

## TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkılıoğlu: We must grow economically and become the center of attraction



This year is the centenary of the adoption of Misak-ı Milli (Turkish National Oath), which ensouled the Turkish War of Independence, a war of great importance in our history. Misak-ı Milli is a six-point manifesto that was prepared in the last Meclis-i Mebusan (the First Parliament) of the Ottoman Empire and was adopted on January 28th, 1920. Its literal meaning is "National Pact".

There is no map attached to Misak-ı Milli. The borders are also not specified. The geographic borders of the motherland is defined in principal. The national geography is defined as the geography of people with united goals and respecting each other's laws "including and beyond" the line Turkish army was positioned on October 30th, 1918, the day Armistice of Montrose was signed on. I remember this date and those who accepted and announced this national manifesto with respect and grace. Nations need "sacred constituent texts". Misak-ı Milli is a sacred constituent text to us and it was interpreted by the history in the past century. This interpretation is today's Turkey. Our ideal of a "Great Turkey" is to grow economically within our modern borders, make our culture known globally and become an international power. It is to become a global power and center of attraction in economy, culture, democracy and law within our borders.

## Faith in the EU membership is dropping off

Even though the public opinion and perception had always played an important role in Turkey's relations with the EU, this importance increased even more once the EU accession negotiations began. The reason for that lies under the fact that EU membership means more as a social transformation than only a foreign relations matter. The "2019 Research of European Union Support and the Perception of Europe in Turkish Public Opinion" Report issued by TEPAV with the supports from Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) and the collaboration of Economic Development Foundation (İKV) is also a great source for reflecting the public's view of the EU.

According to this report, the number of citizens believing that Turkey will actually become a member of the EU decreased in a significant level. This number was



measured as 30% in 2015, 36% in 2016 and 31% in 2017, whereas in 2019, it regressed to 23%. With the increasing tension between Turkey and the EU, people started to lose faith in Turkey ever

becoming a member. While the strongest faith in membership was measured in the Southeast Turkey with 34%, the lowest amounts were measured in the western cities with 19%.



ceremony and narrated the important projects they have carried out for the city of Van.

TOBB President Mr. Hisarcıklioğlu said: "TOBB opened a new science high school in Van. We established this school for the city of Van upon the requests of our Van TSO and Commodity Exchange Market. This is not the only investment we, as TOBB, made in Van. We also carried out the construction of the outbuilding of Şehit Mehmet İzdal Primary School in 2007. I wish that these educational facilities bring prosperity and abundance to Van. We have always been there for Van, in good and in bad. We arrived here on the following day of the Van Earthquake. We provided material aids and spiritual support. We were also here when our Van TSO entered the Guinness World Records with a famous Van Breakfast of 52 thousand people. Because our border city Van is the apple of our eye. With this vision in mind, we have also renovated Kapıköy Customs Gate. We invested a total of 112 million Turkish Liras in that renovation."

**M**. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, the President of Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), attended the Employment Creators Awards Ceremony organized by Van

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TSO). The awards ceremony was hosted by Mr. Necdet Takva, the Chairman of the Board of Van TSO. TOBB President Mr. Hisarcıklioğlu gave a speech at the

## Turkey's domestic car is throwing down the gauntlet!

**T**urkey's domestic car was unveiled during the "Meeting for a Journey into the Future" event and the official Opening Ceremony of the Informatics Valley held in Gebze attended by many guests including Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the Minister of Industry and Technology Mustafa Varank, cabinet members, nongovernmental organizations and industry representatives.

M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu gave a speech at the ceremony as the Presidents of Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) and Turkey's Automobile Initiative Group (TOGG). He expressed that a huge step was taken to realize a dream that is half-a-century old and said, "During

