



April 2015

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Foreign Policy

Turkish President on State Visit to Iran Seeking Closer Economic Ties

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived in Iran on Tuesday seeking deeper economic ties and common ground on conflicts in the Middle East, even as the historic rivals compete to influence the outcome of wars in Yemen, Syria and Iraq.

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Wall Street Journal, April 7, 2015, Turkish President on State Visit to Iran Seeking Closer Economic Ties, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/turkish-president-on-state-visit-to-iran-seeking-closer-economic-ties-1428411176>

#### **UN Cyprus envoy say sees no obstacle to new peace talks**

A U.N. envoy for the divided island of Cyprus said April 7 he expected stalled peace talks to resume "within weeks," following a six-month suspension in a row over offshore gas reserves.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 7, 2015, UN Cyprus envoy say sees no obstacle to new peace talks, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/un-cyprus-envoy-say-sees-no-obstacle-to-new-peace-talks.aspx?pageID=238&nID=80727&NewsCatID=359>

Turkey and Iran Put Tensions Aside, for a Day

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey accused Iran last month of trying to "dominate the region" through its proxies in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen, suggesting to some that Turkey was shifting toward confrontation with its neighbor and joining a Saudi-led coalition to push back against Iranian influence across the Middle East.

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The New York Times, April 7, 2015, Turkey and Iran Put Tensions Aside, for a Day, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/08/world/middleeast/turkey-and-iran-put-tensions-aside-for-a-day.html?ref=todayspaper&r=0>

#### **Pope Calls Killings of Armenians 'Genocide,' Provoking Turkish Anger**

Pope Francis on Sunday described the World War I-era slaughter of Armenians by the Ottoman Turks as the first genocide of the 20th century, igniting a diplomatic confrontation with Turkey, which quickly summoned the Vatican's ambassador to condemn the pontiff's remarks and recalled its own ambassador to the Holy See



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New York Times, April 12, 2015, Pope Calls Killings of Armenians 'Genocide,' Provoking Turkish Anger, http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/13/world/europe/pope-calls-killings-of-armenians-genocide-provoking-turkish-anger.html?ref=todayspaper&_r=0

European Parliament President Calls Turkey's Social Media Ban "Inappropriate"

Bans on social media networks are "not appropriate" according to basic democratic standards, said European Parliament President Martin Schulz, who held meetings with a number of senior officials in Turkey, adding that he expected "meaningful answers" from [Ankara](#) on the issue.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 10, 2015, European Parliament President Calls Turkey's Social Media Ban "Inappropriate", <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/european-parliament-president-calls-turkeys-social-media-ban-inappropriate-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=80838&NewsCatID=351>

### **Syrian fighters to begin training in Turkey despite divide over mission**

About 200 Syrian opposition fighters will begin military training next month in Turkey, despite ongoing Turkish disagreement with the Obama administration over the enemy they will combat when they finish the six-week course.

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Washington Post, April 20, 2015, Syrian fighters to begin training in Turkey despite divide over mission, http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/syrian-fighters-to-begin-training-in-turkey-despite-divide-over-mission/2015/04/20/2e54ee80-e795-11e4-9a6a-c1ab95a0600b_story.html

Turkey's Erdogan Condemns EU, Pope Francis Over Armenian 'Genocide' Label

The European Parliament on Wednesday joined Pope Francis in urging Turkey to recognize the 1915 massacre of Armenians as a genocide, prompting another rebuke from Ankara amid mounting diplomatic tensions over the century-old dispute.

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Wall Street Journal, April 15, 2015, Turkey's Erdogan Condemns EU, Pope Francis Over Armenian 'Genocide' Label, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/turkeys-erdogan-condemns-eu-pope-francis-over-armenian-genocide-label-1429101392>

### **Erdogan Says European Parliament's 1915 Vote Shows Enmity Against Turkey**



European Parliament vote that urged Turkey to use the centenary of the mass slaughter of Ottoman Armenians as an opportunity to “recognize the Armenian genocide” showcases the enmity against Turkey, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said April 16.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 16, 2015, Erdogan Says European Parliament’s 1915 Vote Shows Enmity Against Turkey, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/erdogan-says-european-parliaments-1915-vote-shows-enmity-against-turkey.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81168&NewsCatID=338>

UNDP Chief to Visit Turkey, Inaugurate Regional Hub

Helen Clark, the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) administrator and chair of the U.N. Development Group, is set to arrive in Turkey on April 21 for a lengthy visit, during which she will take part in high-level government meetings in Ankara and visit a refugee camp near the Syrian border before joining President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and other international leaders for the centennial commemoration ceremonies in Gallipoli.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 20, 2015, UNDP Chief to Visit Turkey, Inaugurate Regional Hub, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/undp-chief-to-visit-turkey-inaugurate-regional-hub.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81308&NewsCatID=359>

### **Australian PM to talk Border Security on Turkey Trip**

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said April 20 that he will use a trip to Turkey for Anzac Day commemorations to push Ankara for increased security on its border with Syria and Iraq.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 20, 2015, Australian PM to talk Border Security on Turkey Trip, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/australian-pm-to-talk-border-security-on-turkey-trip-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81292&NewsCatID=359>

Obama’s statement on Armenia avoids ‘genocide’

In a statement issued by the White House on the eve of the 100th anniversary of what he called the Meds Yeghern, Armenian for “great calamity,” Obama referred to it as a “massacre,” a “terrible carnage,” “horrific violence” and a “dark chapter of history.”

