



November 2014

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Foreign Policy

Senior PKK leader says US could mediate in Turkey talks

The outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) wants an international mediator, possibly the United States, to help get peace talks with Turkey back on track and avert an escalation of their insurgency, a senior commander of the organization has told an Austrian newspaper.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 3, 2014, Senior PKK leader says US could mediate in Turkey talks, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/senior-pkk-leader-says-us-could-mediate-in-turkey-talks.aspx?pageID=238&nID=73800&NewsCatID=359>

#### **Erdoğan accuses international media of waging 'psychological war'**

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has accused the international media of waging a "psychological war" against Turkey, also slamming local media outlets for collaborating in this campaign.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 3, 2014, Erdoğan accuses international media of waging 'psychological war', <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/erdogan-accuses-international-media-of-waging-psychological-war.aspx?pageID=238&nID=73803&NewsCatID=338>

Turkey's opening air bases for anti-ISIL coalition would be beneficial: US commander

The U.S.-led coalition fighting against Islamic jihadists in Iraq and Syria would benefit from Turkey's permission to use its airbases, a U.S. commander has said.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 7, 2014, Turkey's opening air bases for anti-ISIL coalition would be beneficial: US commander, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-opening-air-bases-for-anti-isil-coalition-would-be-beneficial-us-commander.aspx?PageID=238&NID=74003&NewsCatID=359>

#### **Turkish Navy authorized over oil crisis with Greek Cyprus**

The Turkish Navy has been authorized by the government for the full implementation of recently amended rules of engagement in the eastern Mediterranean in the face of growing tension between littoral countries, including Turkey, Greek Cyprus, Egypt and Israel over oil and natural gas drilling projects.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 10, 2014, Turkish Navy authorized over oil crisis with Greek Cyprus, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-navy-authorized-over-oil-crisis-with-greek-cyprus-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74088&NewsCatID=510>

EU Minister regrets neglect of European public opinion

Turkey's EU Minister Volkan Bozkır has admitted failures in "correcting misperceptions" in European countries about Turkey, but vowed that the government would continue to strive to boost Turkey's image and increase the amount of high-level visits to Brussels.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 7, 2014, EU Minister regrets neglect of European public opinion, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/eu-minister-regrets-neglect-of-european-public-opinion.aspx?PageID=238&NID=73988&NewsCatID=510>

### **Turkey's decision on anti-missile system likely in early 2015**

A final decision on Turkey's disputed contract for the construction of the country's first long-range air and anti-missile defense system will most likely come in early 2015, a senior defense official said in an interview with the prominent U.S.-based defense journal Defense News.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 13, 2014, Turkey's decision on anti-missile system likely in early 2015, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-decision-on-anti-missile-system-likely-in-early-2015-.aspx?PageID=238&NID=74229&NewsCatID=483>

Turkish PM discusses Iraq-Syria crisis with Obama

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu discussed the crisis in Syria and Iraq with U.S. President Barack Obama on Nov. 15, according to the Turkish Prime Ministry.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 15, 2014, Turkish PM discusses Iraq-Syria crisis with Obama, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-pm-discusses-iraq-syria-crisis-with-obama.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74372&NewsCatID=510>

### **Turkish envoy named as senior NATO representative in Afghanistan**

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has appointed Ambassador İsmail Aramaz as the next NATO senior civilian representative (SCR) in Afghanistan, the alliance said in a written statement Nov 17.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 17, 2014, Turkish envoy named as senior NATO representative in Afghanistan, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-envoy-named-as-senior-nato-representative-in-afghanistan.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74435&NewsCatID=510>

Davutoğlu reveals plans for G-20 chair

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu called for a more inclusive Group of 20 forum on Nov. 14, saying it would give lower-income nations a stronger voice when Turkey takes over the presidency for 2015.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 14, 2014, Davutoğlu reveals plans for G-20 chair, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/davutoglu-reveals-plans-for-g-20-chair.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74361&NewsCatID=344>

### **Turkey, US meet to discuss training of Syrian rebels**

Military officials from the United States and Turkey are meeting for a third time to finalize discussions on equipping and training moderate Syrian rebels, as U.S. media outlets report that Washington is considering a shift in its Syria policy.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 14, 2014, Turkey, US meet to discuss training of Syrian rebels, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-us-meet-to-discuss-training-of-syrian-rebels.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74309&NewsCatID=510>

Widening Turkey-EU gap worries bosses group

Turkey's leading business group has noted its worry over the divergence in perception between Turkey and the European Union, adding that there was "no alternative" to joining the bloc to guarantee a secular and pluralist democracy.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 20, 2014, Widening Turkey-EU gap worries bosses group, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/widening-turkey-eu-gap-worries-bosses-group.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74616&NewsCatID=345>

### **Turkey, U.S. ease strains on Islamic State but differences remain**

Turkey and the United States smoothed over some differences in the fight against Islamic State during a weekend visit by U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, but the talks heralded little in the way of deeper military cooperation between the NATO allies.



