



BDI-TÜSİAD Joint Declaration

21 Nisan 2004

BDI and TÜSİAD call for dependable steps to support the European perspective of Turkey

The competitiveness of Europe, Turkey's status as a candidate for EU-membership and bilateral economic relations were at the heart of a high-level meeting between the Federation of German Industries (BDI) and the Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (TÜSİAD) on 21 April 2004 in Istanbul. The meeting was chaired by TÜSİAD-President Ömer Sabancı and the President of BDI, Dr. Michael Rogowski. The Presidents of BDI and TÜSİAD are scheduled to meet with the President of the Republic of Turkey, Ahmet Necdet Sezer, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Members of his cabinet on 22 April 2004 in Ankara.

On this occasion, the Presidents of BDI and TÜSİAD issued the following joint declaration:

BDI and TÜSİAD emphasize the importance of a clear European perspective for Turkey. The business communities in both countries need a reliable framework to develop their operations both on a bilateral level and in Europe.

The Presidents of TÜSİAD and BDI note with satisfaction the progressive development of bilateral trade relations and investment. The Customs Union with the EU and recent steps to enforce stable economic and monetary policies in Turkey will contribute to the further expansion of the Turkish economy and economic relations with Germany. The Presidents of BDI and TÜSİAD share the view that business could benefit greatly from the further European integration of Turkey.

BDI and TÜSİAD point to the decisions of the European Council in Helsinki and Copenhagen granting Turkey the status of candidate for EU-membership and offering negotiations in 2005 if the conditions are met. They call on the Turkish government to ensure that the necessary political and economic reforms will be sustainable and implemented in time.

TÜSİAD and BDI are concerned that it could be very detrimental for the political and economic stability in Turkey and in Europe as a whole if efforts to facilitate Turkey's accession to the EU guided by the Accession Partnership document of the European Commission come to a halt or would even be reversed. If Turkey meets the political Copenhagen criteria the European Council in December 2004 should not hesitate and live up to its earlier commitments.

TÜSİAD and BDI call on the European Union to accelerate the implementation of Lisbon Strategy as well as the institutional reforms and to secure its ability to act as a global political and economic power. The early adoption of a constitutional treaty will facilitate the decision making process in an enlarged European Union. Structural and agricultural policies must be adjusted to the budget restraints in Member Countries and to the challenges of the future.