



TURKISH INDUSTRIALISTS' AND BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Press Release

Brussels, 6 October 2004

TÜSİAD: “HISTORIC PROGRESS ACHIEVED CONCERNING THE EU-TURKEY RELATIONS.”

Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (TÜSİAD) made a press release regarding the European Commission Regular Report on Turkey's progress towards accession:

“The 2004 Regular Report on Turkey drafted by the European Commission is a historical step concerning the European Union–Turkey relations. According to the report, Turkey has now, become a country that complies with the Copenhagen political criteria and thus, could start the accession negotiations with the final aim of full membership.

Since its foundation, Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (TÜSİAD) has aspired and thus, worked for Turkey to become a European democracy and to have a globally competitive economy. In this context, TUSIAD has always given priority to Turkey's relations with the EU. Since 1997, with the publication of a report entitled “Perspectives of Democratisation in Turkey” written by a very distinguished and deceased academic, Prof. Bülent Tanör, TÜSİAD has focused its efforts for Turkey's alignment with the Copenhagen political criteria. With this respect, TÜSİAD welcomes the Commission report.

We believe that hereafter, Turkey will continue to fulfil the requirements of being a European state where the rule of law is in place. Working principles proposed by the European Commission for the negotiation process could be implemented in a manner that would be beneficial for both parties.

As the reports prepared by the European Commission reveal, Turkey's accession will significantly contribute to the future of the EU's political strength, global economic competitiveness and social policies. Consequently, European Council in December should decide to start the accession negotiations with Turkey without delay in accordance with the conclusions of 2002 Copenhagen European Council. This decision will be at the same time, a test for the EU, concerning its political maturity and democratic ethics.”

For information, please contact:

Bahadır Kaleağası, TÜSİAD Representative to the EU and UNICE – Brussels T: (32) 2 736 40 47 kaleagasi@tusiad.org

MEMBER OF THE UNION OF INDUSTRIAL AND EMPLOYERS' CONFEDERATIONS OF EUROPE (UNICE)

HEADQUARTERS: 74 Meşrutiyet Caddesi Tepebaşı 80050 Istanbul Turkey Tel: 90 212 249 11 02 Fax: 90 212 249 09 13

ANKARA : 39/4 İran Caddesi Gaziosmanpaşa 06700 Ankara Turkey Tel: 90 312 468 10 11 Fax: 90 312 428 86 76

EUROPEAN UNION : 13, Avenue des Gaulois 1040 Brussels Belgium Tel: 32 2 736 40 47 Fax: 32 2 736 39 93

GERMANY : 28, Märkisches Ufer 10179 Berlin Germany Tel: 49 30 28 87 86 300 Fax: 49 30 28 87 86 399

FRANCE : 12, Rue Godot de Mauroy 75009 Paris France Tel: 33 1 42 65 16 40 Fax: 33 1 42 65 17 99

UNITED STATES: 1250, 24th Street N.W. Suite#300 Washington DC 20037 USA Tel: 1 202 776 7770 Fax: 1 202 776 7771

bxloffice@tusiad.org

www.tusiad.org