



TURKISH INDUSTRIALISTS' AND BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION
WASHINGTON OFFICE

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TUSIAD'S DEMANDS FOR POLITICAL REFORM MATCH EU'S COPENHAGEN CRITERIA

Tusiad has recently published a progress report on its 1997 publication entitled "perspectives on democratization in turkey", prompting lively discussions on improving turkey's democratic standards. Traditionally, tusiad has actively defended policies aimed at the establishment of a liberal economic system and, as such, has played a vital role in altering the fundamental economic philosophy of the country. With the publication of dr. Bülent tanör's report, tusiad has voiced its demands for greater democracy through the reform of the political system, and for the formation of a solid foundation for further social cooperation.

The 1997 report presented a legal analysis of turkey's democratic standards. Considering turkey's recent approval for eu candidacy, it is essential to evaluate where turkey currently stands by taking into account the points raised in the original "perspectives on democratization in turkey" report. The conclusion of the progress report offers a "list of priority demands" which must be undertaken. Comprised of the necessary and possible initiatives imperative to the democratization program of turkey, the list includes the following:

- Mandatory primaries within political parties in order to maintain democratic procedures
- the removal of article 81 of the law on political parties ("preventing the creation of a minority group") to reach a peaceful resolution, within a unitary system, in southeastern turkey
- The removal of the prohibitions on cooperation and alliance between political parties, and the election of mayors with a two-round system
- lifting the constitutional exception on the provision regarding parliamentary irresponsibility and limiting parliamentary inviolability
- limiting capital punishment to war and warlike conditions
- extension of reforms on security resulting from the amendments to the criminal procedure law to suspects being tried by the state security courts
- An end to mandatory religious education, the exclusion of female students from studying in imam hatip high schools, and limiting the number of imam hatip schools to the demand for religious functionaries
- terms of intellectual freedoms, the repeal of article 8 of the anti-terrorism act, and re-phrasing article 312 of the turkish penal code
- the amendment of legislation regarding the freedom of meetings and demonstrations and the power to set prohibitions indefinitely should be lifted



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- As a principle of the rule of law, the right to appeal all administrative acts and decrees of the state of emergency should be established.

An executive summary of the progress report will soon be available on tusiad's website:
www.tusiad.org .