Reuters, November 24, 2014, Turkey, U.S. ease strains on Islamic State but differences remain,  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/24/us-mideast-crisis-turkey-usa-idUSKCN0J81OX20141124>

White House, November 22, 2014, Statement to the Press by Vice President Joe Biden and Turkish President Recep Erdogan, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/11/22/statement-press-vice-president-joe-biden-and-turkish-president-recep-erd>

### **Amid Mutual Suspicion, Turkish Premier Visits Iraq**

The visit by Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, the first from a Turkish prime minister in nearly four years, was a vivid example of a scramble taking place all across the Middle East, as former adversaries are seeking to mend relationships, or at least try to work together, at a time of unprecedented crisis.

New York Times, November 20, 2014, Amid Mutual Suspicion, Turkish Premier Visits Iraq,  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/21/world/middleeast/turkey-iraq-isis-ahmet-davutoglu.html?ref=todayspaper>

### **NATO 'not considering' establishing Syria no-fly zone, top general says**

NATO is not considering establishing a no-fly zone in northern Syria, something Turkey has been calling for to alleviate security and humanitarian pressure on its southern border, one of the alliance's top generals has told Reuters.

Hurriyet Daily News, November 26, 2014, NATO 'not considering' establishing Syria no-fly zone, top general says, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/nato-not-considering-establishing-syria-no-fly-zone-top-general-says.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74860&NewsCatID=359>

## **Domestic Politics**

### **Karaman mine accident due to water accumulated in old facility: Prosecutors**

Prosecutors have cited water accumulated in an older facility as the possible cause of the flooding of a mine in the Central Anatolian province of Karaman, as rescue efforts for the 18 trapped miners continued on their seventh day.



Hurriyet Daily News, November 3, 2014, Karaman mine accident due to water accumulated in old facility: Prosecutors, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/karaman-mine-accident-due-to-water-accumulated-in-old-facility-prosecutors.aspx?pageID=238&nID=73835&NewsCatID=341>

### **Turkish government resentful, says PKK undermining the process**

The government has said actions by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) against public order, including extorting, kidnapping and interception, made the peace process "fragile" even before last month's deadly street violence that left around 35 people dead.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 10, 2014, Turkish government resentful, says PKK undermining the process, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-government-resentful-says-pkk-undermining-the-process.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74107&NewsCatID=338>

Turkish labor minister blames system for mine deaths

Labor Minister Faruk Çelik has admitted that there are systemic flaws in Turkey's mining sector, as his government continues to be criticized for mistakes leading to yet another mine tragedy that left 18 workers missing in the Central Anatolian province of Karaman.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 6, 2014, Turkish labor minister blames system for mine deaths, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-labor-minister-blames-system-for-mine-deaths.aspx?pageID=238&nID=73939&NewsCatID=338>

### **Gov't, HDP carefully reopen dialogue channels**

Turkey's government and the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) staged a make-or-break meeting in Ankara on Nov. 17, with both sides emerging to release carefully constructed announcements to help the dialogue channels remain open on the country's slow-moving Kurdish peace process.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 17, 2014, Gov't, HDP carefully reopen dialogue channels, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/govt-hdp-carefully-reopen-dialogue-channels-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74447&NewsCatID=338>

Turkish government fiercely rules out third-party involvement in peace process



“This process is a local process,” Deputy Prime Minister Yalçın Akdoğan said yesterday in an apparent response to the PKK’s demand for an international mediator, possibly the United States, to help get peace talks with Turkey back on track and avert an escalation of their insurgency.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 17, 2014, Turkish government fiercely rules out third-party involvement in peace process, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-government-fiercely-rules-out-third-party-involvement-in-peace-process.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74447&NewsCatID=338>

### **Almost 400 people arrested due to Oct 6-7 Kobane unrest**

According to figures provided by Justice Minister Bekir Bozdağ, just under 400 people have been arrested so far in relation to the Oct. 6-7 unrest.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 13, 2014, Almost 400 people arrested due to Oct 6-7 Kobane unrest, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/almost-400-people-arrested-due-to-oct-6-7-kobane-unrest.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74289&NewsCatID=341>

