



February 2015

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Foreign Policy

Turkish President Erdoğan slams UN Security Council, singling out Russia and China

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has repeated his call for reform of the United Nations, saying the U.N., which remains deadlocked over how to respond to the crisis in Syria, is no “longer capable of showing global leadership.”

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 2, 2015, Turkish President Erdoğan slams UN Security Council, singling out Russia and China, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-president-erdogan-slams-un-security-council-singling-out-russia-and-china.aspx?pageID=238&nID=77790&NewsCatID=510>

#### **Turkish Cypriot negotiator urges suspension of gas drilling**

Greek and Turkish Cypriots should both agree to suspend the search for offshore natural gas until they have reached a settlement to reunify their divided island, the chief Turkish Cypriot negotiator has said, as Turkey’s foreign minister expressed hopes of finding a solution to the issue with the new Greek government.

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Hurriyet Daily News, January 28, 2015, Turkish Cypriot negotiator urges suspension of gas drilling, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-cypriot-negotiator-urges-suspension-of-gas-drilling.aspx?pageID=238&nID=77557&NewsCatID=359>

At Diplomatic Conference, Turkey-Israel Rift Worsens

The Turkish foreign minister withdrew at the last minute from a high-profile international security conference in Munich on Friday, after learning that Israeli diplomats might take part. The abrupt move was the latest twist in a bilateral relationship between Israel and Turkey that was once friendly but has become strained and bitter.

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New York Times, February 6, 2015, At Diplomatic Conference, Turkey-Israel Rift Worsens, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/07/world/europe/turkish-foreign-minister-withdraws-from-security-conference-to-avoid-israelis.html?ref=todayspaper>

#### **G-20 Finance Chiefs Face Tough Test in Istanbul**

Finance leaders from the Group of 20 largest economies will this week urge each other to deliver on promises for policy overhauls needed to pull the global economy out of its postcrisis quagmire.



Wall Street Journal, February 8, 2015, G-20 Finance Chiefs Face Tough Test in Istanbul,  
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/g-20-finance-chiefs-face-tough-test-in-istanbul-1423415293>

### **Council of Europe's human rights commissioner urges Turkey to reconsider security bill**

With the Turkish parliament expected to begin discussing the government's controversial new security bill this week, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Nils Muižnieks has expressed his concerns and urged parliament to reconsider the bill, in a statement released on the commission's official Facebook page on Feb. 6.

Hurriyet Daily News, February 9, 2015, Council of Europe's human rights commissioner urges Turkey to reconsider security bill, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/council-of-europes-human-rights-commissioner-urges-turkey-to-reconsider-security-bill.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78100&NewsCatID=339>

### **US, Turkey vow to jointly fight ISIL financing**

The United States and Turkey have agreed to conduct a joint effort to cut the funds financing the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), while G-20 member states have also committed to further cooperation against terror financing.

Hurriyet Daily News, February 10, 2015, US, Turkey vow to jointly fight ISIL financing,  
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/us-turkey-vow-to-jointly-fight-isil-financing.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78151&NewsCatID=359>

### **Obama administration to allow sales of armed drones to allies**

The Obama administration will permit the widespread export of armed drones for the first time, a step toward providing allied nations with weapons that have become a cornerstone of U.S. counterterrorism strategy but whose remotely controlled power to kill is intensely controversial.

Washington Post, February 17, 2015, Obama administration to allow sales of armed drones to allies,  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/us-cracks-open-door-to-the-export-of-armed-drones-to-allied-nations/2015/02/17/c5595988-b6b2-11e4-9423-f3d0a1ec335c\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/us-cracks-open-door-to-the-export-of-armed-drones-to-allied-nations/2015/02/17/c5595988-b6b2-11e4-9423-f3d0a1ec335c_story.html)

### **Currency Warriors Get Boost at G-20 Meeting**



The world's top finance leaders on Tuesday in effect backed currency depreciation as a tool for promoting growth by signaling strong support for aggressive easy-money policies aimed at boosting the fragile global economy.

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Wall Street Journal, February 10, 2015, Currency Warriors Get Boost at G-20 Meeting,
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/g-20-leaders-back-aggressive-stimulus-1423587402>

Syria conflict: US and Turkey near Syrian rebels deal

Turkey and the US have reached a tentative agreement to train and arm moderate Syrian opposition forces taking on Islamic State (IS) militants. The US state department said that a deal had been reached "in principal" and would soon be signed.

