrepreneurs’ Council Chair Ali Sabancı: **“A healthy entrepreneurship ecosystem needs to be created for the development of entrepreneurship”**

TOBB Youth Entrepreneurs’ Council (GGK) Chair Ali Sabancı stated that allowing entrepreneurs to establish companies which create value is possible through the creation of a healthy entrepreneurship ecosystem, urging civil society, private sector and government to work together to this end. Sabancı

drew attention to the need for supporting projects such as BİST Private Market, g3 Forum, Funds Fund during Global Entrepreneurship Week and said “Unless we create a healthy entrepreneurship ecosystem we will be unable to appreciate very valuable projects, ideas and entrepreneurs.”



## TOBB Women Entrepreneurs Council Chair Evrim Aras: **“Women should appreciate that working is not a burden but a right”**



Elected as TOBB Women Entrepreneurs Council (KGK) Chair in recent months Evrim Aras is also Chair and CEO of ARAS Cargo. Following in her father's footsteps, Aras stated that they want to be instrumental in women standing up for their rights and awareness of women is spread in waves throughout society.

Drawing attention to the fact that Turkey is behind many of the world's countries in regards to women entrepreneur numbers, TOBB Women Entrepreneurs Council Chair Evrim Aras said, “People don't ask for what they don't know exists,” pointing out that working is no burden but a right; that women need to be shown what opportunities are available to them. Aras urged that women entrepreneurs have courage and not be afraid to try, “You'll never know if you never try.”

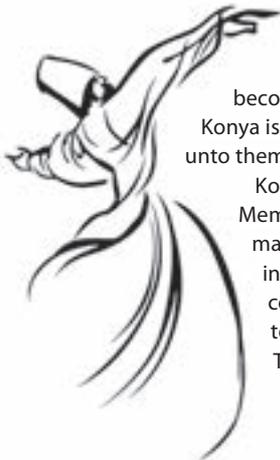
## Konya, the city of the future, on the fast track to becoming a brand name



Home of Mevlânâ Celâleddîn-î Rûmî, the symbol of tolerance and the birthplace of the Mevlevî culture, Konya is on the fast track to becoming a brand city. With its burgeoning agriculture, industry, tourism potential, transportation means, flawless infrastructure,

science and congress centers as well as its cultural background, Konya taking its past into the future with new investments. The present century is quickly becoming dominated by cities instead of country, while Konya is gaining momentum among cities becoming brands unto themselves, taking steps towards becoming a global city.

Konya Chamber of Industry Board Chair and TOBB Board Member Memiş Kütükcü reported that Konya exports its machine production industry, automobile subsidiary industry, casting, food and footwear sector goods to 189 countries as well as being in the top 5 in Turkey in regards to the defense industry. Known as the breadbasket of Turkey, Konya is also a brand name in industry.



## Chemicals sector advancing with exports

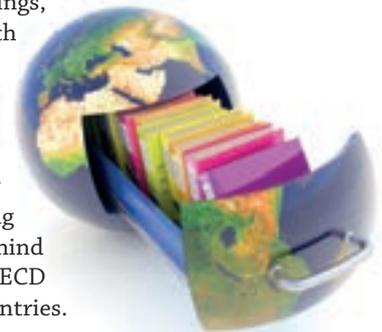
One of Turkey's top three exporters, the chemicals sector exported goods equal in value to 17.9 billion USD in 2014. Chemicals sector's exports have reached 6.564 billion USD in the January – May period of 2015. Most goods exported during this period are UAE, Egypt, Iraq, Germany, Spain, Italy, Iran, Azerbaijan – Nakhichevan, Saudi Arabia and Malta. The sector is projected to have 5% growth in 2015, aiming for 19 billion USD in exports.

TOBB Turkey Chemicals Industry Council Chair Timur Erk stated that Turkey's development depends on the development of the chemicals industry and said, “The chemicals industry is an indication of a country's development level.” Stating that the excitement for the Chemport Project which is expected to open a lot of doors for the chemicals industry is still ongoing, Erk reported that they have been working to this end for the last two years and expect the project which has state backing to become reality in a short time.

## Turkey flags behind in social development

Social Development Index published its 2015 update. This update aims to document the changes to social development throughout the world between 2014 and 2015.

According to its findings, the three countries with the highest standing in regards to social development are Sweden, Norway and Iceland. Turkey ranks at 58 among 133 countries behind European and OECD countries.





## Kosovo and Serbia Chamber Presidents met at TOBB

Delegations of the Kosovo and Serbia Chambers of Commerce and Industry convened in Ankara, hosted by TOBB at the Twin Towers. Attending the meeting as facilitator, TOBB President and EUROCHAMBRES Vice President M. Rifat Hisarcıkhoğlu expressed his pleasure in hosting the Chamber Presidents of both countries during his opening speech.

The first technical meeting was held between the two parties in June, 2013, reported Hisarcıkhoğlu

and said, "I've always believed that trade can help politicians in solving difficult problems. We can see that the business communities of both regions strongly support the normalization process."

Drawing attention to the strong relations built on common sense by the Kosovo and Serbia Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Hisarcıkhoğlu said, "They will cooperate closely to provide the best business environment and climate for their business communities."

## World Trade Organization Annual Report and **what it means for Turkey**



In recent months, the World Trade Organization (WTO) published its trade statistics report. According to the report, with recent growth figures, the global economy is showing signs of recovery following the 2008 financial upheavals. However, according to WTO economists, this growth stays below 5.1%, the average global growth rate of the last 20 years. Global economic growth rate increased from 2.8% in 2014 to 3.3% in 2015 and is expected to increase to 4% in 2016. Thus, the trade increase which was below GNP for the last three years will exceed it once again in 2015 and 2016. 2014 figures show us that, despite moderate recovery in the economy for three consecutive years, growth has been below 3% each time.

## Western Balkans Regional Chambers Conference

TOBB Board Vice President and Aegean Regional Chambers of Industry Chair Ender Yorgancılar represented TOBB at the Western Balkans Regional Chambers Conference held in Vienna by the Austrian Chamber of Economy prior to the Western Balkans Regional Conference to be held in August.

WKÖ Vice Chair Martha

Schultz gave the opening speech of the conference followed by speeches from the Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chair Marko Cadez, Kosovo Chamber of Commerce Chair Safet Gërxhaliu, Eurochambres International Relations Director Dirk Vantuyghem and TOBB Vice Chair Ender Yorgancılar.

Yorgancılar expressed

Turkey and the Turkish business community's support for endeavors which

aim to improve peace, stability and economic development in Western Balkan countries.

