



# IKV MONTHLY

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## IKV'S NEW CHAIRMAN IS AYHAN ZEYTİNOĞLU

Ayhan Zeytinoğlu has been elected as IKV Chairman of the Board of Directors at IKV's 53<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly held on 6 July 2015.

During the General Assembly, members of IKV's Board of Directors were nominated for the period covering 2015-2017. Members of IKV's new Board of Directors are: Ayhan Zeytinoğlu, Prof. Halûk Kabaalioğlu, Zeynep Bodur Okyay, Atilla Menevşe, Şükrü Alkan, Ali Sami Aydın, Yavuz Canevi, Dr. Zeynel Abidin Erdem, İsmail Gülle, Simone Kaslowski, Işın Kestelli, İlhan Koyunseven, Ahmet Sayar, İlhan Soylu, Sedat Zincirkıran, Sami Yılmaz and Cenk Yöney.

Ayhan Zeytinoğlu studied Business Administration at the University of Indiana (United

States) in 1980 following the completion of his BA studies in London. He graduated from the University of Indiana in 1983 with honours. Afterwards, he completed his Master's degree in International Finance at Butler University in 1985. In 1986, Zeytinoğlu started working in his family enterprise. Currently, Zeytinoğlu is still working as General Director of Zeytinoğlu Feed & Pet Food Inc. (*Yem Tarım ve Endüstriyel Ürünler A.Ş.*). Ayhan Zeytinoğlu has also been acting as Vice-Presidency of the Board of Directors of

(Autoport Liman İşletmesi) which is the partner of Arkas and Zeytinoğlu Group. He is the General Coordinator of Zeytinoğlu Maritime. In 1989, he joined the Chamber of Industry of Kocaeli and he became a founding board member of the Chamber ever since its foundation. In 1995, he was appointed as Vice-Chairman and in January 2009, as the Chairman of the Chamber of Industry of Kocaeli. He is currently still serving as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Industry of Kocaeli following his re-election in May 2013.

Ayhan Zeytinoğlu also acts as the Delegate at the General Assembly of TOBB. He is also Chairman of DEİK Turkey-Australia Business Council and Vice-Chairman of the DEİK Turkey-New Zealand Business Council. Furthermore, he is member of the Board of Directors of the Turkish-American Chamber of Commerce and Industry and of the ICC/WCF General Council of the World Chambers Federation. Ayhan Zeytinoğlu is also the Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Working Group within the framework of B20 Turkey.



## IKV'S 53<sup>rd</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY



IKV's 53<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly was held on 6 July 2015 in Istanbul with the participation of the delegates of the General Meeting and representatives of IKV's Founder and Trustee Organizations. The General Assembly was chaired by IKV Vice-President and Dean of Yeditepe University Law Faculty Prof. Halûk Kabaalioğlu.

Ömer Cihad Vardan who has been acting as IKV Chairman since 16 January 2014 left his post due to his workload stemming from DEİK's chairmanship.

In his opening speech, former IKV Chairman Vardan presented an overview of the latest developments regarding Turkey-EU relations. He referred to the opening of the chapter on Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments to negotiations, the signing of the Readmission Agreement and the launch of the visa liberalization dialogue as well as the decision to revise the Customs Union. Vardan also presented the various activities and projects carried out by IKV in 2014 and 2015 such as the establishment

of the FTA Information and Capacity Building Center and the public opinion conducted to identify the level of awareness on the EU and support for Turkey's EU membership among Turkish public opinion. Reminding that this year IKV has celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, they have created the slogan "Turkey's EU Expert". He also shared the activities carried out by IKV as a leading member in C20 Steering Committee during Turkey's G20 Presidency.

During his speech, İHKİB President Hikmet Tanrıverdi shared

his experience of working in close cooperation with IKV in joint projects while serving as a member of the Board of Directors during two and half terms.

