

TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkılıoğlu:

We must use our time wisely and focus on structural reforms

At present we are in state of calm. We have not started treating the disease yet. We are taking steps to relieve the symptoms and the discomfort caused by the disease. We are only applying a dress to the wound. We are not taking drastic actions to eliminate the root cause.

High interest and FX rates and decreasing bank loans slow down the economy. The West moved from monetary expansion to monetary tightening, which forced countries like us to decrease our debts and to shrink the balance sheets. Now we must prove how we can manage these balance sheets.

Now that things are calmer, we must use this period wisely. We must introduce structural measures to decrease risk premium in interests which has gone through the roof. What needs to be done is obvious. We moved up 17 places in the Doing Business Index, with which we have proven both to ourselves and to everyone what we can achieve when we focus our efforts. Now we must exhibit similar result-oriented work in relation to other structural reforms, primarily the rule of law. If we focus on what needs to be done, we will reap the benefits again.



The 32nd Conference of the Confederation of Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) which brings Asia-Pacific market with a population of 3 billion and USD 5 trillion worth of business and Turkish business world together was held at İstanbul Çırağan Palace. The conference lasted two days with the objective to improve cooperation and trade between member countries.

In the first day of the conference, M. Rifat Hisarcıkılıoğlu, President of the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) and Vice President of CACCI held a press conference together with Samir Modi (India) who will be the president of CACCI in the next term.

M. Rifat Hisarcıkılıoğlu, TOBB President and Vice President of CACCI said, "We need to take action to find new markets. We have entered into a collaboration with the Confederation of Asia-Pacific CCI. Turkey wants a strong economic integration with the business people of Asia-Pacific region."

TOBB President Hisarcıkılıoğlu stated; "Mediterranean was the ancient world's ocean. Atlantic is the ocean of today. Pacific is the ocean of tomorrow. Asia-Pacific region has a growing importance in the global economy."

“We need a new system for agriculture and animal husbandry”



The Trade Exchanges Council Meeting of the Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) was hosted by TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu and participated by Ruhsar Pekcan, the Ministry of Trade, and Bekir Pakdemirli, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. In his opening speech, TOBB President emphasized the manpower requirement in the agriculture

and animal husbandry sectors.

TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu said, “From shepherds to hazelnut or apricot pickers, we are unable to find workers in many sectors. Today, foreigners are employed at these works. The voices of children are missing in the villages. Therefore, we need a new social security system in agriculture and animal husbandry. With your support, we must introduce a sys-

tem which has been tailored to the needs of these sectors, and which promises a better future for people.”

TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu added, “We need a new social security system in agriculture and animal husbandry. With your support, we must introduce a system which has been tailored to the needs of these sectors, and which promises a better future for people.”



“We can increase our trade fivefold as D-8 Countries”

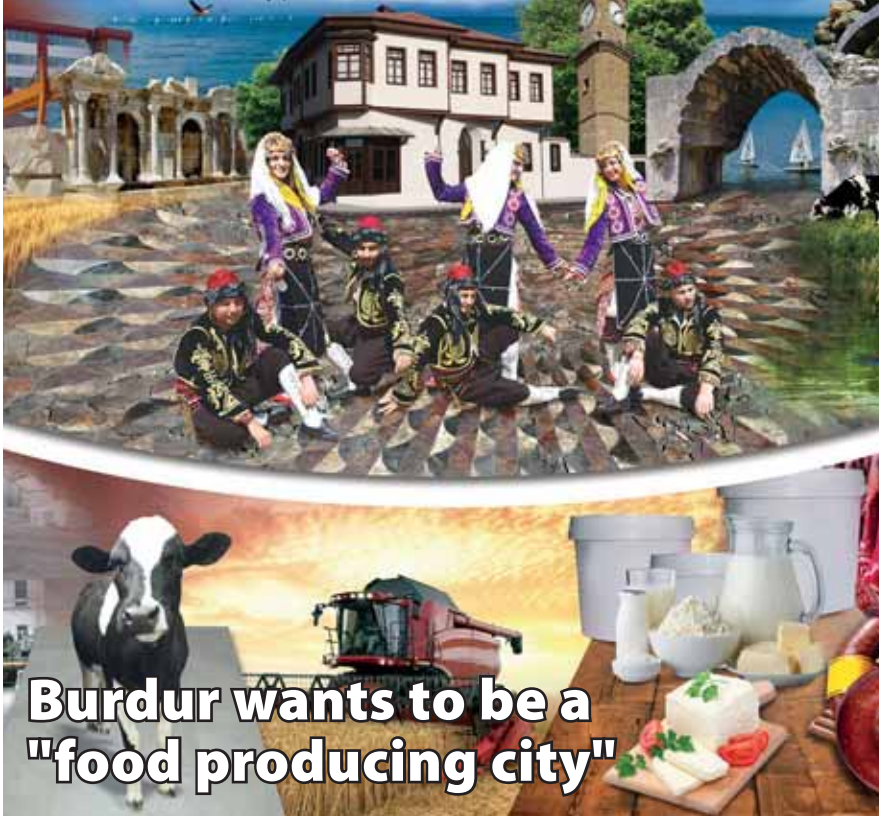
D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI) General Assembly and D-8 CCI Business Forum were held in Belek, Antalya by the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry Chairman, and the Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu.

In his opening speech at the D-8 CCI

Business Forum which was held after the D-8 CCI General Assembly, TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu said that Antalya, where the meeting was being held, was the tourism capital of Turkey, and that 14 million tourists were expected to visit the city this year.

After providing some information about the background of D-8, TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu reminded that D-8 was

created as a result of Necmettin Erbakan's vision 21 years ago. TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu said, “As D-8 countries, we can increase our trade, which is currently \$100 billion, fivefold. Remember that people's welfare depends on the strength of the economies. We have responsibilities as the representatives of the private sector.”



Burdur has not yet leveraged its potential with its agriculture and husbandry industries and achieved the level of production the city deserves due to insufficient logistic infrastructure but now the city is ready and wants to be a "food producing city". Known as the Netherlands of Turkey in reference to its position in animal husbandry, Burdur waits for "strategic plans" especially for its dairy and meat production.

Yusuf Keyik, Chairman of Buğdur Trade and Commerce Chamber says that Burdur should take advantage of Antalya, being only 120 km away and a "Food Consuming Centre".

Yusuf Keyik continues "Burdur is in the 3rd region incentive zone. However since Gaziantep, Manisa and Mersin are also in this 3rd region, it seem almost impossible to attract investors to Burdur. Burdur should be in 4th or 5th incentive zone."

Ömer Faruk Gündüzalp, Chairman of Burdur Commodity Exchange comments, "Majority of the milk harvested is sent to processing plants outside the city and processed there. We should process our milk and increase our added value by keeping our own values in the city."

The opening meeting of the Project Mahir Eller was hosted by M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, the President of Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges and Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk, Minister of Family, Labour and Social Services and Ambassador Christian Berger, Head of EU Delegation to Turkey were present at the meeting.

In his speech, TOBB President Hisarcıklıoğlu told that Turkey was faced with the most acute refugee problem since the World War II. He reminded that 7 million Syrians had to leave their country during the civil war in Syria and Turkey has welcomed half of these people.

With the "Project Mahir Eller" carried out under the management of TOBB and with funding from European Union and in cooperation with the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey, 30 thousand people will be tested for their occupational skills and 15 thousand people will receive certificates for their skills and three thousand people will be employed.

