

TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklođlu:

We must strengthen democracy and the state of law

The Republic of Turkey and our democracy suffered a treacherous and villainous attack on the night of July the 15th. A junta within the Turkish Armed Forces attempted a coup d'état and tried to seize the power. If this attempt had been successful, it would have massacred not only the ballot box, but the law, the economy, and social peace as well. A civil war could have broken out. It is safe to say that our nation and State had a close brush with a historic disaster.

As the Turkish private sector, we will continue to work and produce for our country day and night by adhering to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's words, "Sovereignty rests unconditionally with the nation".

We must reinforce democracy and the rule of law against the coup. Neither democracy nor rule of law can exist without one another. It is a certainty that those who are affiliated with the coup attempt must be discharged, but the only criteria when replacing them must be "qualification". If political considerations play a part in these appointments, similar problems may arise in the future.



TOBB members coalesced to defend democracy

The first harsh reaction against the coup attempt which took place Friday night, 15 July, came from TOBB Chairman M. Rifat Hisarcıklođlu. TOBB Chairman issued a statement that night, saying, "I do not recognize any authority other than the will of the nation and democracy. I stand beside the legitimately elected government. We must defend democracy now."

TOBB, Turkish business people and workers all held the first anti-coup meeting under the leadership of Chairman Hisarcıklođlu and called on everybody to support democracy. In addition to that, TOBB and Hisarcıklođlu held a simultaneous joint press conference with the chambers and commodity exchanges, operating in all the cities and in 160 districts across Turkey, to condemn the coup attempt.



TOBB quoted economic problems and requests to PM Yıldırım

M. Rifat Hisarcıklođlu, Chairman of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), and TOBB Board members, paid a visit to Binali Yıldırım to congratulate him on his being elected Prime Minister of Turkey and quoted the economic problems and requests of the Turkish business cycles. Making a statement following the visit, Hisarcıklođlu said, "As Board mem-

bers of TOBB, we paid a visit to Mr. Yıldırım to congratulate him on his being elected Prime Minister of Turkey. Meanwhile, we had the opportunity to talk with him on the latest developments in the Turkish economy." Stating that Turkey should have plans to address all possible challenges, TOBB Chairman Hisarcıklođlu said, "We appreciate the measures taken by the government to that end."



Support for innovative projects of SMEs

KOBİ Girişim Sermayesi Yatırım Ortaklığı A.Ş. (KOBİ GSYO A.Ş.) offers financial support to SMEs. KOBİ GSYO A.Ş. does not discriminate against industries, adequately assessing any type of competitive project that has the potential to create a big new market and to contribute to Turkey's eco-

nomical and social development. KOBİ GSYO A.Ş. is a venture capital company, established by and among the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), Halk Bank, KOSGEB, TESK and 16 Chambers of Industry and Commerce and Exchanges under the Capital Markets Board's Regulation

No. 15, with Serial No. VI, in an effort to offer financial support to innovative projects of SMEs. The company's mission is to provide financial and managerial support for innovative projects and entrepreneurs that have the potential to contribute to Turkey's economic development.



U.S.-Turkey free trade agreement important

The healthcare industry was discussed at a workshop organized by TOBB and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce jointly at the TOBB Twin Towers. Delivering a speech at the workshop where Minister of Health Recep Akdağ and representatives from the two countries were present, TOBB Chairman M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu said, "The issues the businesses and public authorities are discussing here will serve as a roadmap

for the industry." Noting that TOBB and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce signed a MOU in 2012, Hisarcıklioğlu added, "We have made great progress since then through a number of events. We are not focusing solely on Ankara and Istanbul. We are working all around Turkey. Similarly, we are not focusing solely on Washington and New York in the U.S. The workshop has covered some other promising industries, too."



Kütahya prepares its 'roadmap'

Ranked 4th on TÜİK's 2015 Cost of Living Index for Cities, Kütahya has been developing rapidly into a "Branded City" with its vast underground sources, cultural and natural assets, tourism areas, fertile lands and central location in terms of transport. Nafi Güral, Chairman of Kütahya Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KUTSO), said, "We strongly believe that Kütahya and many other cities in Turkey will rank among the branded cities of the future. We have started to see the initial signs of that, but there are things yet to be done to that end." On the other hand, Ahmet Altınkaya, Chairman of Kütahya Commodities Exchange, said, "We are all working in harmony in projects intended to further develop Kütahya. I believe this cooperation and harmony will generate great synergy which will benefit all the city."