



"Turkey's EU Expert"

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



“Turkey’s EU Expert” IKV, a research organization specialized in the field of Turkey-EU relations, was established two years after the signing of the Ankara Agreement in 1963 which constitutes the foundation of the relations between Turkey and the then European Economic Community. IKV is an important indication of the farsightedness of the Turkish private sector concerning the potential benefits of the relations between the two parties.



The year 2013 was celebrated as the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Ankara Agreement which constitutes the legal basis of the relations between Turkey and the EU.

In 2015, we have entered the 10th year in Turkey-EU accession negotiations.

Despite being situated in a turbulent region, Turkey remains for many different regions a source of inspiration with its dynamic private sector, economic governance and demographical structure.

Without doubt, the increase of Turkey's economic and social dynamism, the progress made in regard to democracy and human rights and its transformation to an important regional power and economic actor have contributed tremendously to the EU process. The relations with the EU have encouraged Turkey to move forward. Turkey's application for full membership in 1987, the establishment of the Customs Union in 1996, the recognition of the EU candidate status in 1999 and the beginning of negotiations in 2005 constitute major milestones for Turkey in its relations with the EU. The reforms undergone in Turkey have raised Turkey to an upper level status in terms of social welfare and development. The time has come for EU to crown Turkey with the status of full membership.

While leaving half a century behind in the relations between Turkey and the EU, we are still disappointed that despite all the progress being made, Turkey's full membership status has still not been realized. We, as IKV, with the consciousness that EU membership is a lengthy process that requires patience, keep in mind the importance of carrying out our Foundation's responsibilities in this path.

Turkey's goal for EU membership remains a priority. This goal constitutes a driving force for Turkey in its search for modernization and for its citizens to embrace prosperous and higher standards of living.

The establishment of IKV, known as "Turkey's EU Expert", just two years after the signing of the Ankara Agreement in 1963 which constitutes the foundation of the relations between

Turkey and the then European Economic Community, is an important indication of the farsightedness of the Turkish private sector concerning the two parties.

For 50 years, with the desire to have a Turkey open to different parts of the world, our Foundation has contributed to the integration of our country into the modern global system. Since its establishment, IKV explained on the one hand the European vision to Turkey and on the other hand Turkey's potential to Europe with the support of its Founders, Trustees and Supporters, without deviating from its mission and objectives and also without losing its faith that Turkey will take its due place within the European integration.

In its 50th anniversary, IKV maintains this vision and faith with the support and contribution of its esteemed stakeholders.

While leaving 50 years behind in our Foundation, we owe a debt of gratitude to Istanbul Chamber of Industry and Istanbul Chamber of Commerce as IKV's Founders; to the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, our most important contributor as well as to the Banks Association of Turkey, Turkish Exporters Assembly, Turkish Confederation of Employer Associations, Istanbul Commodity Exchange, Turkish Industry and Business Association, Union of Agricultural Chambers of Turkey, Istanbul Textile and Apparel Exporters' Association as our Foundation's Trustees; and to all of our Supporters.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all our former Chairmen, Members of the Board of Directors and Team of Researchers who have endeavored over the course of 50 years to carry out our Foundation's responsibilities without deviating from Turkey's goal of EU membership.

Ömer Cihad Vardan
Chairman

WHO WE ARE?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (IKV)

IKV which is as old as the history of Turkey-EU relations itself was established on 26 November 1965, two years after the signing of the Ankara Agreement which marks the beginning of the association relation between Turkey and the EU.

IKV which was established to monitor and evaluate EU and Turkey-EU relations, to inform the public and to represent the Turkish business community within the EU, was the result of a pioneering endeavour of the then President of Istanbul Chamber of Commerce Behçet Osmanağaoğlu and Istanbul Chamber of Industry Fazıl Zobu.

With its head office in Istanbul and a Permanent Representation in Brussels since 1984 which is the first representative office of the Turkish private sector within the EU, IKV has, over the past 50 years, increased its

activities, expanded its target group and strengthened its mission in all its activities and sought to respond to the evolving needs of its trustees and supporters as well as new needs associated with the developments both in the EU and in Turkey-EU relations.