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BBC, February 17, 2015, Syria conflict: US and Turkey near Syrian rebels deal,  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-31511376>

### **Turkey's image in foreign press not positive, says Babacan**

Turkey's image in foreign press has not been positive for the last 1.5-2 years, but the country's turn with the G-20 presidency provides a good opportunity fix this, said Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan Feb. 11.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 11, 2015, Turkey's image in foreign press not positive, says Babacan,
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-image-in-foreign-press-not-positive-says-babacan-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78236&NewsCatID=344>

Turkey-EU parliamentary meeting delayed a month amid cool relations

A planned joint parliamentary meeting between Turkey and EU representatives was postponed for a month due to lawmakers' busy agenda, the Turkish co-chair of the joint commission has said, after a European lawmaker accused Ankara of delaying the event in order to avoid criticism.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 11, 2015, Turkey-EU parliamentary meeting delayed a month amid cool relations, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-eu-parliamentary-meeting-delayed-a-month-amid-cool-relations.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78207&NewsCatID=510>

### **Joint Statement Following the 2015 U.S.-Turkey Economic Partnership Commission**



Representatives of the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Turkey met on February 12, 2015, for the eleventh U.S.-Turkey Economic Partnership Commission (EPC) meeting. The eleventh meeting of the EPC focused on exploring ways to expand bilateral trade and investment, identifying opportunities for commercial cooperation in third countries, and strengthening collaboration in science, technology, energy, and global health.

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U.S. Department of State, February 13, 2015, Joint Statement Following the 2015 U.S.-Turkey Economic Partnership Commission, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2015/02/237492.htm>

Turkey and the Euro-Atlantic community: Turbulence and ties of interest

2014 was another year characterized by turbulence in Turkish relations with Europe and the United States. In Turkey's neighborhood, large swaths of Iraqi and Syrian territory fell under the control of the Islamic State group and Russia annexed Crimea. While the regional chaos and insecurity raised friction between Ankara and its Western allies, it also paved the way for some degree of policy convergence.

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The Brookings Institution, February 11, 2015, Turkey and the Euro-Atlantic community: Turbulence and ties of interest, <http://www.brookings.edu/research/opinions/2015/02/11-turkey-euroatlantic-community-kirisci#.VN9ch4Yqixg.twitter>

### **We were on good terms with Obama, says Turkish President Erdoğan**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has said he was on good terms with U.S. President Barack Obama in the past, but things have begun to change.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 16, 2015, We were on good terms with Obama, says Turkish President Erdoğan, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/we-were-on-good-terms-with-obama-says-turkish-president-erdogan-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78392&NewsCatID=510>

Turkish Military Evacuates Soldiers Guarding Tomb in Syria

Turkey and the US have reached a tentative agreement to train and arm moderate Syrian opposition forces taking on Islamic State (IS) militants. The US state department said that a deal had been reached "in principal" and would soon be signed.

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The New York Times, February 22, 2015, Turkish Military Evacuates Soldiers Guarding Tomb in Syria, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/23/world/middleeast/turky-syria-tomb-isis.html?ref=todayspaper>



### **Porous Syria-Turkey Border Poses Challenge in Fight Against Islamic State**

Officially, Turkey's border with the Islamic State-run region of Syria is closed to all traffic. That, however, doesn't stop some two dozen professional smugglers from accosting prospective clients in full view of a lone Turkish soldier, a few yards from the Karkamis border gate.

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The Wall Street Journal, February 19, 2015, Porous Syria-Turkey Border Poses Challenge in Fight Against Islamic State,

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/porous-syria-turkey-border-poses-challenge-in-fight-against-islamic-state-1424334057>

US-Turkey Trained Rebels will Fight Against both ISIL and Syrian Regime: Turkish FM

Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu has said Syrian opposition groups to be trained and equipped by a joint U.S.-Turkey program will also fight against the Syrian regime. The trained Syrian opposition members are "expected to fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant [ISIL] and elements of the [Syrian] regime," Çavuşoğlu said Feb. 19 to answer whether the program also aims to struggle against Syrian regime forces.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 19, 2015, US-Turkey Trained Rebels will Fight Against both ISIL and Syrian Regime: Turkish FM, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/us-turkey-trained-rebels-will-fight-against-both-isil-and-syrian-regime-turkish-fm-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78590&NewsCatID=510>

### **Turkey Eyes Deal with China on Missile Defense Despite NATO Concern**

Turkey's defense minister said on Thursday the country does not plan to integrate a new missile defense system with NATO infrastructure and officials said a \$3.4 billion deal with China was still under consideration.

