

**TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkılıođlu:**

## We should reduce our foreign fund dependency

**T**urkey has to find a significant financing amount every year. This amount is the sum of current account deficit related financing need and all foreign debt that has to be paid within that year. This need surpassed 200 billion dollars for the next 12 months. But it's nothing new. We had significant financing need in the past and we satisfied that need.

When there's nothing wrong about the risk perception for Turkey and if investors have still appetite for risk, we can satisfy the financing need one way or the other.

But we had also times like back in 2001 where risk perception about Turkey sharply rose or like back in 2009 where external world lost its risk appetite. It's obvious that our economy is vulnerable to such developments. Therefore, we have to reduce our dependency on foreign funds and correspondingly our vulnerabilities related to this dependency.



## Pace of reforms picked up



**W**ith the reform package regarding improving investment environment, incentives and aids are being implemented to increase production, investment and employment.

The reform package includes, the abolishment of suspension of bankruptcy system, regulation that reduce the bureaucracy in housing permits – which were open to abuses – and many other changes and aims to revive the economy with new incentives.

Assessing the new reform package TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkılıođlu said “We would like to express our gratitude to all our colleagues, bureaucrats and to our Deputy Prime Minister Recep Akdađ in particular”.

Deputy Prime Minister Recep Akdađ announced the good news of a second reform package towards the year end. Akdađ told “We constrain the period to 23 months which was lasting up to 6 to 7 years with bankruptcy suspension regulation. We grounded on the continuing of their commercial life, rather than their bankruptcy. We effectively included the receivables in the process”.



## Call for collaboration with African and Mediterranean countries

**T**urkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) President and Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Eurochambres) Vice President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu and accompanying committee held official visits in Egyptian capital Cairo.

TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu, speaking at 3rd Egypt Investment Conference said "Our trade volume with Egypt increased by 15 fold in the last 15 years. Currently Turkey is the fourth biggest trade partner for Egypt."

Stating that they were developing

many tools to inform entrepreneurs and SMEs beside supporting their business affairs, TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu told that they were doing this with international chambers and said "We are ready to find out ways restore the relations with Mediterranean and African countries".

## "We stand by the government and the people"



**1**3 institutions representing civil society and business world held official talks and visits aiming to support Olive Branch military offensive initiated by Turkish Military in Afrin.

Committee formed with presidents and representatives from ASKON, HAK-İŞ, MEMUR-SEN, MÜSİAD, Türkiye KAMU-SEN, TESK, TİM, TOBB, TÜGİAD, TÜMSİAD, TÜRK-İŞ, Union of Turkish Bar Associations, and TÜRKONFED, first paid a visit to Kilis Governor Dr. Mehmet Tekinarslan.

Speaking at the press conference organized after the visit, Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu stated that they stand by the state and the government as civil society and business world and said: "People living in this area are our neighbors, brothers and sisters. No one can raise Cain. No one can turn us against each other. Those offering wisdom should come here and see what humanity is."

## Ankara aims to be the capital of industry



Getting out of its civil servant identity, Ankara takes firm steps forward being the center of economy and trade.

Ankara Chamber of Industry Chairman Nurettin Özdebir says "In a time where Istanbul is heading towards being a finance and service hub, we believe that Ankara should be positioned as an "advanced technology hub" and all public policies should be realized accordingly".

Ankara Chamber of Trade Chairman Gürsel Baran says "We want to make Ankara a gateway to world for Anatolia" and TOBB Treasurer Board Member and Ankara Commodity Exchange Chairman Faik Yavuz on the other hand states that they have been involved in several projects aiming to make Ankara a Brand City with common platforms they built together with sister agencies especially non-governmental institutions.

## When can Turkish luxury brands become global giants?

Global Powers of Luxury Consumption report prepared by Deloitte globally and list the largest 100 luxury brand revealed that top 100 company operating in luxury consumption sector had a turnover of 212 billion dollars in 2015 fiscal year.

Growing by 6.8% globally, Turkish luxury goods category displayed a much better performance despite geopolitical factors and declining tourist figures and grew by around 8.4%.

Especially emerging luxury markets like China, Russia, United Arab Emirates etc. grew by 70% in the last five years. The same market growth remained at 53% in developed markets like Europe, USA and Japan.

Things are different for Turkey though. As minimum 180 million dollar sales revenue is required to be listed, no Turkish brand is in this list right now. But Turkish luxury good market grew a cumulative growth of 8.9% and reached a turnover of 6.8 billion liras.