Reluctant deputies challenge ruling AKP at Turkish Parliament

The ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) has been facing difficulties in gathering enough deputies to conduct its legislative work in Parliament, mainly due to the reluctance of 71 MPs who will not run for reelection in June next year.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 24, 2014, Reluctant deputies challenge ruling AKP at Turkish Parliament, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/reluctant-deputies-challenge-ruling-akp-at-turkish-parliament-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74749&NewsCatID=338>

### **Turkish justice minister rejects forming of secretariat in İmralı**

Turkish Justice Minister Bekir Bozdağ has denied claims that a secretariat will be established in İmralı Island prison for the ongoing negotiations with Abdullah Öcalan, the leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), speaking late on Nov. 25.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 26, 2014, Turkish justice minister rejects forming of secretariat in İmralı, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-justice-minister-rejects-forming-of-secretariat-in-imrali.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74851&NewsCatID=338>



Turkey's main opposition engages in self-criticism on Kurdish peace bid

"We couldn't explain our suggestions to Kurdish people for the solution of the Kurdish problem. We were at fault, not you," the Republican People's Party (CHP) chair Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu said at a party meeting extraordinarily held in the southeastern province of Diyarbakır on Nov. 29.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 29, 2014, Turkey's main opposition engages in self-criticism on Kurdish peace bid, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-main-opposition-engages-in-self-criticism-on-kurdish-peace-bid.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74993&NewsCatID=338>

### **Security bill to secure Kurdish peace bid: Turkish President Erdoğan**

The controversial new security bill will "secure the fate of the resolution process," President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has said, while also repeating that there is no room for any kind of bargaining along this process.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 26, 2014, Security bill to secure Kurdish peace bid: Turkish President Erdoğan, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/security-bill-to-secure-kurdish-peace-bid-turkish-president-erdogan-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74861&NewsCatID=338>

Economy and Energy

Turkey's defense spending reaches \$13.2 billion

Turkey's defense spending stood at 29.4 billion Turkish Liras (\$13.2 billion) this year, Defense Minister İsmet Yılmaz said on Nov. 2, in response to a parliamentary question from a deputy of the opposition Nationalist Movement Party (MHP).

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 3, 2014, Turkey's defense spending reaches \$13.2 billion, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-defense-spending-reaches-132-billion-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=73821&NewsCatID=345>

### **Turkish company acquires British biscuit giant, becoming global number 3**

Turkey's Yıldız Holding has said it has acquired U.K.-based cookies and snacks maker United Biscuits from Blackstone Group and PAI Partners, thus becoming the world's third largest biscuit maker.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 3, 2014, Turkish company acquires British biscuit giant, becoming global number 3, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-company-acquires-british-biscuit-giant-becoming-global-number-3.aspx?pageID=238&nID=73836&NewsCatID=345>

Turkey to re-launch bid to privatize roads, bridges

Turkey is to revive plans to privatize two bridges across the Bosphorus Strait in Istanbul, along with a number of motorways, and aims to start the process by the first quarter of 2015, banking and government sources said on Nov. 3.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 3, 2014, Turkey to re-launch bid to privatize roads, bridges, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-to-re-launch-bid-to-privatize-roads-bridges.aspx?pageID=238&nID=73818&NewsCatID=345>

### **Turkish government announces ambitious economic goals**

The Turkish government has announced the first nine programs of a detailed economic transformation plan that is aimed at reaching ambitious economic goals and boosting the economy.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 6, 2014, Turkish government announces ambitious economic goals, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-government-announces-ambitious-economic-goals.aspx?pageID=238&nID=73956&NewsCatID=344>

Turkmenistan inks deal with Turkey to supply gas to TANAP pipeline

Turkmenistan has signed an outline deal with Turkey to supply gas to a new pipeline that could help Europe reduce its dependence on Russian gas imports. The two countries struck a so-called framework agreement on Oct. 7 for Turkmenistan, which is keen to diversify exports of its gas to world markets, to supply gas to the proposed Trans-Anatolian natural gas pipeline project (TANAP).

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 7, 2014, Turkmenistan inks deal with Turkey to supply gas to TANAP pipeline, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkmenistan-inks-deal-with-turkey-to-supply-gas-to-tanap-pipeline.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74031&NewsCatID=348>

### **Turkey's credit rating remains at risk of cut, says Moody's**



Rating agency Moody's said Nov. 5 that Turkey's sovereign credit rating was unlikely to be upgraded soon and remained at risk of a cut. Moody's currently assigns Turkey its lowest investment grade rating, Baa3, with a negative outlook.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 5, 2014, Turkey's credit rating remains at risk of cut, says Moody's, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-credit-rating-remains-at-risk-of-cut-says-moodys-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=73918&NewsCatID=344>