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Reuters, February 19, 2015, Turkey Eyes Deal with China on Missile Defense Despite NATO Concern, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/19/us-turkey-china-defence-idUSKBN0LN0W220150219>

Turkey-US train-equip program for Syrian opposition to kick off March 1

Turkey and the United States will begin training and equipping moderate Syrian opposition fighters on March 1 within the framework of a Feb. 19 agreement signed by the two countries, Ankara has announced.



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Hurriyet Daily News, February 27, 2015, Turkey-US train-equip program for Syrian opposition to kick off March 1, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-us-train-equip-program-for-syrian-opposition-to-kick-off-march-1.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78964&NewsCatID=510>

### **Turkey inks deal with South Korea on service industry, investments**

Turkey has signed an agreement in the service industry and other investments with South Korea within the scope of a free trade agreement (FTA) that entered into force in 2013.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 26, 2015, Turkey inks deal with South Korea on service industry, investments, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-inks-deal-with-south-korea-on-service-industry-investments.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78926&NewsCatID=345>

Turkey Criticizes Britain Over Missing Schoolgirls

Turkey has criticized Britain for taking too long to inform it about three London schoolgirls who travelled to Turkey last week, possibly en route to join Islamist militants in Syria.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 24, 2015, Turkey Criticizes Britain Over Missing Schoolgirls, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-criticizes-britain-over-missing-schoolgirls.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78775&NewsCatID=510>

## **Domestic Politics**

### **Bureaucrats begin to resign as deadline to declare candidacy nears**

According to the election calendar, bureaucrats have to resign by Feb. 10 at the latest if they want to run in the upcoming general elections, which has accelerated the preparation of lists in the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP).

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 1, 2015, Turkish president's daughter Sümeyye Erdoğan may run for office, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-presidents-daughter-sumeyye-erdogan-may-run-for-office.aspx?PageID=238&NID=77750&NewsCatID=338>



HDP's Demirtaş says neither crisis nor significant progress in peace process

Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Chairman Selahattin Demirtaş has described the Kurdish peace process as at neither an impasse nor a breakthrough, saying an HDP delegation will meet with the government on Feb. 8.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 6, 2015, HDP's Demirtaş says neither crisis nor significant progress in peace process, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/hdps-demirtas-says-neither-crisis-nor-significant-progress-in-peace-process.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78008&NewsCatID=338>

### **Bank Asya seized by Turkish state-fund, drawing reaction**

Turkey's state run Savings Deposit Insurance Fund (TMSF) has seized control of Bank Asya, the participation bank at odds with the government due to its links with U.S.-based Islamic scholar Fethullah Gülen, with leading government figures defending the move.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 4, 2015, Bank Asya seized by Turkish state-fund, drawing reaction, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/bank-asya-seized-by-turkish-state-fund-drawing-reaction.aspx?pageID=238&nID=77867&NewsCatID=344>

Turkish government pushes security bill amid opposition's outcry

The leaders of all three opposition parties represented in parliament, as well as grassroots groups, have upped the ante to prevent the adoption of a controversial homeland security bill, as the General Assembly finally began debating the motion yesterday after previous discussions were postponed.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 17, 2015, Turkish government pushes security bill amid opposition's outcry, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-government-pushes-security-bill-amid-oppositions-outcry.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78495&NewsCatID=338>

### **Gov't, HDP at odds after hopeful week on Kurdish issue**

A recent thaw between the government and the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) that had fostered hopes of progress on the Kurdish issue has given way to renewed pessimism after the prime minister criticized the party for opposing a security draft.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 17, 2015, Gov't, HDP at odds after hopeful week on Kurdish issue, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/govt-hdp-at-odds-after-hopeful-week-on-kurdish-issue-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78500&NewsCatID=338>

Thousands protest murder of Özgecan Aslan

Around 15,000 people marched in the southern province of Mersin on Feb. 18 to protest the brutal murder of 20-year-old Özgecan Aslan. The group gathered in and around the campus of Çağ University, where Aslan was studying psychology, and included students, families and other people from neighboring provinces.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 18, 2015, Thousands protest murder of Özgecan Aslan, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/thousands-protest-murder-of-ozgecan-aslan-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78520&NewsCatID=341>

### **HDP Team goes to Kandil to meet PKK Leadership**

A delegation from the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) departed to Kandil in northern Iraq Feb. 23 to review recent developments over the ongoing Kurdish resolution process with senior officials of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), the party said in a statement.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 23, 2015, HDP Team goes to Kandil to meet PKK Leadership, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/hdp-team-goes-to-kandil-to-meet-pkk-leadership.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78710&NewsCatID=338>

