



PRESS RELEASE

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TUSIAD: “Immediate early general elections is a must to protect the integrity of secularism and democracy”

Turkish Industrialists’ and Business Association has issued the following statement assessing the recent developments related to the Presidential elections. The statement is as follows:

“The developments surrounding the election of the next President of the Turkish Republic just reached a crisis point in the wake of the opinions issued by the General Staff Headquarters on the evening of April 27. It is incumbent upon all parties to participate in a spirit of cooperation to the resolution of the crisis and act unemotionally and with responsibility.

In our view:

1. The opinions of the General Staff and the situation thereby created defy democratic principles.
2. The party in power failed to give serious consideration to the rising concerns, shared by TUSIAD, about its inadequacy to enhance the secular system.
3. To avoid any negative impact to our democratic system a decision to call immediate elections has become imperative.
4. We call on all political parties to behave responsibly and with utmost care not to exacerbate the existing polarization. The only way to secure this outcome is to ensure that the parties present their vision for the future of the country during their campaigns and concentrate the debate on concrete policy proposals.

The foundation of the Turkish Republic is the inseparable unity of secularism and democracy. It is unthinkable for us to compromise on one in favor of the other. By reducing the political tension and by going to the Turkish people for elections Turkey will come out healthier from these tense days.”

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