



**JOINT STATEMENT BY CONFINDUSTRIA AND TUSIAD INTERNATIONAL --
Istanbul, 3 June 2004**

CONFINDUSTRIA and TÜSİAD International call for strategic partnership on trade and investment.

CONFINDUSTRIA (General Confederation of Italian Industry) and TÜSİAD International (Strategic Business Development Unit of Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association) gathered for the second meeting of the Joint Committee for Trade and Investment, on June 3rd, 2004 in Istanbul. Italian Minister of Productive Activities Mr. Antonio Marzano and his Turkish counterpart Mr. Ali Coşkun also participated in the meeting. TÜSİAD International President Aldo Kaslowski and Giuseppe Castelli, Confindustria Special Representative for Internationalization, co-chaired the meeting. Policies concerning SMEs were highlighted by Confindustria President of SME Sandro Salmoiraghi and by TUSIAD representatives. Recent economic developments in Turkey, cooperation on reconstruction of Iraq and possible areas of joint investments are discussed in this second meeting.

On this occasion, TÜSİAD International and CONFINDUSTRIA issued the following joint declaration:

CONFINDUSTRIA and TÜSİAD International see Turkey and Italy as strategic partners in particular for economic relations. The trade volume between Turkey and Italy jumped by 30 % this year from \$ 6,5 billion in 2002 to \$ 8.6 billion in 2003. In fact, the potential of economic cooperation goes beyond this trade volume. In this respect, CONFINDUSTRIA and TUSIAD International are working together in order to promote better flow of information, market access and joint venture between both countries.

A specific project, aiming at increasing Italian investments in Turkey and cooperation with Turkish companies has been outlined. The project consists in selecting an area of the country where Italian companies could concentrate and benefit from general advantages at central governmental level and specific advantages at local government level. Sectors of major interest will be identified. In this respect, as a first step, Confindustria will gather the interests of Italian companies and TUSIAD will provide information on possible areas and sectors to be involved in the project.

The Customs Union with the EU and recent steps to enforce stable economic and monetary policies in Turkey will contribute to the further expansion of the Turkish economy and economic relations with Italy. CONFINDUSTRIA and TÜSİAD International share the view that business could benefit greatly from the further European integration of Turkey.

CONFINDUSTRIA and TÜSİAD International point to the decisions of the European Council in Helsinki and Copenhagen granting Turkey the status of candidate for EU-membership and offering negotiations in 2005 if the conditions are met. They call on the Turkish government to ensure that the necessary political and economic reforms will be sustainable and implemented in time. If Turkey meets the political Copenhagen criteria the European Council in December 2004 should not hesitate and live up to its earlier commitments.