As of 2015, along with the two founding organizations, Istanbul Chamber of Commerce and Istanbul Chamber of Industry, IKV trustee delegation is composed of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, Banks Association of Turkey, Turkish Exporters Assembly, Turkish Confederation of Employer Associations, Istanbul Commodity Exchange, Turkish Industry and Business Association, the Union of Agriculture Chambers of Turkey and Istanbul Textile and Apparel Exporters' Association. IKV also has many "Foundation Supporters" composed of various representative organizations and companies.

"TURKEY'S EU EXPERT" IKV;

Has been serving Turkey's goal of EU membership for 50 years regardless of any conjunctural changes,

Is a non-profit organization, does not have any ideological motives and / or connections, maintains the same distance to all political parties,

Does not receive any financial support from the government, is supported entirely by the private sector,

Has been expressing its impartial views and evaluations on the EU and Turkey-EU relations,

Has established a well-deserved reputation as a respected and trustworthy "Specialized Organization"; i.e. Turkey's "EU Expert" thanks to the knowledge and experience accumulated over the years.



FOUNDERS

İSTANBUL CHAMBER OF
INDUSTRY



İSTANBUL CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

**TRUSTEES**

UNION OF
CHAMBERS AND
COMMODITY EXCHANGES
OF TURKEY



TURKISH EXPORTERS
ASSEMBLY



İSTANBUL TEXTILE AND
APPAREL EXPORTERS'
ASSOCIATION



İSTANBUL COMMODITY
EXCHANGE



TURKISH BANK
ASSOCIATIONS



TURKISH
CONFEDERATION
OF EMPLOYER
ASSOCIATIONS



UNION OF AGRICULTURAL
CHAMBERS OF TURKEY



TURKISH INDUSTRY AND
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



IKV Team, 2015

FORMER CHAIRMEN

Founders: Behçet Osmanağaoğlu-Fazıl Zobu
(1965-1975)



Ertuğrul Soysal
(1976-1978)



Basri Öztekin
(1979-1982)



Refik Baydur
(1982-1983)



Asım Kocabıyık
(1983-1987)



Jak Kamhi
(1987-1992)



Sedat Aloglu
(1992-1994)



Meral Gezgin Eriş
(1995-2002)



Davut Okütçü
(2003-2007)



Prof. Dr. Halük
Kabaaliioğlu
(2007-2014)



Ömer Cihad Vardan
(2014-)

OUR GOALS

Since its establishment, IKV pursues with determination and without interruption its activities and responsibilities in line with Turkey's goal of EU membership regardless of the fluctuations in Turkey's EU membership process. In this respect, with the same commitment and effort, IKV continues its research-oriented, informative, promotional, educational and coordination activities with the aim of accelerating Turkey's EU membership process and actively supporting the achievement of this goal in a very short period of time.

To contribute to the economic and social development of Turkey;

To carry out activities that will help Turkey develop its relations with other countries, economic groups and in particular with the EU;

To organize seminars, conferences, panels and similar meetings with the aim of informing Turkish public;

To ensure cooperation and coordination within the business community in Turkey and abroad;

To formulate opinions on Turkey-EU relations by strengthening the cooperation and ensuring the exchange of information with all interested public and private organizations;

To monitor and evaluate the new developments in the EU and to inform the public about the impact of these changes on Turkey;

To contribute to the promotion of Turkey in abroad.



IKV Board of Directors consists in total of 19 members: 17 Members of the Board of Directors being elected among the delegates of founding and trustee organizations and 2 auditors.

OUR ACTIVITIES

In accordance with its goals, IKV carries out activities analysing the European integration process, all EU policies and their impact on Turkey, Turkey's level of harmonization with the EU and Turkey-EU relations in all its aspects.

Even during the most stagnant periods of Turkey-EU relations, keeping its confidence and determination in Turkey's EU membership goal, IKV has always been a pioneer with its research, informative and communication activities.

IKV does not focus only on the current agenda of Turkey-EU relations, but also deals with long-term issues that have future-oriented perspectives.

In this respect, IKV endeavours to inform the business community and the public and also carries out an early warning function the process of our country's path towards EU membership.