ISO President Erdal Bahçivan emphasized the important role played by IKV in Turkey's EU accession process with its 50-year experience. In his speech, he focused on the problems encountered by Turkey within the current way of functioning of the Customs Union. In this respect, he explained that it was unacceptable to have restrictions on the free movement of Turkish businessmen while Turkish goods could freely move to the EU. He thus encourages the initiative taken by Turkish and European authorities to revise the Custom Union and to expand its scope in parallel to the development of new trade conditions. Lastly, pointing out to the increase of prejudice and hatred on a global scale, he ensured that Turkey's EU accession would contribute to peace in Europe and in the world.

In his speech, TOBB Vice-President Halim Mete explained that for over 50 years, IKV not only contributed

in Turkey-EU relations but also played an important role in informing and keeping the business world updated with the latest developments. He stated that the Turkish business community considers Turkey's EU accession as a win-win situation for both parties. Although Turkey has undergone important reforms in the economic and political fields in order to fulfil the Copenhagen and Maastricht criteria, Mete pointed out that the pace of structural reforms slowed down. In this respect, he stressed the importance of opening chapters on Energy, Economic and Monetary Union, Judiciary and Fundamental Rights and Justice, Freedom and Security to negotiations. In his speech, Mete also referred to the revision of the Customs Union and explained that this process should proceed with close dialogue and consultation mechanism with all segments of the society. Lastly, he also insisted that Turkey should not remain outside the TTIP process.



## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN TURKEY



The elections for the President of the New Parliament took place on 30 June-1 July 2015. Former Defense Minister İsmet Yılmaz, candidate of the Justice and Development Party, was elected as the new President of the Parliament.

The elections started on 30 June 2015; yet in the first three rounds none of the candidates could secure the majority of the votes in order to be elected as the new President. In the first round, the candidate of the Justice and Development Party İsmet Yılmaz obtained 256 votes; the candidate of the Republican People's Party Deniz Baykal received 125 votes. The candidates of the Nationalist Movement Party Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and People's Democratic Party Dengir Mir Mehmet Fırat received 81 votes. The second round also took place on 30 June but none of the candidates could obtain the majority of the votes. Due to failure of securing the required number of votes in the third round which took place on 1 July, İhsanoğlu and Fırat were eliminated in this round; the fourth round of the election took place therefore only between Yılmaz and Baykal. While Baykal received 182 votes, Justice and Development Party candidate İsmet Yılmaz with 258 votes was elected as the new President of the Parliament.

On 9 July, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan gave mandate for establishing the 63<sup>rd</sup> Government of Turkey to Prime Minister Prof. Ahmet Davutoğlu. Following the mandate, Davutoğlu started coalition talks with the leaders of the three political parties represented in the Parliament. After completion of the first round of coalition talks without any agreement between the parties, the second round started on 21 July 2015.

# LUXEMBOURG TOOK OVER THE EU COUNCIL'S PRESIDENCY

Turkey is hopeful for new chapters to be opened during Luxembourg's Presidency of the Council of the EU.

After 10 years, Luxembourg took over the Presidency of the Council of the EU from Latvia for six months as of 1 July 2015. It is the last country to take over the presidency from the 18-month Trio Programme formed with Italy and Latvia. Although leading the Presidency of the Council of the EU for the 12<sup>th</sup> time, it is the first time that Luxembourg takes over the EU Presidency under the auspices of the Lisbon Treaty which has given new competences to the Union and established a new institutional balance.

The Luxembourg Presidency emphasizes the importance to re-establish a strong link with every citizen. Thus, its main motto is determined as a "Union for citizens". Indeed, it has outlined three guiding principles: listening to the citizens, supporting businesses, cooperating with partners and institutions in order to act in the interests of Europe.

One of the most important items in the agenda of the

Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

GRAND DUCHY OF **Luxembourg**

Luxembourg Presidency is to further progress in the negotiations on the Inter-Institutional Agreement on Better Regulation prepared by the European Commission. This agreement will enable better inter-institutional cooperation which should improve the quality of legislation by ensuring that the interests and needs of citizens are at the forefront.

