



TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu: Let's implement structural reforms and start a new beginning in 2021

The global economy is expected to shrink over 4 percent in 2020. This percentage represents the worst economic downturn in the global economy since the global economic crisis in 2009. The course of the pandemic in the coming months and how service industries will recover and how disruption in supply chains will be corrected are the main unknowns to be solved for the global economy. The main areas of risks in our country are: no room left to manoeuvre in public finance, increased borrowing need,

decrease in foreign exchange reserve, ongoing problems in current deficit and in deficit financing, high unemployment and inflation rates, ongoing tensions in foreign relations, especially with the EU and the USA, problems in the legal system, lack of efficiency in the corporate structure in public administration and public distrust in public institutions.

All of these make the economy more fragile and reduce the appeal of risk taking and investment. If we implement structural reforms we can start a new beginning in

2021. Of course, it will take time to repair the damages in the economy. However determined and firm actions to be taken towards this goal will increase the hopes for the future. We believe the importance of recent messages in this sense and that 2021 will promise more hope than 2020. A new route is asked to be taken. The business world also wants to see what lies ahead in order to take necessary actions. The business world wants the rule of law and legal security. Turkey needs a change of course and to focus on the dynamics of the post-pandemic period.

We actually have shown in the past that we could do all of these. When we correctly identified problems and implemented the right structural reforms after the 2001 crisis, we succeeded to raise our income per capita from 3 thousand US dollars to 10 thousand US dollars and became an upper middle income country. Now we are again at an important turning point. We must do what we have been postponing for a long time and take the decisions we have not taken. We have a lot to do. But if we managed to do it yesterday, we can also do it today.



How much did Covid-19 impact employment?

The Covid-19 pandemic has been a global threat and has been affecting our country since the New Year. The measures against the pandemic were first effectuated in Turkey following the first positive case on March 10, 2020. Certain businesses and schools were closed, travels (inward and outward) were banned, crowded activities were cancelled, and lockdowns were applied for different groups on different

hours/days of the weeks until the end of May. Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV) analyzed the effects of Covid-19 based on the working class, industries, and cities and generalized the expected recovery tendency once the measures are loosened.

According to TEPAV's research, 4/a Insured white and blue collar workers, who constitute 70% of the total employment,

were the most effected by the pandemic, whereas the number of registered farmers decreased by 10.9% year-on-year in April. All 22 sub-sectors were affected by the adverse outcomes of the pandemic measures. Accommodation, food and beverage, tourism, construction, and manufacturing sectors were hit the hardest. Mail and post services became more important than ever during the pandemic.



“We are waiting for regulations in contracted production model”

M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, the President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) and Bekir Pakdemirli, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry attended the online meeting of TOBB Agriculture and Husbandry Sector Council. Sector representatives submitted their recommendations to the Minister Pakdemirli and they mutually shared opinions about the status quo of the sector.

Hisarcıklioğlu, the President of TOBB, gave a speech in the meeting and emphasized how the agriculture and husbandry sector continued production and ensured the sustainability of the food supply chain, despite the restrictions that came with the pandemic. Expressing that they have been mentioning the need of a planned production in agriculture sector, Hisarcıklioğlu, the President of TOBB emphasized the importance of “Contracted

Production”, which was materialized with the great effort of the Minister Pakdemirli. TOBB President Hisarcıklioğlu said, “This model will ensure that the farmers can sell their products from a remunerating price and the industrialists can procure the amount and quality of products they need. This model, which was created as a win-win scenario for everybody, is dearly supported by us. We eagerly expect it to be ready at the earliest convenience.” TOBB President Hisarcıklioğlu expressed that the sector was able to catch a breath when the raw milk premium payments were moved to an earlier time.

“We need to actively use the ‘middle corridor’ for transportation”

Second General Assembly of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkey (TSO) was virtually held under the leadership of M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, the President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) with the participation of Bahgdad Amreyev, the Ambassador and General Secretary of Turkish Council as well as the presidents of professional organizations of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Hungary and Uzbekistan.