OUR ACTIVITIES

INFORMATIVE ACTIVITIES

COORDINATION OF AN NGO PLATFORM TO SUPPORT TURKEY'S EU PROCESS

IKV organizes seminars, conferences and panels on EU and Turkey-EU relations to inform the public both in Turkey and various EU countries with the participation of high-level representatives and experts from Turkey and the EU.

In these informative activities carried out with the aim of formulating opinions and proposals in regards to Turkey-EU relations, IKV closely monitors the developments in EU and Turkey-EU relations while it is in constant dialogue and exchange of information with the public and private sector in formulating these opinions.

Both in its Istanbul head office and Brussels Representation, IKV also carries out extensive coordination, promotional and lobbying activities *vis-à-vis* Turkish and European public institutions, representatives of EU Member States and other civil society organizations and ensures the constant transfer of its accumulated knowledge to the public by means of national and foreign media.

The **“Window to EU”** and **“Window to Turkey”** conference series organized by IKV targeting officials of EU institutions in Brussels and business circles in Turkey constitute a good example of these activities.

In the **“Window to EU”** meetings, representatives of the business community from Turkey, members of civil society organizations, academics, experts and officials of EU institutions gather to discuss the latest developments in the EU and relations with Turkey.

In the **“Window to Turkey”** meetings, experts from Turkey provide information about Turkey's history and culture as well as the recent economic and political developments.

In line with the support provided by the representatives of the Turkish business community, IKV assumes a coordinating role in the relations between the EU institutions and public in regard to EU affairs.



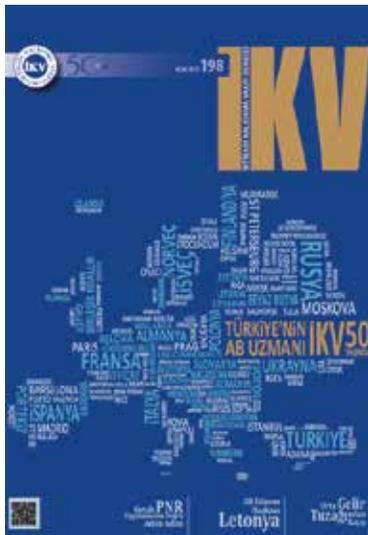
Window to Turkey, 2014, Brussels

Under the **“Turkey Platform”** established with the participation of over 250 civil society organizations and under the coordination of IKV, communication, promotional and lobbying activities are carried out especially in critical periods of Turkey-EU relations.

*Turkey Platform,
2011, Istanbul*



IKV MAGAZINE “Turkey’s only journal on Turkey-EU relations”



First issue published back in March 1981, IKV Magazine which got together again with its readers with its 150th issue published in 2010, is the only regular monthly journal on Turkey-EU relations that includes various articles on the latest developments in Turkey, EU and Turkey-EU relations.

IKV NEWSLETTER AND IKV MONTHLY



Since 2004, the IKV weekly e-newsletter published in Turkish informs its readers about the current developments in EU and Turkey-EU relations. Since 2014, “IKV Monthly” informs foreign readers especially on the current developments in Turkey and Turkey’s EU accession process.

IKV WEBSITE AND MICRO WEBSITES



IKV website, available in Turkish and English which have been updated in accordance with the new requirements of the modern era, present to stakeholders not only news and announcements related to the latest developments in Turkey-EU relations but also general information on main EU policies and detailed brief notes on the EU , Turkey-EU relations and accession negotiations.

IKV website is enriched with the introduction of new micro websites that present interactive applications concerning important topics of Turkey-EU relations.

IKV PROJECTS

“IMPORTANT ACCUMULATION OF EXPERTISE IN EU PROJECTS”

IKV has significant experience in developing and in implementing projects. With the various projects it has conducted, IKV has been working closely in cooperation with various institutions and organizations from the public sector, business community and civil society organizations both in Turkey and abroad.

Fully conscious of the nature of EU accession process as an all-encompassing reform and restructuring project deeply affecting political, economic and social life, IKV integrates all segments of the society to this process by developing various projects. Within this framework, projects have been carried out with the participation of high level representatives from Turkey and EU with the objective of informing the Turkish business community, civil society organizations, media and the public.