The programme of the Luxembourg Presidency gives an emphasis on the implementation of the Strategic Agenda for the Union adopted by the European Council on 26-27 June 2014 which outlined the key priorities for the EU over the next five years. The programme also takes into account the policy orientations of the President of the Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, the annual work programme of the Commission and the work of the 'Trio' Presidency.

The priorities of the Presidency are as follows:

- Stimulating investment to boost growth and employment;
- Deepening the EU's social dimension;

- Managing migration, combining freedom, justice and security;
- Revitalising the single market by focusing on its digital dimension;
- Placing European competitiveness in a global and transparent framework;
- Promoting sustainable development;
- Strengthening the EU's presence on the global stage.

The Luxembourg Presidency explicitly refers to Turkey's negotiations process within the framework of the agenda of other candidate states' negotiations process. In this regard, the Luxembourg Presidency ensures that it will encourage the opening of new chapters to negotiation with Turkey, Serbia and Montenegro on equal footing once the necessary conditions have been fulfilled in that respect.

Luxembourg is among the EU Member States that have actively supported Turkey's EU membership from an early

beginning. In 2013, Grand Duke Henri visited Turkey – the first state visit since 1947 – and emphasized in his speech that Luxembourg supports taking further steps on Turkey-EU relations and fostering closer and stronger bilateral relations. Furthermore, in 2014, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg Jean Asselborn declared that his government is supportive of Turkey's accession process and that Luxembourg will take the necessary steps during their term presidency. In November 2014, Minister Asselborn made a statement where he further stressed that during the Luxembourg Presidency his government will strive to open three chapters to the negotiations process. These chapters are Judiciary and Fundamental Rights, Justice, Freedom and Security and Economic and Monetary Policy. Moreover, it can be added that it is likely that Turkey's role as regards to migration and energy issues and the ongoing economic crisis will be further taken on board during the Luxembourg Presidency.

## MINISTER FOR EU AFFAIRS BOZKIR ATTENDED IKV'S IFTAR DINNER



Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Volkan Bozkır attended on 3 July 2015 IKV's iftar dinner hosted by the then IKV Chairman Ömer Cihad Vardan.

Alongside Minister Bozkır, Undersecretary of the Ministry for EU Affairs R. Engin Soysal, representatives of foreign diplomatic missions, Chairman of the Istanbul Chamber of Industry Erdal Bahçivan on behalf of IKV's founding organizations; representatives from IKV's trustees and supporting organizations;

IKV's former Chairman Davut Ökütçü and Members of IKV's Board of Directors were among the guests attending the iftar dinner.

In his opening speech, Minister Bozkır underscored that while Turkey's prolonged membership process has confirmed Turkey's determination

in joining the EU, IKV has also shown the same determination with its activities. Referring to the recent political developments, Minister Bozkır stated that the 7 June general elections, confirmed the credibility and strength of Turkey's democracy. Furthermore, Minister Bozkır argued that regardless of which party or

coalition comes to power, EU membership will remain a strategic goal for Turkey.

During his speech, Romanian Ambassador to Turkey, Radu Onofrei stated that Romania is one of the EU countries supporting Turkey's EU membership and shared his strong belief that Turkey's EU membership should happen in the near future.

The then IKV Chairman Ömer Cihad Vardan gave detailed information in his speech about the main activities carried out by IKV since he took over the Chairmanship of IKV's Board of Directors. Vardan underlined that IKV will continue to follow up the latest developments regarding the ongoing negotiation process and to give its recommendations on how to overcome the obstacles encountered within the framework of this process.

## C20 REGIONAL CONSULTATION FORUM TOOK PLACE IN BRUSSELS

C20 Regional Consultation Forum was held on 29-30 June 2015 in Brussels. The C20 Regional Consultation Forum which is the first meeting held outside the host country within the C20 activities took place with the participation of more than 60 representatives from Europe based civil society organizations.

