

PRESS RELEASE**The economy can build bridges between EU and Turkey
EUROCHAMBRES' President Leitl meets Turkish Premier
Erdogan**

On the occasion of today's EUROCHAMBRES Presidency meeting, hosted by the Turkish Chamber of Commerce in Istanbul, EUROCHAMBRES' President Christoph Leitl met the Turkish Premier, Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"We do not want to anticipate political decisions. However, we stand by our commitment to economic co-operation with Turkey. Such a partnership is of mutual advantage for Europe and Turkey and therefore should be further strengthened in the future. The economy can build bridges." said Mr. Leitl in the constructive working meeting with the Premier.

Mr. Erdogan pointed out the speed with which Turkey's economy has been catching up with that of Europe in the last years. Today Turkey's growth rate is similar to that of China. The country has a foreign trade volume of 154bn per € year and inflation has decreased drastically. In short, Turkey has become a stable and reliable country, whose gates are open for foreign investors. Furthermore, Mr. Erdogan pointed out the important role of the economy in keeping the peace.

Mr. Leitl said that *"attitudes cannot be changed overnight, this will take continuing, concrete exchange. Economic co-operation has a vital role to play in promoting a better understanding between peoples."*

Afterwards Mr. Leitl gave his special thanks to the Turkish Chamber of Commerce TOBB not only for hosting the EUROCHAMBRES presidency meeting, but also for its 40 year membership of EUROCHAMBRES.

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