SOME OF THE PROJECTS CONDUCTED BY IKV

FTA Information and Capacity Building Center

IKV aims to contribute to building a private-sector capacity to analyse and formulate opinions on the new generation of free trade agreements, especially the ongoing negotiations between the EU and the USA for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, as well as the impact of these agreements on Turkey-EU relations. The FTA Information and Capacity-Building Center constitutes a center of excellence coordinating and pooling the work of relevant business organizations in this issue area.

Visa Hotline Project

The “Visa Hotline Project” was launched in 2009 by IKV with the support of TOBB and the cooperation of Brussels-based European Citizen Action Service. This Project continued with the organization of various meetings, informative activities and publications throughout the years 2011-2014. With this Project, IKV aimed to draw attention to the problems encountered by Turkish citizens, especially by Turkish businessmen while applying to the Schengen Visa when travelling to EU member countries. Within the framework of this project, IKV not only tackles the visa problem from a multidimensional approach but also evaluates the readmission process.

EU Presidencies and Turkey’s EU Membership Process

Within the framework of this project, IKV aims to raise awareness on Turkey-EU relations by organizing seminars on Turkey-EU relations in the Member States, currently holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU. In these seminars, several issues related to Turkey’s EU accession negotiations are discussed such as potential effects of Turkey’s membership to the EU, Turkey’s efforts at harmonization, Turkey-EU Customs Union, visa and free movement as well as latest developments in Turkey’s economy, politics and society.

Talking about Our Common Future

Project was launched with the aim of shedding light on the future of Turkey-EU relations within the context of a changing world. Within the framework of this project, a series of round table meetings were organized to discuss the developments that could affect Turkey as a candidate country, the issues that bear importance for the EU, Turkey-EU relations and the EU policies.



Enhancing Turkish Business World's Capacity on Impact Assessment in the Accession Process

Based on the experience of EU's new Member States and other candidate countries, IKV organized various seminars and published a guideline on Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) in order to raise awareness among the Turkish public. With these impact assessments, it is aimed to better evaluate the effects of Turkey's EU membership on public and private sectors and the costs related to the harmonization process.

The EU Accession Negotiations Process in Provinces

IKV organized a series of seminars on Turkey-EU relations in various provinces of Turkey with the support of TOBB, chambers, public institutions, civil society organizations and universities. The topics covered included the accession negotiations process, EU financial support, the impact of EU membership on our daily life.

The Impact of the Horizontal Implementation of the EU *Acquis* on Leading Turkish Business Sectors

IKV analyzed, the impact of the horizontal implementation of the EU *acquis* on six leading sectors of the Turkish economy within the framework of this project. The aim of the project was to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation capacity of the EU harmonization process by the representatives of various sectors, professional organizations, civil society organizations and public institutions in order to encourage their active participation.

ABC Project in Primary Education

IKV organized workshops and training seminars in various provinces of Turkey in order to inform primary school teachers about the EU and Turkey's EU accession process with the overarching aim of raising societal awareness on the issue. During these workshops, participants explored the channels through which this information could be integrated into primary school curricula as well as to the general education system.



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1965
2015



“TURKEY’S EU EXPERT” FOR 50 YEARS

The year 2015 which marks the 10th year in Turkey’s EU accession negotiations bears a special significance when compared to previous years.

Our Foundation which was established in 1965 is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2015.

IKV is celebrating its 50th year as a unique organization signifying solidarity and cooperation within the business sector for a long term objective.

The 50th anniversary of our Foundation is not only a cause of celebration for us but also an opportunity to further develop the European vision in Turkey and to increase awareness of Turkey in Europe.

The Foundation has contributed to the integration of our country into the modern world over the past 50 years, with the desire to help build a Turkey open to different parts of the world. We are determined to maintain this faith in our 50th year and beyond.

In 2015, our Foundation aims to mark its 50th anniversary as a milestone in Turkey’s relations with the EU by sharing its expertise through projects that will reach all segments of the society with the support of its esteemed stakeholders.

As IKV, we will resolutely continue to pursue our activities related to European integration and Turkey’s relations with the EU. Within this framework, while we will continue to represent the business community, inform the public and formulate opinions regarding Turkey’s EU process, we will carry on with our various activities in the EU, keep in touch with the EU institutions through our Brussels Representation and seek defend Turkey’s EU membership prospect.

www.ikv.org.tr