The opening speech of the C20 Regional Consultation Forum was given by C20 Turkey Chair of the Steering Committee and IKV Vice-President Zeynep Bodur Okyay. In her speech, Okyay informed the participants about the latest developments and activities carried out under C20 Turkey. She called upon the European civil society to participate to the C20 process. Furthermore, C20 Chair Okyay



emphasized the importance of the C20 in terms of strengthening the voice of low-income developing countries. In her final remarks, C20 Chair Okyay shared details about the C20 Turkey Summit which will take place in Istanbul on 15-16 September 2015. Following the opening speech of C20 Chair Okyay, the Forum proceeded with the discussions focused on the recommendations developed

by the C20 Working Groups on the issues of gender equality, governance, inclusive growth and sustainability.

C20 Delegation also visited the President of the European Economic and Social Committee Henri Malosse and Permanent Representative of Turkey to the EU his Excellency Ambassador Selim Yenel. Following this working meeting, the C20 Delegation visited the European Commission's Head of Turkey Unit Patrick Paquet and Rapporteur on Turkey of the European Parliament Kati Piri. During the meetings, the C20 Delegation gave detailed information on the priority areas and policy recommendations of C20 Turkey. Additionally, on 30 June 2015, C20 Turkey Chair Okyay and

C20 Turkey Delegation held a breakfast working meeting with representatives of the European Parliament. Member of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament Richard Howitt, Cabinet Member of the European Commission Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis, Tatyana Panova and European Commission's Head of Turkey Unit Patrick Paquet attended to the meeting organized by IKV and Friends of Turkey in the European Parliament. Following the opening speech delivered by C20 Chair Okyay, C20 Working Group Chairs informed participants about the activities carried out and recommendations developed by the Working Groups.

### TURKEY GREW BY 2.3% IN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER OF 2015

The Turkish Statistical Institute released 2015 quarterly GDP growth data on 10 June 2015. Turkish economy recorded a 2.3% growth in the first quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. Turkey performed beyond expectations, surpassing the expected 1.6%. Household final consumption was the main driver of the growth in first quarter of the year which increased by 4.5% compared to the same quarter of the previous year. According to the latest forecasts released by the World Bank in July, the growth forecast for the full year 2015 is 3%. The growth forecast for 2016 and 2017 is downgraded from 3.9% and 3.7% respectively to 3.5% for both years, against the backdrop of uncertain political outlook in a gradually tightening global financial environment.

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING VISA-FREE TRAVEL FOR TURKISH CITIZENS

In a press conference organized on 7 July 2015 by IKV, lawyer in Soysal Case Prof. Rolf Gutmann and Member of the Yeditepe University Faculty of Law Dr. Murat Uğur Aksoy updated the journalists with the latest developments in the visa-free journey to Europe of Turkish citizens. While reminding that the *Soysal* Case (2009) opened the doors to the free movement of Turkish citizens in Europe within the framework of trade relations, Prof. Gutmann mentioned that the *Demirkan* Case was a reversal of the developments achieved with the *Soysal* Case.

Prof. Gutmann stated that the free movement of goods and people cannot be considered independently from each other. In this respect, stressing the need to tackle this issue from a new perspective, he referred to a trade agreement signed between Turkey and Germany in 1930. Article 8 of this agreement recognizes the freedom of movement of tradesmen as well as the freedom to buy or sell goods. However, tradesmen were required to obtain a certificate of proficiency from the authorities of either party before trading. Following the Second World War, Germany provisionally adopted the trade agreement which was later updated in 1952. By emphasizing that this agreement was protected by the EU, Prof. Gutmann stressed that Turkey has the opportunity to use this agreement to defend its standpoint on the visa issue. He called upon the Turkish business community to apply for a certificate of proficiency to the relevant authorities by organizing the D Annex documents within the framework of the agreement.

## FIRST YEAR OF THE READMISSION AGREEMENT BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE EU

A total of 813,339 short term Schengen visa applications were made in 2014 by Turkish citizens costing 48.8 million euros without even taking into account additional costs.

