



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **TÜSİAD: “The Presidency ought to reflect societal consensus and democratic legitimacy.”**

Turkish Industrialists’ and Businessmen’s Association has issued the following statement in the wake of the announcement by the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) identifying its candidate for the President of the Turkish Republic. The statement is as follows:

The ruling Justice and Development Party finally made public the name of its candidate for the President of the Republic following a widely held debate to which the larger public and political parties participated. The AKP’s choice is Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül. At this juncture democratic principles necessitate that we respect the will of our Parliament.

As TUSIAD we have made our understanding and expectations of the Presidency and its role in our system amply clear over the course of the years. The Presidency ought to be an office that embraces the whole nation. We expect our President to uphold the foundational principles of our Republic, to seek the generation of societal consensus and preservation of democratic legitimacy. In addition the President should be non-partisan in his use of the office’s powers. We strongly believe that the Presidency has the responsibility to keep our country on the track of Kemal Ataturk’s goal to reach the level of contemporary civilization and must be an office that sets an example for society.

If elected, we believe that Abdullah Gül, a politician esteemed for his consensus building, will perform his duties in the framework that we have highlighted and wish him success in this highly sensitive and responsible position.

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