Hisarcıklioğlu, the President of TOBB, gave a speech during the assembly; he celebrated Azerbaijan’s recent victory and indicated that this is a new sign of hope of reaching out to Middle Asia through



Azerbaijan in terms of logistics. “The Lachin Corridor is a great opportunity for us. As TOBB, we are open to all collaboration ideas about this subject,” said Hisarcıklioğlu and told how much distance the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkey covered in its institutionalization process.

TOBB President Hisarcıklioğlu said,

“This corridor will provide us a great advantage in terms of costs. We need to make the Caspian Sea one that unites us, not separates us. Within that framework, we need to create more transportation lines between Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan & Turkmenistan on regular basis with competitive prices.”

INVESTORS ARE HAVING A HARD TIME TO FIND A LOCATION IN OSMANIYE

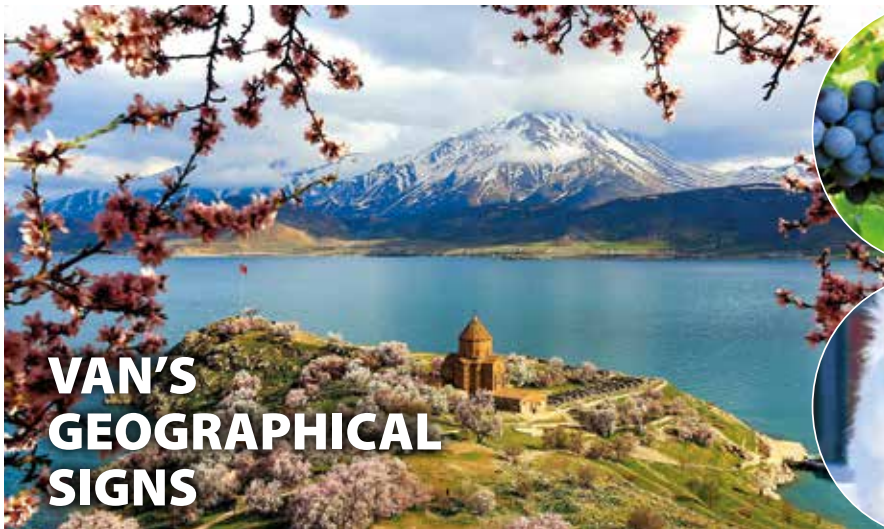
Devrim Murat Aksoy, the Chairman of Osmaniye Chamber of Commerce and Industry said, "Our industrial zone was established in 1994 with only a hundred hectares." Aksoy continued: "The incentives enabled an increase of demand to our organized zone and with the area expansion works, we included 41 hectares on the northwest, 245 hectares near the penitentiary, and another 33 hectares on the northwest were added to

our district of a total of 380 hectares. All infrastructure and superstructure works of the Organized Industrial Zone are complete and our zone provides smooth services to our industrialists.

As of today, our Organized Industrial Zone is full, and we are in need of new grounds for new investments. In relation to that, Osmaniye Governorship made the necessary applications to authorities to further expand our zone in order to

meet the needs of our industrialists. We are also working on to establish a second organized industrial zone, if an expansion is not possible."

Sait Çenet, the Chairman of Osmaniye Commodity Exchange Board said, "The focus on Osmaniye can be towards the branding and publicity of peanuts, which are a symbol of this city. Our strategical plan and goal as the Commodity Market also focus on the branding and publicity of peanuts."



VAN'S GEOGRAPHICAL SIGNS

Located right beside Lake Van, the largest closed basin sea of Anatolia, Van's earliest known traces in history start with the Urartu, the capital of agriculture and irrigation...

With its grandioso castles and

magnificent irrigation ducts and dams accepted as engineering marvels, Van still bears the traces of almost 3.000 years in history. Its success as being a home to many civilizations is reflected on its tables, cuisine, and regional products.

Necdet Takva, the President of Van Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that as a result of the efforts that started back in 2013 for the branding of Van's special products, Van Herby Cheese, Savatlı Silver Processing, Keledoş, Murtuğa, and Van's Kavut were finally registered as geographical signs.

On the other hand, Nayif Süer, the Chairman of Van Commodity Exchange expressed that the consumers in today's global world, in which the differences become more and more invisible each day, care more

about the origin and sensory features of food products. Süer said, "Naturality, traditionality, sustainable quality, regional development, and the ability to compete in the global market are among the added values of geographical signs."