

**PRESS RELEASE****Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu first representative of  
EUROCHAMBRES' Affiliated Members**

Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), was unanimously appointed representative of EUROCHAMBRES' Affiliated Members, the group of non-EU Chambers which form part of EUROCHAMBRES' network\*. Mr Hisarcıklioğlu is the first person to receive this mandate within EUROCHAMBRES' Presidency – mandate which last for two years.

The appointment took place today in Moscow (Russia), in the frame of EUROCHAMBRES' second Affiliated Members meeting. The meeting was inaugurated with some opening remarks by Yevgeny Maksimovich Primakov, President of the Russian Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and former Prime Minister of Russia, who welcomed the Affiliated Members' meeting as a tool to strengthen the economic cooperation between EU and non-EU countries.

Debates focused on a number of crucial topics, including trade with the EU, industrial clusters, and certificates of origin. Participants also discussed opportunities for non-EU members offered by EUROCHAMBRES' present and future activities: accession-related programmes (CASE, ETCF and PARTNERS 2), TAIEX pan-regional seminars for the Neighbouring countries as well as an internationalisation project for Russian SMEs.

All the above mentioned points of the agenda stem from EUROCHAMBRES' longstanding priority of bringing the economies of the EU and its neighbouring countries closer together.

\* EUROCHAMBRES' Affiliated Members are: the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of **Albania**, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of **Armenia**, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of **Azerbaijan**, the **Belarusian** Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Foreign Trade Chamber of **Bosnia & Herzegovina**, the **Croatian** Chamber of Economy, the Economic Chamber of **FYR of Macedonia**, the **Georgian** Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the **Iceland** Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of **Moldova**, the Chamber of Economy of **Montenegro**, the Association of **Norwegian** Chambers of Commerce, the **Russian** Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of **Serbia**, the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of **Switzerland**, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of **Turkey** and the **Ukrainian** Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Altogether these Chambers represent over 1.7 million companies.

-----  
*FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr Dirk Vantghem, tel.: +32 2-282 08 78, [vantghem@eurochambres.eu](mailto:vantghem@eurochambres.eu)  
PRESS CONTACT: Ms Guendalina Cominotti, tel.: +32 2-282 08 66, [cominotti@eurochambres.eu](mailto:cominotti@eurochambres.eu)*

All our press releases can be downloaded from: [www.eurochambres.eu/press/](http://www.eurochambres.eu/press/)

EUROCHAMBRES – The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry represents over 19 million enterprises in Europe through 46 members and a European network of 2000 regional and local Chambers.