

**TÜSİAD****PRESS RELEASE**

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## **TUSIAD: “Turkey should move forward with the EU membership process avoiding political polarization at the national level”**

TUSIAD has adopted the following positions in response to the current political situation as a result of the lawsuit claiming the closure of the ruling AK Party. In view of promoting these views, TUSIAD President Ms. Arzuhan Doğan Yalçındağ and Board Members visited in Ankara the political parties, the President of the Turkish Parliament and the Presidents of the leading socio-economic organisations (labor unions, chambers of commerce and industry etc)

TUSIAD expresses its concerns about the recent developments in Turkey regarding the political polarization, which could gradually lead to an institutional crisis. TUSIAD invites all political parties, institutions and civil society actors, the ruling party being in the first place to act with common sense.

We believe that we can overcome the current difficulties only through dialogue and total commitment to democracy and to the rule of law.

**TUSIAD President Ms. Arzuhan Dogan Yalçındag underlines particularly that “Turkey’s current problems can only be solved within the EU process which should be revitalized by both the EU and Turkey through more rational policies without questioning the target of membership. The reinforcement of the Turkish democracy is a common European interest for all of us”.**

### **The current situation**

The current polarization in Turkish political life is about to lead to a social trauma in Turkish society. Current political activities are pursued in a way that it is estranged from political responsibility and maturity. We believe that it is vital for Turkey that the ruling party adopts an agenda focusing on social consensus and prosperity, that it refrains from shaping their politics on the basis of a political understanding based on “majority rule” rather than “pluralism” and that it stays attached to the intrinsic principles of our democracy, namely the rule of law and the separation of powers.

Likewise, the opposition parties should stand by these core principles and propose constructive political alternatives to the current problems in the light of a global understanding of Turkey’s needs within the EU membership process.

As TUSIAD, we cannot stay aside vis-à-vis the current situation in Turkey.

## **TUSIAD proposes a course of action:**

### **1) Provision of social solidarity and ease of tension**

Foremost the ruling AKP, all the political parties should act prudently to form a common ground to abate the social tension that recently aroused in the country. The provision of social compromise is one of the fundamental duties of all political parties. It is a modern democratic necessity that major authorities should soften their tones to ease the tension in order to prevent the society to become fragile.

### **2) Defending the “democracy for all”**

In modern democracies banning political parties does not provide any solution to political problems. Without defending democracy for all, without embracing pluralist democracy rather than principle of majority, without accepting the fact that democracy is composed of unwritten conventions as well as written rules, it is not possible to be a ‘democrat’. In order to establish a deep-rooted democracy in Turkey, it is important to put in place a participatory constitutional reform by touching upon the election system, political party legislation and immunity from prosecution.

### **3) Respect for law**

In democratic societies it is the basic rule to act within the boundaries of the existing legislations, until the new one is put into place. Whatever the reason is, acting contrary to this could induce a chaotic environment. All political parties should accept the fact that secularism is the basis of the law that regulates social relations as well as individual rights and they should work to create universal democratic standards accordingly. Rapid constitutional amendments, which aim to overcome certain current problems, will not serve any purpose other than further deepening those problems.

TUSIAD emphasizes that political problems should be resolved in the politics. TUSIAD invites the political parties, opinion leaders, employer organizations, trade unions and all the civil society organizations to act prudently and put an effort to strengthen the solidarity and fraternity among the society, which recently started to deteriorate.

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