



TÜRK SANAYİCİLERİ VE İŞADAMLARI DERNEĞİ

THE SPEECH DELIVERED BY

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**TITLED “DOING BUSINESS IN TURKEY: A YOUNG
ECONOMY FOR YOUNG COMPANIES”**

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Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to address you today on behalf of TÜSIAD International in this conference. I would like to thank to The Pio Manzù International Research Centre for providing me with this opportunity. I believe that the conference entitled “La Potenza Nomade, Valori, Illusioni, Speranze della Gioventù Errante” would be an excellent opportunity to better understand the needs, prospects and hopes of young people at all latitudes. The Pio Manzù International Research Centre, a nongovernmental organisation in general consultative status with the United Nations, proved itself since many years as an institute for the in-depth study of the main economic and scientific aspects of the relationship between man and his environment.

With your permission, I would like to give you a brief information about the institution I am representing: Turkish Industrialists’ and Businessmen’s Association. **TÜSIAD** is one of the major non-governmental and voluntary organization which represents 44% of the Turkish private sector. Through its representative offices based in Brussels, Paris, Berlin, Washington and Beijing, TÜSIAD follows the economic and political developments in different parts of the world and promotes Turkey’s interests in these regions. We also have two academic forums in cooperation with two eminent universities of Turkey. The said forums are mainly active in the field of competition and economic research.

Within TÜSIAD, I am also the Honorary President of **TÜSIAD International**, the “Strategic Business Development” unit of the Association. TÜSIAD International is committed to work for increasing Turkey’s bilateral trade and investment relations with foreign countries by building institutional ties with counterpart organizations such as Confindustria in Italy. In addition to the emerging markets and the neighbouring countries, TÜSIAD International also works to strengthen Turkey’s economic relations with the developed countries, specifically with the EU countries.

Distinguished guests,

As we all know, transformations in the spheres of economics and labor thoroughly affected the young people’s confidences and prospects, to be exact, last global crisis has discouraged the youth about their future. For that reason, it is essential to take measures addressing initially unemployment, increasing skill levels of the youth and providing them with better access to learning. At that point, we should underline that the number of people with low skills is an obstacle for social cohesion and a threat for competitiveness and growth. Higher skilled people have more opportunity to remain in the labor market.

As TUSIAD, we see education as an essential factor in the socio-cultural, economic development and encouragement of entrepreneurship among the youth. In this respect, TUSIAD has published several reports about the key points of education which is a vital importance both for Turkey’s advancement in European Union integration process and for enhancing its strength in global competition. The question of human capital is also one of the most important dimensions of European Union’s Lisbon Strategy, which focuses on global competition force.

At that point, information society should also be underlined as a trend mainly driven by globalisation and advanced changes in technology and science. Within these conditions it is quite significant to constantly update the educational policies and educational system to accommodate and embrace the youth in a way to contribute to the competitiveness of the country.

Distinguished guests,

I also would like to mention Turkey's role as a pioneering country and economy in its region at the crossroads of the continents. In today's world, it is impossible to think of Turkey separately from any European and transatlantic references. Turkey is not only a candidate country to the EU, but also a new member of the United Nations Security Council and a participant of the G-20 group in a period as world politics undergo massive changes.

Turkey, as the 15th largest economy of the world and the 6th largest economy in the 27 EU member countries in 2008, offers a dynamic business environment and a good alternative for Italian investors in a rapidly changing marketplace, especially in these times where the global financial crisis changed the balances in the whole world. Turkey has become one of the most attractive and dynamic investment destinations for global investors in the last few years.

As to our relations with Italy, it is Turkey's one of the main partners in terms of trade and investment, needless to give now huge numeric details. However it should be underlined that Italy's Turkey's 3rd trade partner and has significant investments in Turkey. Italy and Turkey can cooperate in many sectors such as energy, tourism, infrastructure and construction, energy sector is a key area in the new landscape of the 21st century within which the world's economic regions are dependent on each other for ensuring energy security and economic stability.

Concerning our current political relations, Italy is one of the main supporters of Turkey's EU accession process, which we are very pleased. On the other hand, Turkish-Italian relations are very strong, long established and deep rooted. At the same time, close relations have been established between the two Prime Ministers Mr. Erdoğan and Mr. Berlusconi, which increased Italian business people and investors' interests in the Turkish market.

On the other hand, President of Italy H.E. Giorgio Napolitano will visit Turkey in November this year with a number of Italian business people, which is a proof for the weight of Turkey in the Italian policies and agenda. Through this visit, an Italian-Turkish Economic Summit most probably will be held on 18th of November with a very high-level participation of Turkish and Italian business community. TUSIAD and its counterpart CONFINDUSTRIA are main organizers of the event to be held in Istanbul.

Before finishing my words, I would like to emphasize once again that social cohesion is not only a social dimension but also an economic one. Raising skills, competences and hope among the youth, can enlarge social inclusion and generate significant economic development; it could have important implications for the labor market as well.

Thank you very much for your attention.