The 25 June 2015 was marked as the first year of the ratification of the Readmission Agreement between Turkey and the EU by the Turkish Grand National Assembly. This constituted an important turning point for the Turkish citizens on the road to visa-free travel to the EU. As calculated, in 2014, a total of 813,339 short term (Type C) Schengen visa applications were made by Turkish citizens costing 48.8 million euros without even including the additional costs (such as



the transportation fees, bank commission, accommodation charge, insurance expenses, pin code fee). In the process of the

Visa Liberalization Dialogue which started with the mutual signing of the Readmission Agreement by Turkey and

the EU in 2013, the European Commission assessed that Turkey fulfilled or almost fulfilled the requirements in 22 criteria; partially fulfilled requirements in 40 criteria and did not fulfill requirements in 10 criteria out of the 72 technical criteria.

Following the first year of the ratification of the Readmission Agreement, the first meeting on the application of Turkey-EU Readmission Agreement took place in Brussels on 13 July 2015 with the participation of large delegations from both parties.

## IKV'S EU LAW SUMMER SCHOOL TOOK PLACE AT THE YEDITEPE UNIVERSITY

IKV, TOBB and Yeditepe University in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of the University of Amsterdam organized the Ninth Annual EU Law Summer School between 22 June and 7 July 2015 in Istanbul.

Within the framework of the EU Law Summer School, lectures on EU Constitutional Law, Internal Market Law, free movement of persons as well as on EU and Turkey external relations within the perspective of WTO and regional trade agreements were given to participants. Professors

from the Amsterdam University School of Law, John Mathis, Ronald Van Ooik, Thomas Vandamme, Annette Schrauwen and Margerite Turhan lectured on the different aspects of EU law and informed the students on the basic principles and operating methods regarding EU law. Advocate-General at the Court of Justice of the EU, Prof. Nils Wahl shared the latest developments in Competition Case Law from the Court. Lawyer in Soysal Case Prof. Rolf Gutmann also gave detailed information on Turkish citizens' rights under the EU Law. Various



participants attended the summer school including lawyers, students, academics, bureaucrats and NGO representatives, and from various parts of the world including Kiev, Kazan and Samara. The participants received their certificates at a ceremony organized at the

Yeditepe University from Prof. Dr. Kabaaliöçlü, Vice-President of IKV and Dean of Faculty of Law at Yeditepe University. The EU Law Summer School is now being held for the 9<sup>th</sup> time and has earned a reputation for being the only one of its kind organized in Turkey.

## EU MINISTER'S VISIT TO STRASBOURG AND BRUSSELS

On 7 July 2015, Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Volkan Bozkır paid an official visit to Strasbourg and Brussels in order to discuss Turkey-EU relations and the Syrian crisis with EU officials.

During his visit to Strasbourg, Minister Bozkır met with Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn, EP's Rapporteur for Turkey Kati Piri and Chairman of the EP's Foreign Affairs Committee Elmar Brok. He also attended an iftar dinner organized by the Alliance of European Conservatives and Reformists at the EP.

Following the meetings, Minister Bozkır came together with Commissioners for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality Vera Jourova and for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides in Brussels. During these meetings, the leaders shared concerns on the slower pace of the reform process in Turkey and on the Syrian crisis. During his visit to Brussels, Minister Bozkır also met with Stefano Manservigi, the Head of Cabinet of EU High Representative of the EU for Foreign and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini.

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# LEADERS IN CYPRUS ENTER INTO SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS

On 29 June 2015, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) Mustafa Akıncı and Leader of the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus (GCASC) Nicos Anastasiades entered into substantive negotiations regarding the unresolved core issues in the latest round of UN-led comprehensive settlement talks.

