

EUROCHAMBRES Economic Forum's agenda:

Investing in Growth

The European business world held its summit for three days in İstanbul. The EUROCHAMBRES Global Chamber Platform (GCP), EUROCHAMBRES Economic Forum and EUROCHAMBRES Board Meeting took place in İstanbul between the 15th and 17th of October, 2013, hosted by the TOBB.

EUROCHAMBRES is the largest platform for chambers and commodity exchanges throughout Europe and published the 2014 Global Economic Report, prepared in partnership with the GDC on October 15th, 2013, prior to the EUROCHAMBRES Economic Forum. It was emphasized in the report that precautions need to be taken against threats to financial markets.

Hisarcıklıoğlu reelected as EUROCHAMBRES Vice President by landslide

TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu has been reelected as the EUROCHAMBRES at its 114th General Assembly held at the İstanbul Golden Congress Hall by a landslide vote. Stating that this reflects the view of the European business community towards Turkey quite clearly, Hisarcıklıoğlu said, "The European business world want Turkey in the EU; it wants European and Turkish economies to integrate."



Hisarcıklıoğlu will hold the office of the EUROCHAMBRES Vice President which represents 120 million employees from 20 million establishments from 45 countries during the 2014-2015 terms.

Mehmet Baybulat AŞETEY
TOBB Bilgi Erişim Uzman Yardımcısı



BALO has connected **Anatolia to Europe via railway**

Established in partnership with chamber of commerce and industry, commodity exchanges and organized industry zones, led by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), the Great Anatolia Logistics Organizations (BALO) Inc.'s first freight train was ceremonially sent off from the TCDD Manisa Station Logistics Yard for Munich, Germany on October 8th. Attending the ceremony were Transportation, Maritime Affairs and Communications Minister Binali Yıldırım, TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, TCDD Director General Süleyman Karaman, BALO Board Chairman Bülent Koşmaz, Manisa Grand National Assembly Representatives and the province' prominent figures.



Turkey fast on track to becoming the **USA's trade center**

Attending the Turkey Investment Week organized by TOBB and the US Chamber of Commerce, Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan and TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, attended meetings and visited companies in various cities of the USA. TOBB and the US Chamber of Commerce will open the Middle East Trade Center in İstanbul in order to develop trade with Middle East countries.



The need for an insurance system increases as **economies develop**

Speaking at the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) Insurance Experts Executive Committee elections, TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, stated that as economies grow, the need for a strong insurance system becomes apparent and said, "Furthermore, the development of the insurance sector must come before the growth of economy."

Hisarcıklıoğlu stated that thanks to the Insurance Experts operating according to the Insurance Legislation, the rights and privileges of persons bound in insurance contracts are preserved while it is only possible because of these experts that the sector is a safe and stable business environment.



Continuation of membership negotiations: **Chapter 22 opened**

Only the "Science and Research" chapter from among 35 chapters has been finalized until the end of Turkey's European Union (EU) membership negotiations which began on October 3rd, 2005. Since the beginning of negotiations only 13 chapters have been opened. Last June, the EU Council decided to open the 22nd chapter titled "Regional Policy and Coordination Structure Instruments" which was approved at the EU Council convened in Luxembourg on the 22nd of October. With the decision to open the 22nd chapter up for negotiations, the negotiation process which had almost come to a standstill for the last three years has gained new momentum.



UMEM Ability'10 Project shown as an example at the UNDP Conference

During the conference titled "Private Sector and Professional Training – Lessons Learned in Turkey" hosted by TOBB in cooperation with UNDP İstanbul International Private Sector and Development Center in İstanbul, TOBB Board Member Ender Yorgancılar pointed out UMEM Ability'10 Project as an exemplary application. Yorgancılar said, "UMEM Ability'10 Project, which is a comprehensive project to provide employment throughout Turkey by TOBB in cooperation with the Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Labor and Social Security, İŞKUR and the TOBB University of Economics and Technology (ETU) is a point of pride for us. This project is the cooperation of public, private and university establishments. UMEM's success is built upon cooperation.



TOBB ETU **experiences graduation and opening** on the same day

At TOBB ETU, the ceremony for the graduation of the 2012-2013 education year as well as the opening ceremony for the beginning of the 2013-2014 education year was hosted by TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu. The ceremony, also attended by the Minister of National Education Ömer Dinçer at the TOBB ETU Sports Hall with alumni, their families, students, the academic staff as well as various dignitaries. Reminding that he is both the President of TOBB as well as the President of the Board of Trustees of TOBB ETU, Hisarcıklıoğlu said, "Our graduates are a step ahead of all other university graduates with a year of work experience thanks to our joint education model. I am very proud of them."

TOBB ETU Information Center for the **Visually Impaired**

TOBB ETU, which is architecturally designed to be accessible to the visually impaired, has taken another step in this regard. During the 2012-1013 education year, TOBB ETU Library established the GEBİM, a specialized information center for the visually impaired.



During the TOBB ETU 2012-2013 education year, two visually impaired students registered and started their education. Choosing the Faculty of Sciences and Literature, Department of Turkish Language and Literature, Buket Kurt and Aydın Gürses, with the support of their specially trained lecturer Fırat Açıkgöz, are learning English at the Information Center for the Visually Impaired (GEBİM). Buket wants to be an academic while Aydın's goal is to become a writer. Lecturer Fırat Açıkgöz reports that the students have made great strides in learning English.