The Employment market **mirrors the general state of the economy**



Executive Board Chairmen and Assembly Chairmen of 365 Chambers and Commodity Exchanges affiliated with TOBB (The Union of Chambers and Commodities Exchanges of Turkey) came together in order to discuss employment and other developments in the economy. At the press conference held after the meeting, the joint declaration of the Consultation Meeting was announced by Mr. Nafi Güral, TOBB General Assembly Chairman. The declaration pointed out that the employment market mirrors the general state of the economy, and went on to emphasize, "Turkey's top priority and primary issue is unemployment. This problem can only be solved by the collective mind." The statement also pointed out that production and employment are integral parts and that, "For wheels to keep on turning, a driving force is needed. This can only be provided by the government."

Turkish-German Friendship at Istanbul, the European Capital of Culture

Arriving in Istanbul after the audiences she held at Ankara during her official visit, Mrs. Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor, and her retinue attended the Turkish-German Economic Forum jointly organized in Istanbul on March 30th, 2010 by the Union of Chambers and Commodities Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), the Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK) and the German-Turkish Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AHK). At the Forum, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan after saying, "We view Germany as a natural ally," and Mrs. Merkel emphasized that they were making substantial efforts for the abolishment of visas with Turkey.





TOBB CHAIRMAN M. RİFAT HİSARCIKLIOĞLU

"Obstacles must be removed for the development of trade relations between Turkey and Germany."

Mr. M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, the chairman of the Union of Chambers and Commodities Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) met German Businesspersons at a business dinner. During his speech at the Union headquarters prior to dinner, Mr. Hisarcıklıoğlu underlined the visa problem and the issue of the quota imposed on trucks in land transportation, explaining collaboration was required to remove obstacles.



The Constitutional Platform resumed its work . . .

The Constitutional Platform Initiative Group resumed its work which began in 2007 but later broken off in 2007. Announcing that they, as 7 Non-Governmental Organization, were to organize workshops throughout Turkey under the auspices of "the Constitution Platform for a New Constitution", Mr. M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu stated that "they resume their work of the Constitution Platform" and emphasized the great importance of common consensus.

The business world seeks a **solution for employment...**

TOBB, TISK, MUSIAD and TUSIAD submitted their suggestions about amendments on legislation that they deem necessary for strengthening the economic recovery, to Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the Prime Minister; Mr. Deniz Baykal, leader of the Republican People's Party (CHP); and Mr. Devlet Bahçeli, leader of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP). Mr. M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, the chairman of TOBB, told they submitted their suggestions regarding the Turkish Commercial Code, the Civil Procedure Code as well as Regulations on Trade Secrets and Private Information.





The business world came together for employment

17 of employers' associations of Turkey joined forces to find a solution for unemployment. Having made his speech at the opening ceremony hosted by TOBB, Mr. M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, the chairman of TOBB summarized the objective of the meeting by saying "We are here to find a solution for unemployment issue,". Following the meeting, Mr. Hisarcıklıoğlu stated that the unemployment problem needs to be handled in 3 stages and went on saying that "There need to be practical suggestions in short-term. Then there need to be solutions for vocational support in medium-term, and an employment strategy in long-term,".



Mr. M. RİFAT HİSARCIKLIOĞLU, THE CHAIRMAN OF TOBB:

"Our accession period to the EU is being directed as if it i a **'slow motion' movie"**

Having participated to the introductory meeting of "Enterprise Europe Network Istanbul Consortium" that was jointly formed by KOSGEB, ISO and Sabancı University, Mr. M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, the Chairman of TOBB told that along with this project the companies have been offered a network of 570 partners in 45 countries. Mentioning Turkey's accession period to the EU at his speech, Mr. Hisarcıklıoğlu told that the negotiations were still in progress albeit "decelerated".

Iraq and Neighboring Countries Fair attracts great interest

Nejat Koçer, Member of the Board of Management of TOBB and the Chairman of Gaziantep Chamber of Industry stated that thanks to Iraq and Neighboring Countries Fair which they were organizing for the last 4 years, significant contributions were made to local, regional and national economy and they succeeded to enhance the foreign trade volume between the countries.





Target is 10 billion USD in foreign trade with Saudi Arabia

Mr. İbrahim Abdülaziz Al-Assaf, Minister of Finance of Saudi Arabia; Mr. Mehmet Şimşek, Minister of Finance, and Mr. M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, the Chairman of TOBB participated the Turkish-Saudi Business Forum that was hosted by TOBB. TOBB Presedent Mr. Hisarcıklıoğlu told that they aim to increase the trade between Turkey and Saudi Arabia to 10 billion USD level in the medium run.