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Washington Post, April 23, 2015, Obama's statement on Armenia avoids 'genocide',  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2015/04/23/obama-marks-armenian-remembrance-day-without-using-genocide/>

The White House, April 23, 2015, Statement by the President on Armenian Remembrance Day,  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/04/23/statement-president-armenian-remembrance-day>

### **Turkey reacts to Obama, Putin, Hollande, Gauck over Armenian killings remarks**

Turkey has reacted to the U.S., Russia, Germany and France over the wording their leaders picked in remarks on the killing of Armenians in the hands of the Ottoman Empire in 1915, with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan saying these countries, excluding the U.S., should look at their own history first.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 25, 2015, Turkey reacts to Obama, Putin, Hollande, Gauck over Armenian killings remarks, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-reacts-to-obama-putin-hollande-gauck-over-armenian-killings-remarks.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81551&NewsCatID=510>

Armenia Ready for Normalization of Ties, says President Sargsyan

Yerevan is prepared to normalize its relations with Ankara without any preconditions, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan has said ahead of April 24, "Genocide Remembrance Day" for Armenians.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 20, 2015, Armenia Ready for Normalization of Ties, says President Sargsyan, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/armenia-ready-for-normalization-of-ties-president-sargsyan-says.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81490&NewsCatID=510>

### **Turkey Breaks From West on Defense**

Since the Ottoman Empire traded swords for guns two centuries ago, Turkey's military has relied on Western arms and know-how. Now, the country's leadership is pushing to end that arrangement in a shift that is rattling its North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies.

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Wall Street Journal, April 21, 2015, Turkey Breaks From West on Defense,
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/turkey-shifts-away-from-west-on-defense-1429608604>

Erdogan Congratulates New President of Turkish Cyprus, Warns Against 'Solution at any Price'



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan sent a congratulatory message to Mustafa Akıncı, the winner of the Turkish Cyprus presidential election, prompting renewed optimism for reunification of the island. In his message, Erdoğan indirectly urged the leftist former mayor that “it was not possible to run after a solution to the Cyprus question at any price.”

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 27, 2015, Erdogan Congratulates New President of Turkish Cyprus, Warns Against ‘Solution at any Price’, <http://www.hurriyetaidailynews.com/erdogan-congratulates-new-president-of-turkish-cyprus-warns-against-solution-at-any-price-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81603&NewsCatID=338>

## **Domestic Politics**

### **Turkish Officers Acquitted Over Coup Plot**

A Turkish court acquitted scores of active and retired military officers previously convicted of plotting to overthrow the government of then-Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. It was a stunning reversal in a landmark case that had helped his Islamist-rooted government tame the once-paramount military.

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Wall Street Journal, March 31, 2015, Turkish Officers Acquitted Over Coup Plot, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/turkish-military-officers-acquitted-over-coup-plot-1427813996>

Turkey Blocks YouTube and, Briefly, Twitter Over Hostage Photo

As a hostage crisis at the central courthouse gripped this city last week, a photograph coursing through social media conveyed the situation more concisely than any words: a beret-wearing militant, face obscured by a red scarf, holding a gun to the head of a well-known prosecutor.

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New York Times, April 6, 2015, Turkey Blocks YouTube and, Briefly, Twitter Over Hostage Photo, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/07/world/europe/turkey-blocks-twitter-youtube-and-sites-that-published-hostage-photo.html?ref=todayspaper&r=0>

**Erdoğan’s inner circle and his son in law find places in AKP candidate list**



The ruling Justice and Development Party's (AKP) candidate list for the upcoming general election included figures from President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's inner circle, who will likely be taking a seat at parliament for the first time as lawmakers.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 7, 2015, Erdoğan's inner circle and his son in law find places in AKP candidate list, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/erdogans-inner-circle-and-his-son-in-law-find-places-in-akp-candidate-list.aspx?pageID=238&nID=80734&NewsCatID=338>

CHP hails 'most inclusive' candidates list for polls

550 candidates of the social democrat party represent the most inclusive list of candidacy for the upcoming parliamentary elections in comparison with other important political parties, a party official has said, informing that 20 percent of candidates are female with many of them having the chance to be elected.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 7, 2015, CHP hails 'most inclusive' candidates list for polls, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/chp-hails-most-inclusive-candidates-list-for-polls.aspx?pageID=238&nID=80714&NewsCatID=338>