Turkey pledges support to US call for growth boost

Turkey is backing the United States' call to boost demand and step up growth policies, the prime minister has said during the G-20 summit, siding with the country's trans-Atlantic ally against a Germany-led group that has advised heeding financial disciplinary risks.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 17, 2014, Turkey pledges support to US call for growth boost, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-pledges-support-to-us-call-for-growth-boost.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74419&NewsCatID=359>

### **Turkey's jobless rate rises to double digits for first time in 6 months**

Turkey's unemployment rate increased to 10.1 percent in August from 9.8 percent the previous month, in line with slowing economic growth figures.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 17, 2014, Turkey's jobless rate rises to double digits for first time in 6 months, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-jobless-rate-rises-to-double-digits-for-first-time-in-6-months-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74441&NewsCatID=344>

Economic distress in Russia to have toll on Turkish economy

The pressure on the Russian economy and the contraction in its market have begun to affect Turkey, dealing a blow to its exports and tourism revenues. An increase in the perception of risk in the region is also damaging confidence in Turkey's economy.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 17, 2014, Economic distress in Russia to have toll on Turkish economy, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/economic-distress-in-russia-to-have-toll-on-turkish-economy.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74399&NewsCatID=344>



### **IMF urges structural reforms for Turkish economy**

Despite continued growth in Turkey's economy, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned that the country's government must put forward structural reforms to continue economic momentum.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 24, 2014, IMF urges structural reforms for Turkish economy, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/imf-urges-structural-reforms-for-turkish-economy.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74733&NewsCatID=344>

International Monetary Fund, November 21, 2014, IMF Executive Board Concludes 2014 Article IV Consultation with Turkey, <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2014/pr14535.htm>

US direct investments in Turkey falling short

Turkey attracted a mere \$160 million in foreign direct investments (FDI) from the U.S. in the first nine months of 2014, the president of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) has said, in a ceremony to mark the opening of the Istanbul office of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 18, 2014, US direct investments in Turkey falling short, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/us-direct-investments-in-turkey-falling-short.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74512&NewsCatID=344>

### **Turkey massively expands food exports to Russia**

Turkey's food exports to Russia surged over the first nine months of the year, with white meat exports, poultry and seafood increasing by 447 percent, Agriculture Minister Mehdi Eker has stated.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 24, 2014, Turkey massively expands food exports to Russia, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-massively-expands-food-exports-to-russia-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74752&NewsCatID=345>

Bagdad to restart oil flow to Turkey after Arbil deal

Iraq's government will restart the transport of oil to Turkey for the first time since March after it settled a long-lasting revenue row with the regional Kurdish government last week, Turkish Energy Minister Taner Yıldız said at an energy conference in Rome on Nov. 19.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 19, 2014, Bagdad to restart oil flow to Turkey after Arbil deal, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/bagdad-to-restart-oil-flow-to-turkey-after-arbil-deal.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74537&NewsCatID=348>

### **Construction forges ahead in debt, industry left behind**

The Central Bank announced last week that, as of end of September, the Turkish private sector's long-term loans have reached \$164 billion and short-term loans have reached \$112 billion. Turkey's total outstanding external debt is approaching \$402 billion, more than 50 percent of Turkey's national income. Also, 40 percent of these loans have to be renewed and paid back within 12 months, which imposes a significant amount of fragility and pressure on Turkey's economy.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 24, 2014, Construction forges ahead in debt, industry left behind, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/construction--forges-ahead-in-debt-industry-left-behind---.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74707&NewsCatID=344>

Half of all Turkish businesspeople believe corruption will continue, but don't see it as top problem

Some 46 percent of Turkish businesspeople believe corruption will increase in Turkey, according to a report issued by the Turkish Industry and Business Association (TÜSİAD), but few see corruption as one of the top three barriers to doing business in Turkey.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 27, 2014, Half of all Turkish businesspeople believe corruption will continue, but don't see it as top problem, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/half-of-all-turkish-businesspeople-believe-corruption-will-continue-but-dont-see-it-as-top-problem-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74868&NewsCatID=345>

### **Istanbul Stock Exchange hits highest point in 1.5 years after OPEC decision**

The Istanbul Stock Exchange hit its highest point in one and a half years on Nov. 28, approaching 85,000 points in the wake of OPEC's decision to refrain from cutting output despite a huge oversupply.

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Hurriyet Daily News, November 28, 2014, Istanbul Stock Exchange hits highest point in 1.5 years after OPEC decision, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/istanbul-stock-exchange-hits-highest-point-in-15-years-after-pec-decision-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74971&NewsCatID=346>