Following the leaders' meeting, UN Secretary General's Special Adviser on Cyprus Espen Barth Eide confirmed that Akıncı and Anastasiades have entered into substantive negotiations, which implies that they began discussing the unresolved core issues regarding the Cyprus issue; namely power-sharing and governance, property, territory, economic issues, EU membership and guarantees. In a statement made on behalf of the leaders, Special Adviser Eide indicated that in the meeting, which was held in a positive and results-oriented atmosphere, the leaders made progress in chapters on governance, property and criteria on territory and exchanged views on the economic

issues related to the prospective settlement. According to Eide, the leaders also deliberated on the implementation of the confidence-building measures.

On 8 July 2015, Akıncı and Anastasiades came together in the event co-organized by the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce and the Greek Cypriot Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The leaders shared their respective visions regarding the economy of Cyprus following the prospective settlement.

They also met on 10 July 2015 for the sixth leaders' meeting within the framework of the latest round of UN-led settlement talks. In his statement, Special Adviser Eide told the reporters that the



leaders continued discussing core issues and evaluated the implementation of the confidence-building measures. Eide indicated that while respecting the bi-zonal and bi-communal character of the prospective settlement, the leaders acknowledged that having the founding values and principles

of the EU embedded in the prospective settlement is crucial. In his statement, Eide also underlined that the leaders welcomed the EU's commitment to work towards the achievement of a comprehensive settlement and to prepare for the application of the EU acquis throughout the island.

## HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS AND THE EU

In July, two major high-level visits took place between the TRNC and the EU. At the beginning of the month, President of the TRNC Mustafa Akıncı paid an official visit to Brussels, whereas on 16-17 July the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker visited the island for the first time.

During his visit to Brussels on 29 June, President of the TRNC Akıncı met with the leaders of the three key EU institutions; President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Council Donald Tusk and President of the EP Martin Schulz, as well as leaders and representatives of political groups in the EP. During the meetings, President Akıncı underscored that it is imperative for the EU to further develop its relationship with the Turkish Cypriot community, which following a prospective comprehensive settlement, is set to become part of the EU.

Commenting about his meeting with the President of the European Commission Juncker, President Akıncı called upon the EU to further strengthen its relations with the Turkish Cypriot community and urged the Turkish community to be ready to take its rightful place in the EU following the prospective settlement. He furthermore conveyed to Juncker that to avoid



being overruled by the ECJ, the prospective settlement needs to be adopted as EU primary law. During his meeting with the President of the European Council Tusk, President Akıncı highlighted the contribution the prospective settlement would make to the stability in the region. In a joint press conference with EP President Schulz, President Akıncı told reporters that the Turkish Cypriots want to become part of the international system and an integral part of the EU after having being isolated for decades. EP President Schulz stated that it is in the highest interest of the EU that the ongoing talks were successful and confirmed that

the EP was ready to do whatever was necessary to contribute to the success of the comprehensive settlement talks in the island.

On 16 July, the President of the European Commission Juncker travelled to Cyprus for a two-day official visit. The UN-led negotiation process, economy of the GCASC and energy issues were the major items on Juncker's agenda. Within the framework of his visit, Juncker was received by the President of the TRNC Akıncı, who following their meeting, introduced Juncker to the representatives of the Turkish Cypriot political parties that hold seats in the TRNC's assembly. Following the meeting, President

Akıncı told reporters that they discussed ways in which the European Commission can better help Turkish Cypriots prepare for the period following the settlement. Indicating that the Turkish Cypriots will become part of the EU following the settlement which is a probability within months, President Akıncı underscored that they expect the EU to provide the necessary support to prepare Turkish Cypriots for this scenario.

During his visit, Juncker also met with GCASC President Anastasiades and addressed the plenary of the GCASC assembly. Juncker announced his decision to reappoint Pieter Van Nuffel as his Personal Representative to the UN Good Offices Mission in Cyprus to provide political and technical advice to the parties. Furthermore, Juncker also confirmed that during his meeting with the leaders of TRNC and GCASC, a common understanding on the geographical protection of Hellim/Halloumi cheese was reached.