Former Turkish President Gul Advises Government to Revise Security Bill

The controversial security bill that has ramped up the tension in Turkish politics in recent weeks should be revised, former President Abdullah Gül has said, advising his former party colleagues to "correct" some of its articles, especially on the extra authorities granted to the police.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 20, 2015, Gov't, Former Turkish President Gul Advises Government to Revise Security Bill, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/former-turkish-president-gul-advises-govt-to-revise-security-bill.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78626&NewsCatID=338>

### **Large Amount of Explosives Seized in Turkish Town Across From Kobane**



Security forces have seized two sets of bombing equipment and explosives in the southeastern province of Şanlıurfa's Suruç district across from Kobane in the past two days following a Feb. 13 bomb attack, daily Milliyet quoted sources as saying on Feb. 20.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 20, 2015, Large Amount of Explosives Seized in Turkish Town Across From Kobane,

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/large-amount-of-explosives-seized-in-turkish-town-across-from-kobane.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78618&NewsCatID=341>

Police Officers in Turkey Held in Wiretaps of Officials

Turkish police officers on Wednesday arrested dozens of fellow officers accused of wiretapping President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and top government officials.

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New York Times, February 25, 2015, Police Officers in Turkey Held in Wiretaps of Officials,

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/26/world/europe/turkish-police-accused-of-wiretapping-recep-tayyip-erdogan-in-feud-with-fethullah-gulen.html?ref=todayspaper>

### **Buldan, Demirtaş to run in June 7 elections despite HDP's two-term limit**

Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Chair Selahattin Demirtaş and HDP Deputy Parliamentary Group Chair Pervin Buldan will be exempt from a rule in the party's internal regulation that limits deputies to two consecutive terms in parliament.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 26, 2015, Buldan, Demirtaş to run in June 7 elections despite HDP's two-term limit,

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/buldan-demirtas-to-run-in-june-7-elections-despite-hdps-two-term-limit.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78933&NewsCatID=338>

Economy and Energy

Turkish Central Bank Considers Extraordinary Meeting to Cut Interest Rates



Turkey's central bank is still considering an extraordinary meeting to cut interest rates despite a lira selloff that sent the currency to a record low against the dollar last week, Governor Erdem Basci said Monday.

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Wall Street Journal, February 2, 2015, Turkish Central Bank Considers Extraordinary Meeting to Cut Interest Rates, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/turkish-central-bank-considers-extraordinary-meeting-to-cut-interest-rates-1422870828>

### **Turkey's top business group urges maintenance of institutions' independence**

The independence of the Central Bank and similar institutions is important for business circles, the head of Turkey's top business organization has said, calling for an end to recent developments that cast a shadow over the independence of key institutions.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 6, 2015, Turkey's top business group urges maintenance of institutions' independence, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-top-business-group-urges-maintenance-of-institutions-independence-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=77997&NewsCatID=345>

Turkish Central Bank rejects snap rate cut after inflation data

Turkish Central Bank, under pressure from President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to aggressively lower rates, on Feb. 3 rejected the option of an unscheduled rate cut as inflation slowed less than expected.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 3, 2015, Turkish Central Bank rejects snap rate cut after inflation data, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-central-bank-rejects-snap-rate-cut-after-inflation-data-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=77818&NewsCatID=344>

### **Turkey to lose \$5 billion annually if not included in transatlantic trade deal: Minister**

Turkey stands to lose roughly \$5 billion per year in direct losses alone if it is not included in a final free trade agreement between the EU and the U.S., Turkey's minister for EU Affairs said late on Feb. 5.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 6, 2015, Turkey to lose \$5 billion annually if not included in transatlantic trade deal: Minister, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-to-lose-5-billion-annually-if-not-included-in-transatlantic-trade-deal-minister-----.aspx?pageID=238&nID=77999&NewsCatID=344>



Turkish Lira Sinks to New Low

The Turkish lira sank to a fresh record low against the dollar on Monday, as expectations that the central bank will be forced to cut rates continued to weigh on the battered currency.

