

TOBB's **68th Financial General Assembly** took place

The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) held its 68th Financial General Assembly in Ankara at the TOBB University of Economy and Technology (TOBB ETU) Hall hosted by TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu. The Financial General Assembly, themed "Cooperation-Collaboration-Coalition", was attended by Customs and Trade Minister Hayati Yazıcı, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Fatih Metin, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Customs and Trade Ziya Altunyaldız as well as TOBB delegates from Turkey's 81 provinces and 160 counties.

Making the opening speech of the Financial General Assembly, which began with a cinevision showing detailing TOBB's 2012 activities, TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, relating how far they've come in the last 12 years, said, "Whatever we have done, whatever we have achieved, it has all been possible with the support and power we were given by you."

Trade goal with Greece for 2015 is 10 billion USD

The Turkish-Greek Business Forum took place in İstanbul on March 4th, 2013 coordinated by the Ministry of Economy, through the cooperation of the Foreign Economic Relations Council (DEİK) and the Exporters Council of Turkey (TİM) with the contributions of the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV). Attending the Forum were, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the Greek Prime Minister H.E. Antonis Samaras, Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, EU Minister Egemen Bağış, Food, Agriculture and Livestock Minister Mehdi Eker, Internal Affairs Minister Muammer Güler, Culture and Tourism Minister Ömer Çelik, National Defense Minister İsmet Yılmaz, Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications Minister Yıldırım, Health Minister Mehmet Müzezzinoğlu, TOBB / DEIK President M. Hisarcıklıoğlu SEV Vice President Dr. Athanase Lavidas, TİM Deputy Chairman Ali Nedim Güreli, Invest in Greece Agency Senior Manager Stefano Isaias, DEİK Business Councils Chairmen and approximately 700 business people.



Mehmet Baybulat AŞETEY
TOBB Bilgi Erişim Uzman Yardımcısı



Hisarcıklıoğlu elected **Jerusalem Arbitration Center** International President

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Israel and Jerusalem National Committees established the Jerusalem Arbitration Center in order to address disputes in Israel and Jerusalem business communities. For the International Presidency of the Center, on the suggestion of both countries' businessmen, ICC Board Member and TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu was elected. Hisarcıklıoğlu, stated that it was an honor to be elected through the joint approval of both business communities and that he accepted the duty on behalf of the Turkish business world.

ICC Board Member and TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, elected as the International President of the Jerusalem Arbitration Center, said that the Center would further facilitate financial and trade between Jerusalem and Israel.





King Abdullah II of Jordan invited Turkish entrepreneurs to Jordan

In Turkey, on the official invitation of President Abdullah Gül, King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of Jordan attended the Turkey-Jordan Economic Cooperation Meeting organized by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB). Accompanying King Abdullah II of Jordan at the meeting hosted by TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu was the Minister of the Treasury Mehmet Şimşek.



Turkmenistan International Investment Forum held for the first time in Turkey

Organized by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey and the Council of Foreign Economic Relations, the 5th Turkmenistan International Investment Forum was held at the İstanbul Golden Horn Congress Center under the patronages of the President of the Republic of Turkey Abdullah Gül and Turkmenistan President Gurbanguli Berdimuhamedov. Attending the opening of the Forum were Development Minister Cevdet Yılmaz, TOBB / DEIK President M. Hisarcıklıoğlu, Turkmenistan Minister of Finance Dovletgeldi Sadykov, Chairman of the Turkish-Turkmen Business Council Sefa Gömdeniz as well as many ambassadors, consuls and businessmen from 46 countries.

EU wants business-friendly legislation

Stating that the quality, independence and effectiveness of national legislative systems play an important role in the amelioration of the atmosphere of trust and a return to growth, European Commission Vice President Viviane Reding mentions in her paper, "Towards Harmonization of Legal Procedures" that EU Justice Indicator is contributing to the establishment of a more effective justice system in the EU.



TOBB President Hisarcıklıoğlu calls for WTO Director Lamy to **"engender trust"**

Prior to the Ministers Conference to be held in January, World Trade Organization (WTO) General Director Pascal Lamy, spoke at the meeting titled "On the Road to the 9th Ministers Conference: Expectations from the World Trade Organization". Attending the meeting were TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, WTO General Director Pascal Lamy and TEPAV Commerce Studies Center Director Bozkurt Aran.

Speaking at the meeting TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu issued a call for the WTO to restore the trust of the private sector they lost in global trade.





FOREIGN AFFAIRS **AHMET DAVUTOĞLU:** "We are living through the fourth great restoration"

The March guest for the DEİK Family Meeting which was held with the aim of the reassessment of the Foreign Economic Relations Council's (DEİK) activities in regards to the latest developments in the global economy and politics as well as Turkey's foreign policy priorities and the identification of the roles it can take on in addition to the creation of new DEİK strategies for the coming term was Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu.



The number of woman entrepreneurs in Turkey increased by 6000 in one year

Members for the TOBB Women and Young Entrepreneurs Council Executive Committee were elected. Speaking at the meeting TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, emphasizing that the number of women and young entrepreneurs is increasing each day, said, "For every day that passes, the number of people who need jobs is decreasing while the number of people who want help to start their own businesses is increasing. It is very joyous that a significant portion of these are women and the youth."