

TOBB, carrying **Turkey's economy** into the future

TOBB's 70th General Assembly is being held on May 22nd, 2014, at the Ankara TOBB University of Economics and Technology. TOBB's General Assemblies are significant in keeping tabs on the state of the economy as well as bringing together the business community from the 81 provinces of Turkey, all sectors and all scales, national and international.

While 5 million people lost their jobs during the global economic crisis in Europe, the Turkish private sector has provided employment to an additional 5 million people during the last 5 years. TOBB members alone present an employment center comprised of 11 million people throughout Turkey. Fully aware of its responsibilities and working with determination and will, TOBB continues to fulfill its duties. Generating three fourths of Turkey's national income as well as conducting 95% of its international trade, TOBB acts with the knowledge that the country's growth and development is only possible through a well-organized economy. Taking all of this into account, TOBB has undertaken a key role in Turkey's industrialization, the development of its machinery industry, effective use of its technological power and operation of its free market. In the words of TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu: "The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges is Turkey. It is Turkey's unity and solidarity."





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M. RİFAT HİSARCIKLIOĞLU:
"Turkey and Malaysia are **two developing economies"**

TOBB/DEİK President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, stating that Turkey and Malaysia are two developing economies, emphasized that the combined economic volume of the two countries surpasses 1 trillion USD. Stating that Turkey is a gateway for Malaysia to enter the EU market, Hisarcıklıoğlu said that Malaysia acts in the same capacity for Turkish entrepreneurs to enter the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) market.



21 chambers/exchanges attain **Accreditation Certification**

21 chambers and exchanges which have successfully completed their accreditation processes have attained their certification. When the 69 chambers/exchanges which are still in the accreditation process complete theirs as well, the number of "5-star" chambers/exchanges will reach 221. TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu stating that their goal is to complete the accreditation of all 365 chambers/exchanges and to elevate them all to the level of "5-star" chambers and exchanges. TOBB Chamber/Exchange Accreditation System's goal is to instill a mentality focused on quality in the chambers and exchanges present in Turkey and to increase the prestige of the Chambers System in the world as well as diversifying its services and increasing the quality of its services, to bring chambers systems closer together and to adapt to the European Chamber/Exchange System.





E-GKS, Turkey's **success exemplary** to the rest of the world

Turkey became the first country to provide the ability for all companies quoted on exchange to attend the general assemblies online as of the 1st of October, 2013. E-GKS is an example for many countries with the innovations it brings as well as winning the FSTech Awards 2013 "Best Online Service" award.

Turkey, with its innovation in the fields of online communication and e-voting is providing an example for many countries. Developed as per the Turkish Trade Law's Article #1527 in regards to the obligation of exchange quoted companies to hold general assemblies by the Central Registry Organization (MKK), the e-General Assembly System (e-GKS) is an online technology which will provide great ease in holding annual general meetings.

Proving especially useful for companies with shareholders abroad, the system provides such benefits as drops in general assembly costs, secure recordkeeping, precise voting, institutional management compliance, ease of general assembly registry, ease of access for records.

The EU's 2013 **foreign policy statement**





European Council of Foreign Relations (ECFR), one of the EU's prominent think tanks, has published its annual report on the performances of the EU and its member states in regards to their foreign relations, "Europe Foreign Policy Scoreboard 2014".

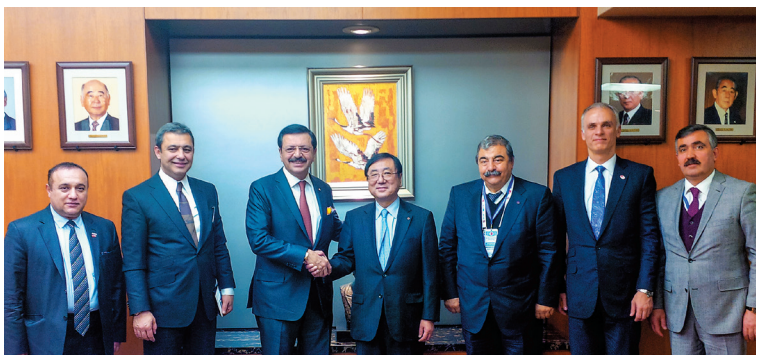
According to the ECFR report 2013, compared to the last 3 years, has been a year in which the EU has increased its activity in the field of foreign politics.

EU's relations with Turkey is investigated under four chapters in the ECFR report: "Bilateral Relations with Turkey", "Rule of Law in Turkey, Democracy and Human Rights", "Relations with Turkey in regards to the Cyprus Issue," and "Relations with Turkey in regards to Regional Issues". The EU's note for relations with Turkey in 2013 is a "C".



Agreement for the **Facilitation of Trade**

The Agreement for the Facilitation of Trade, the preparations for which began under the umbrella of the World Trade Organization in 2004, was signed in Bali between December 3rd and 6th, 2013 at the 9th WTO Ministers' Conference. This is also the first multilateral agreement to be signed following the establishment of the WTO in 1995.



Hisarcıklıoğlu **met with CEOs in Japan**

TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, as a part of the Far East tour he attended with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, conducted several meetings in Japan. Hisarcıklıoğlu invited the Far East business world to invest in Turkey.

Talking with Singaporean investors prior to the Turkey-Singapore Business Forum, taking place in Singapore, Hisarcıklıoğlu invited them to invest in Turkey. Hisarcıklıoğlu also met with the Singaporean Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Lim Hng Kiang.

TOBB President Hisarcıklıoğlu drew attention to the similarities between Singapore and Turkey, and that joint investments are very viable, especially in the fields of tourism and healthcare sectors.