### **Inclusive HDP candidate list aspires to pass 10 pct election threshold**

The Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) candidate list for the June 7 parliamentary elections mirrors its resolve to embrace different segments of society in order to reach its ambitious goal of exceeding the 10 percent election threshold by deciding to enter the elections as a party.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 7, 2015, Inclusive HDP candidate list aspires to pass 10 pct election threshold, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/inclusive-hdp-candidate-list-aspires-to-pass-10-pct-election-threshold.aspx?pageID=238&nID=80731&NewsCatID=338>

Economy success story being damaged: Top Turkish bosses

Turkey's economic success story has been deteriorating for a while and the country needs to change this atmosphere by means of comprehensive reforms in various fields, said the head of the country's top business organization at a conference over the inflation trends in the Turkish economy.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 10, 2015, Economy success story being damaged: Top Turkish bosses, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/economy-success-story-being-damaged-top-turkish-bosses.aspx?pageID=238&nID=80909&NewsCatID=345>

### **Main opposition CHP starts election campaign with Istanbul rally**

The main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) officially launched its campaign for the June 7 general elections on April 11, holding its first rally in Istanbul. Speaking at the rally, CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu said his party is ready to solve all the problems Turkey is facing.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 11, 2015, Main opposition CHP starts election campaign with Istanbul rally, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/main-opposition-chp-starts-election-campaign-with-istanbul-rally.aspx?pageID=238&nID=80922&NewsCatID=338>

April 24 to be commemorated in Turkey, PM says

The April 24, the day Armenians commemorated the mass killings of their ancestors at the hands of the Ottoman Empire during the World War I, will also be marked through a religious ceremony to be held by the Armenian Patriarchate, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu said, while opposing efforts to describe 1915 events as genocide.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 20, 2015, April 24 to be commemorated in Turkey, PM says, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/april-24-to-be-commemorated-in-turkey-pm-says.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81335&NewsCatID=338>

### **Main opposition leader: Coalition possible with MHP, HDP**

Main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu has said his party could form a coalition with the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) and the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) after the June 7 elections, on the condition that they embrace an independent media and judiciary.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 17, 2015, , <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/main-opposition-leader-coalition-possible-with-mhp-hdp.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81223&NewsCatID=338>

President Erdoğan 'strongly' condemns attack against HDP headquarters

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has "strongly" condemned an April 18 armed attack on the Ankara headquarters of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP).



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Hurriyet Daily News, April 20, 2015, President Erdoğan 'strongly' condemns attack against HDP headquarters, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/president-erdogan-strongly-condemns-attack-against-hdp-headquarters.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81310&NewsCatID=338>

### **Turkey's top judge urges gov't over separation of powers, 'copy-paste' charter**

Turkey's top judge has urged political leaders to protect the principle of separation of powers and to be careful of letting these powers go beyond their limits, in an indirect reference to the government's efforts to renew the constitution and adopt a presidential system which would grant more authority to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 27, 2015, Turkey's top judge urges gov't over separation of powers, 'copy-paste' charter, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-top-judge-urges-govt-over-separation-of-powers-copy-paste-charter.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81601&NewsCatID=338>

Turkey's two opposition parties kick off foreign election campaign from Germany

Two of Turkey's opposition parties have kicked-off their foreign election campaigns in Germany over the weekend, targeting the more than 2.7 million Turkish voters living abroad.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 27, 2015, Turkey's two opposition parties kick off foreign election campaign from Germany, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-two-opposition-parties-kick-off-foreign-election-campaign-from-germany-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81624&NewsCatID=338>

### **Turkish PM Davutoğlu accuses court of taking orders from US-based cleric Gülen**

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu has accused a Turkish court of taking orders from U.S.-based Islamic scholar Fethullah Gülen to release 75 policemen and a media manager who were accused of planning to overthrow the government.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 26, 2015, Turkish PM Davutoğlu accuses court of taking orders from US-based cleric Gülen, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-pm-davutoglu-accuses-court-of-taking-orders-from-us-based-cleric-gulen-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81572&NewsCatID=338>



Economy and Energy

Turkey Unveils Investment, Employment Plan to Boost Growth

Turkey's government unveiled a plan to revive investment and create 120,000 new jobs on Thursday to help boost the country's sagging economic growth ahead of general elections in June.

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Wall Street Journal, April 2, 2015, Turkey Unveils Investment, Employment Plan to Boost Growth,  
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/turkey-unveils-investment-employment-plan-to-boost-growth-1427974495>

#### **Turkey's March Inflation Rate Rises to Three-Month High**

Turkey's annual inflation rate rose to a three-month high in March amid soaring food prices and a weakening currency, diminishing hopes for central bank interest-rate cuts to stoke sagging economic growth.

