

Joint Press Release

Brussels, 10 April 2014

EU-Turkey relations: Wake up call from the business community

The business world remains unimpressed by the often adverse political conditions in the EU-Turkey relationship as seen in two unique and detailed surveys published by EUROCHAMBRES and TOBB. According to the survey among 3700 companies in Turkey, 3/4 of Turkish companies are strongly in favour of joining the EU. A mirror survey among 1700 European companies stresses that European companies show a strong interest in enhancing EU-Turkey relationship, even if they are more divided regarding the impact of Turkey's potential entry.

Both surveys were presented in a conference on 10 April in Brussels with the participation of Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Turkish Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator.

The surveys have also highlighted the optimism of companies regarding the entry date of Turkey to the EU. More than half of the companies in both regions believe that Turkey will join the EU by 2023, European companies being even more optimistic - only 8% consider that Turkey will never join the EU against 28% of the Turkish companies.

Commenting on these findings during the conference in Brussels, M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, Deputy President of EUROCHAMBRES, and President of TOBB, said: *"The results of the surveys are quite remarkable. Nevertheless the findings of the survey among Turkish companies call for further efforts to ensure that information on the acquis as well as on the overall accession process is reached by the largest number of Turkish companies. A lack of information may lead not only un-preparedness to cope with the Single Market, but also to mistrust vis-à-vis the accession process"*.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES concluded the conference adding: *"The EU-Turkey relationship is based on a strong and deep economic integration. The success of the Customs Union between the EU and Turkey is undeniable but it should be modernised, its functioning should be improved, and its scope expanded. These massive mutual economic interest and benefits should be better reported and acknowledged"*.

MORE

The EU-Turkey Chambers Forum (ETCFII)

The surveys were carried out in the framework of the second phase of the EU-Turkey Chambers Forum (ETCF II). [ETCF II](#) is a three-year project implemented by EUROCHAMBRES and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB). ETCF II aims at strengthening mutual knowledge, dialogue and long-term co-operation between the Turkish Chambers and their EU counterparts, thus promoting the integration of European and Turkish business communities. ETCF II is co-financed by the European Union (EU) under the 2009 Instrument for Pre-Accession – Civil Society Facility and the Republic of Turkey.

For more information, read:

The survey on "[Corporate Preparations in Turkey for EU Membership](#)".

The survey on "[EU-Turkey Relations: Perspectives from the European business community - 2013](#)".

The [agenda](#) of the High level Conference on "EU-Turkey relations: perspectives from the business community".

And the [pictures](#) of this conference that took place in the Residence Palace of Brussels on 10 April 2014.

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EUROCHAMBRES is the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry represents over 20 million enterprises in Europe – 98% of which are SMEs – through members in 43 countries and a European network of 1700 regional and local Chambers.



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TOBB is the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey. TOBB represents a network of over 1.4 million enterprises, 365 local Chambers and Commodity Exchanges and 59 sectoral assemblies.