

Member Organizations - UEAPME
Rue Jacques de Lalaingstraat 4
B-1040 Brussels

Istanbul, 15 August 2016

Dear Colleagues,

On the evening of July 15th, a group acting outside the chain of command within the Turkish Armed Forces targeted the constitutional order and democratic institutions of Turkey. All segments of the society, including political parties, civil society, media and business community, were united in defense of democracy, the rule of law, and fundamental rights and freedoms. Broad consensus formed within the political and public sphere in the wake of the unfortunate events confirms the resilience of the Turkish democracy.

As TURKONFED, we are confident that this incident will recharge our drive and ambition to further strengthen the democratic institutions, governance structures and the rule of law in Turkey. The EU standards and values will continue to anchor the institutional and structural reform process.

Today, Turkey is the world's 18th largest economy, fully integrated with global markets. Despite the global economic crisis, the Turkish economy has maintained a stable economic growth. Market economy rules and institutions will continue to be the main pillars of the competitive Turkish economy, and the implementation of the structural reform agenda and targeted policies to boost growth, job creation and investments will remain key priorities. The support of businesses and civil society to achieve these goals will continue progressively by further strengthening the consultation mechanisms that are in place and functioning.

The challenges and opportunities that European democracies are facing today are complex, dynamic and far-reaching. In this context, we firmly believe that enhanced policy coordination between the EU and Turkey within the framework of accession negotiations with full membership perspective remains the most credible and effective tool to address the issues of common interest.

TURKONFED attaches great importance to its collaboration with UEAPME and its members to unleash the full potential of European SMEs for the welfare of European citizens. As an advocate of further social, political and economic integration of Turkey to the EU and as a member of UEAPME, we would like to assure you that we will continue our work without delay to realize our shared vision and priorities.

Yours sincerely,



Tarkan Kadooğlu
President



TURKONFED, Avrupa Esnaf, Sanatkar ve KOBİ Birliği üyesidir.
TURKONFED is a member of The European Association of Craft
Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (UEAPME)

Türk KOBİ'lerinin Sesi/The voice of Turkish SMEs

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TURKONFED (Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation) is a non-governmental business organization aiming to contribute to the development of regional, sectoral, and national economic policies. Today it represents 24 federations and 186 associations. It has over 24,000 members who create a business volume of over 208 billion USD annually. As the main representative organization of Turkish SMEs, TURKONFED is a member of UEAPME (European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises).



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