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Wall Street Journal, April 3, 2015, Turkey's March Inflation Rate Rises to Three-Month High,
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/turkeys-march-inflation-rate-rises-to-three-month-high-1428069202>

Warming up Turkey: The importance of economic engagement

Throughout the Cold War, Turkey was recognized as a solid and reliable member of the Western-led world order. More recently, however, Turkish priorities and preferences have drifted away from those of its traditional transatlantic allies.

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Brookings, April 6, 2015, Warming up Turkey: The importance of economic engagement,  
<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/order-from-chaos/posts/2015/04/06-turkey-economic-engagement-kirisci>

#### **Future of Turkish Stream Depends on EU: Turkish Minister**

The future of the Turkish Stream, a gas pipeline project to carry Russian gas, depends on interest shown by the European Union, according to EU Minister Volkan Bozkır.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 8, 2015, Future of Turkish Stream Depends on EU: Turkish Minister, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/future-of-turkish-stream-depends-on-eu-turkish-minister-----aspx?pageID=238&nID=80761&NewsCatID=348>

EMEA Corporate Outlook Brightening, Turkish Companies at Most Risk: Fitch

Gradually improving economic conditions across much of Europe should help strengthen cash flows and modestly reduce leverage among the region's corporate issuers in 2015, Fitch Ratings said in a written statement on April 8.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 8, 2015, EMEA Corporate Outlook Brightening, Turkish Companies at Most Risk: Fitch, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/emea-corporate-outlook-brightening-turkish-companies-at-most-risk-fitch.aspx?pageID=238&nID=80763&NewsCatID=344>

### **Iran and Others May have Stake in TANAP: Turkish Energy Minister**

Iran may buy a stake in the Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Project (TANAP) if "certain commercial conditions" are fulfilled, Energy Minister Taner Yıldız said April 9.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 9, 2015, Iran and Others May have Stake in TANAP: Turkish Energy Minister, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/iran-and-others-may-have-stake-in-tanap-turkish-energy-minister.aspx?pageID=238&nID=80820&NewsCatID=348>

Urbanization stimulating expansion in Turkish construction industry

Urbanization, combined with the demand for higher quality buildings, is driving growth in Turkey's construction industry, analysts have told state-run Anadolu Agency, amid speculation that the sector is a bubble set to burst.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 13, 2015, Urbanization stimulating expansion in Turkish construction industry, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/urbanization-stimulating-expansion-in-turkish-construction-industry.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81000&NewsCatID=344>

### **Investors wonder most about future of stability in Turkey: Babacan**

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan has said the most common question to him during his latest U.S. visit has been about whether political stability will remain after the June 7 elections and if the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) will keep governing the country.



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Hurriyet Daily News, April 21, 2015, Investors wonder most about future of stability in Turkey: Babacan, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/investors-wonder-most-about-future-of-stability-in-turkey-babacan-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81348&NewsCatID=344>

Inflation to decline in second half of 2015, says Turkish Central Bank head

The decline in inflation will become more pronounced during the second half of the year after a partial correction in food prices, Turkish Central Bank Governor Erdem Başçı said on April 18, according to the Bank's website.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 20, 2015, Inflation to decline in second half of 2015, says Turkish Central Bank head, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/inflation-to-decline-in-second-half-of-2015-says-turkish-central-bank-head.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81302&NewsCatID=344>

### **World Bank says uncertainties continue in Turkish economy, urges key reforms**

The World Bank has said uncertainty related to the June elections continues to affect investors' sentiments toward the Turkish economy and urged the strong need for key structural reforms in its regular economic brief on April 17.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 17, 2015, World Bank says uncertainties continue in Turkish economy, urges key reforms, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/world-bank-says-uncertainties-continue-in-turkish-economy-urges-key-reforms-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81193&NewsCatID=344>

No hike in exports despite lira at historic lows

The Turkish lira's fall to record lows has ramped up the cost of repaying predominantly dollar-denominated external debt while failing to deliver any boost to exports, which remain focused on Europe with its weak currency.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 27, 2015, No hike in exports despite lira at historic lows, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/no-hike-in-exports-despite-lira-at-historic-lows.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81600&NewsCatID=344>

### **Turkey to become one of three largest European economies, minister claims**

# Washington

Selected  
News on Turkey



## TUSIAD

Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci has unveiled an ambitious goal for Turkey to become one of the three largest economies in the world by 2023, apparently bidding to surpass at least one of three giants – Germany, France or the United Kingdom.

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Hurriyet Daily News, April 27, 2015, Turkey to become one of three largest European economies, minister claims, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-to-become-one-of-three-largest-european-economies-minister-claims.aspx?pageID=238&nID=81599&NewsCatID=344>