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Wall Street Journal, February 9, 2015, Turkish Lira Sinks to New Low,  
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/turkish-lira-sinks-to-new-low-1423474658>

### **Turkey, Finland sign Joint Economic and Trade Committee agreement**

Turkish Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci and Finland's Foreign Trade Minister Lenita Toivakka have signed a Joint Economic and Trade Committee agreement intended to boost bilateral trade and investment.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 4, 2015, Turkey, Finland sign Joint Economic and Trade Committee agreement, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-finland-sign-joint-economic-and-trade-committee-agreement-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=77895&NewsCatID=344>

Turkey's top business group develops project to decrease income gap between east, west

Turkey's prominent Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (TUSIAD) has developed a project to close the income gap between the country's southern and southeast region said vice chairman Sedat Şükrü Ünlütürk.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 3, 2015, Turkey's top business group develops project to decrease income gap between east, west, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-top-business-group-develops-project-to-decrease-income-gap-between-east-west-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=77850&NewsCatID=345>

### **Turkish finance minister urges fight against inflation**

Turkey needs to maintain its fight against inflation until it falls below an annual rate of 5 percent for good, Finance Minister Mehmet Şimşek said Feb. 18 in an interview on Turkish news channel CNN Türk.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 19, 2015, Turkish finance minister urges fight against inflation, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-finance-minister-urges-fight-against-inflation-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78537&NewsCatID=344>

Top EBRD delegation to visit Turkey to discuss investment priorities



A senior delegation from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), led by President Sir Suma Chakrabarti, will visit Turkey on Feb. 19-20 to discuss the bank's investment priorities in Turkey with senior government officials, members of the business community and civil society organizations.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 17, 2015, Top EBRD delegation to visit Turkey to discuss investment priorities, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/top-ebrd-delegation-to-visit-turkey-to-discuss-investment-priorities.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78467&NewsCatID=344>

### **Getting out of the “Middle Income” Trap**

Today, Turkey's economy is no longer growing at the 2010-11 levels of 9.2 and 8.8 percent and instead faces a number of structural problems, appearing to be stuck in the infamous “middle-income trap.”

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Brookings, February 18, 2015, Getting out of the “Middle Income” Trap, <http://www.brookings.edu/research/opinions/2015/02/18-getting-out-middle-income-trap-turkey-kirisci>

Turkish Economy Minister to Visit South Korea to Boost Trade

Turkish Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci will meet South Korea's Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Yoon Sang-jick on Feb. 25 in Seoul to boost bilateral economic ties. Zeybekci is expected to hold meetings with the CEOs of Samsung, CJ Group, Doosan Group and Hyundai to convince them to invest in Turkey, the Turkish Economy Ministry said in a statement on Feb. 21.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 22, 2015, Turkish Economy Minister to Visit South Korea to Boost Trade, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-economy-minister-to-visit-south-korea-to-boost-trade.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78673&NewsCatID=344>

### **Libyan Government to Exclude Turkish Companies from Contracts**

Libya's internationally recognized government plans to exclude Turkish companies from contracts, a cabinet statement has said, effectively banning them from the oil producer, as Reuters reported today. The government of Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni gave no reason for the move but has in the past accused Turkey of receiving officials from a rival government controlling western Libya.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 23, 2015, Libyan Government to Exclude Turkish Companies from Contracts, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/libyan-govt-to-exclude-turkish-companies-from-contracts-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78718&NewsCatID=345>

Turkey should find oil or attract more investment to avoid middle income trap: World Bank

Turkey needs to rebuild trust to attract more investments so as to avoid the middle-income trap, said the World Bank Country Director for Turkey, Martin Raiser.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 24, 2015, Turkey should find oil or attract more investment to avoid middle income trap: World Bank, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-should-find-oil-or-attract-more-investment-to-avoid-middle-income-trap-world-bank.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78815&NewsCatID=344>

### **Decreasing real wages cannot be acceptable, says Turkish boss**

The world economy and financial markets have been growing for the last 50 years, but decreasing real wages relative to GDP is unacceptable and unsustainable, said the board member of Turkey's Koç Holding and the current B-20 Employment Task Group Coordinator Ali Koç.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 26, 2015, Decreasing real wages cannot be acceptable, says Turkish boss, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/decreasing-real-wages-cannot-be-acceptable-says-turkish-boss.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78925&NewsCatID=345>

Turkish Central Bank prunes rates as inflation slows down

Turkey's Central Bank trimmed its key interest rate by 25 basis points Feb. 24, taking action in the face of falling inflation and prompting a government with one eye on a June parliamentary election to call for steeper cuts.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 24, 2015, Turkish Central Bank prunes rates as inflation slows down, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-central-bank-prunes-rates-as-inflation-slows-down.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78791&NewsCatID=344>

### **Bolstering technology Turkey's priority in missile deal, says official**

Turkey's top priority when procuring its first long-range missile defense system is to bolster its own technological ability, a defense official said on Feb. 27, as reported by Reuters.

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Hurriyet Daily News, February 27, 2015, Bolstering technology Turkey's priority in missile deal, says official, <http://www.hurriyetaailynews.com/bolstering-technology-turkeys-priority-in-missile-deal-says-official.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78982&NewsCatID=344>