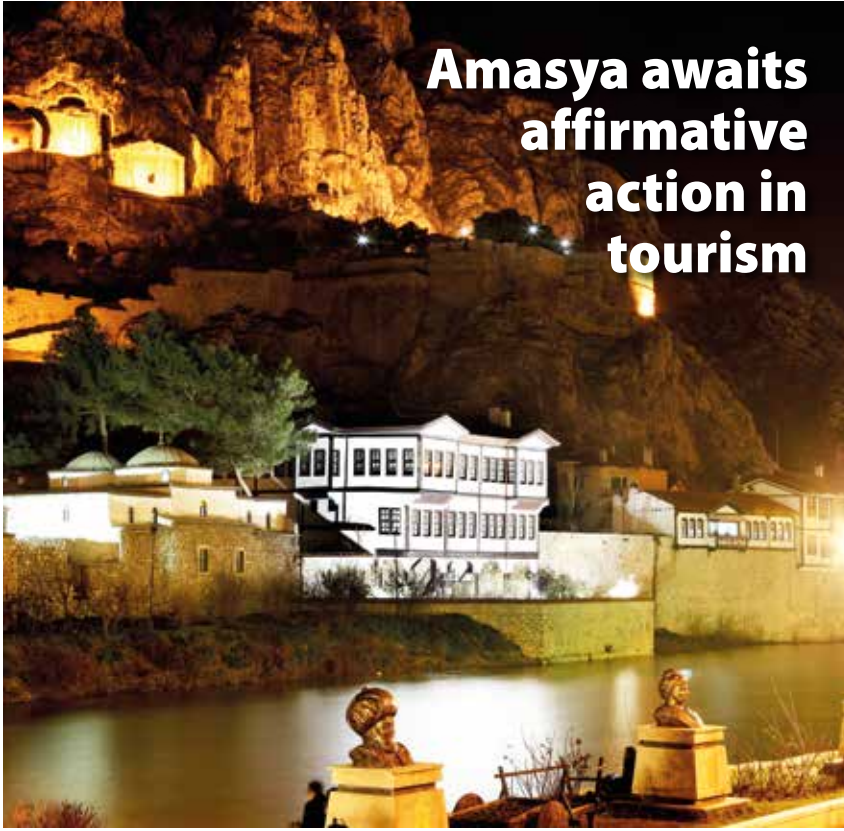


the TOBB General Assembly in 2017, our estimable Head of State, Mr. Erdoğan called upon us and asked us to undertake the job. We immediately set off this journey and assembled our brave fellows. Thanks Allah, today, we still stand behind our word."

TOBB President Hisarcıklioğlu continued; "It is more than just a car; it

is a technologic transformation, it is a transition to digital economy, it is an additional employment creator of 20 thousand spots on its own, it is USD 7.5 billion less current deficit, it is USD 50 billion contribution to the gross national product. I mean, Turkey's new car is throwing down the gauntlet!"





## Amasya awaits affirmative action in tourism

**M**urat Kırancı, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Amasya Chamber of Commerce and Industry said, "We have goals in cultural tourism, which is a challenging field in tourism sector. We are in a disadvantaged situation against sea, sand and sun tourism. For eliminating this disadvantage and ensure justice, we are awaiting affirmative action for cultural tourism in government aids in tourism sector."

Murat Kırancı added, "We are having difficulties in drawing investment to our city due to the practices in investment incentive system. The fact that certain provinces in the region involving our city have more advantageous investment incentives causes the investments to shift to those cities. Therefore, I think that it will provide benefits to take the regional proximities into consideration as well in the arrangement of investment incentive rates." Murat Kırancı stated, "We are organising trainings and personal development seminars for eliminating the lack of qualified staff and increasing the skills of present human resources in tourism. In conducting these studies, we are endeavouring to use the European Union funds and the Development Agency funds."

**T**he President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), Mr. M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu advised to increase "trade and cooperation."

TOBB President Hisarcıklioğlu said, "We have passed the time of working by ourselves in the world. He who cooperates more, wins more these days".

TOBB President Hisarcıklioğlu came together with 50 entrepreneurs from 19 countries and expressed that he had met over 900 Turkish-speaking entrepreneurs from all around the world within the framework of this project that started in 2005. TOBB President Hisarcıklioğlu expressed that one can travel from the Atlantic to the Pacific by speaking only Turkish and continued; "You can find Turkish entrepreneurs in every corner of the world. That actually is a great synergy. All we need to do is networking. That is the main goal of this program. We have a beautiful saying in our culture: There is grace and abundance in togetherness but torment in separation.

## Turkish speaking entrepreneurs want to cooperate



Lucky you for being able to come together."

TOBB President Hisarcıklioğlu emphasized that people sharing the same emotions understand each other, not

necessarily the ones that share a language. He underlined that language on its own is not enough; people should be able to feel the same way to connect.