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This project is co-funded by the European Union
and the Republic of Turkey



NEWSLETTER #14 | February-April 2021

Dear Colleagues and Stakeholders of TEBD,

We hope this letter finds you in good health.

*In this newsletter, we will provide the insights of the European and Turkish business communities from the **EU-Turkey High Level Business Dialogue on EU Green Deal**. We are delighted to bring together 1,753 representatives of EU and Turkish business communities from 36 countries including business leaders, ministers, presidents, policy makers, and so on.*

Despite current restrictions, we have proudly carried out Monitoring Visits in the framework of the TEBD Chamber Partnership Projects and organised fruitful SME Workshop on 'Trade and investment exchange between Bulgaria and Turkey'.

*This month, we are pleased to present one of the Chamber Partnership Project on the "**Strengthening of EU-Turkey Business Bridges**" that has been developed and implemented by Samsun Chamber of Commerce and Industry in partnership*

with the Czech Chamber of Commerce. You may visit the Samsun Export Virtual Fair and expand your business and find your supplier or buyer.

We hope you will enjoy this latest edition of our newsletter and we wish you continued strength. Stay safe and take care of each other!

Oya ERSÖZ - TEBD Project Director

RECENT ACTIVITIES

EU-Turkey High Level Business Dialogue

Virtual | 10-11 March 2021



The last edition of the **EU-TURKEY HIGH LEVEL BUSINESS DIALOGUE** convened online in the frame of the Turkey-EU Business Dialogue (TEBD) Project on 10-11 March 2021, bringing together 1,753 representatives of EU and Turkish business communities from 36

countries including business leaders, ministers, presidents, policy makers, and so.

The event was opened by **Oya ERSÖZ**, TEBD Project Director and speeches given by **M. Rifat HISARCIKLIOĞLU**, TOBB President and EUROCHAMBRES Vice President; **Christoph LEITL**, EUROCHAMBRES President; **Ambassador Nikolaus MEYER-LANDRUT**, Head of the European Union (EU) Delegation to Turkey; **Gonca Işık YILMAZ BATUR**, Turkish Deputy Minister of Trade; and **Ambassador Faruk KAYMAKCI**, Turkish Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs.

The main aim of the event was to discuss challenges and opportunities in the view of the **EU GREEN DEAL**. Moreover, it also focused on drafting recommendations from the business community towards policy-makers, with the intention of improving EU-Turkey relations and economic cooperation, and thereby contributing to the further development of the Customs Union and to moving forward Turkey's EU accession process.

The event consisted of 4 Thematic sessions in which different topics were discussed upon:

- EU-Turkey Economic and Trade Relations and Common Challenges in view of the EU Green Deal
- Skills for EU Green Transition
- Recovery, Investment and Sustainable finance
- Circular Economy

With 4,160 viewers from all over Europe and Turkey, the EU-Turkey High Level Business Dialogue held an opening session, four thematic sessions, and a closing session via Zoom virtual platform and live streams, with speeches from EU to Turkey representatives that include trade, foreign affairs ministers, as well as Chambers in both Turkey and the EU. This two-day event brought together high-level representatives and participants from different parts of the EU and Turkey to touch upon mutual recovery during these uncertain times and find collaborative and successful opportunities that the EU Green Deal offers to both blocks.

The event was closed with speeches given by **Ben BUTTERS**, EUROCHAMBRES CEO; **Ambassador Mehmet Kemal BOZAY**, Permanent Delegate of Turkey to the EU; and **Maciej POPOWSKI**, Acting Director General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR).

In order to help repair the immediate economic and social damage brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, kick-start the recovery, and prepare for a better future for the next generation,

it is important to have revamped long-term collaboration the EU Green Deal should also be seen in the context of the modernisation of the Customs Union between Turkey and the EU.

The circular economy and industrial decarbonization, where both the EU and Turkey have ambitious agendas, should become core elements of our future relations. Innovative Turkish businesses are an integral part of European industrial value chains, which makes them key partners in the sustainable development of the economy.

Did you miss the event? You can watch all the sessions [HERE](#).

TEBD Workshop for SMEs - Ruse & Stara Zagora (Bulgaria)

Virtual | 25 March 2021



Ruse Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bulgaria) in collaboration with Stara Zagora Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bulgaria) hosted a very interactive and fruitful SME Workshop on 'Trade and investment exchange between Bulgaria and Turkey' on 25 March 2021 in the scope of the TEBD Project. The workshop attracted

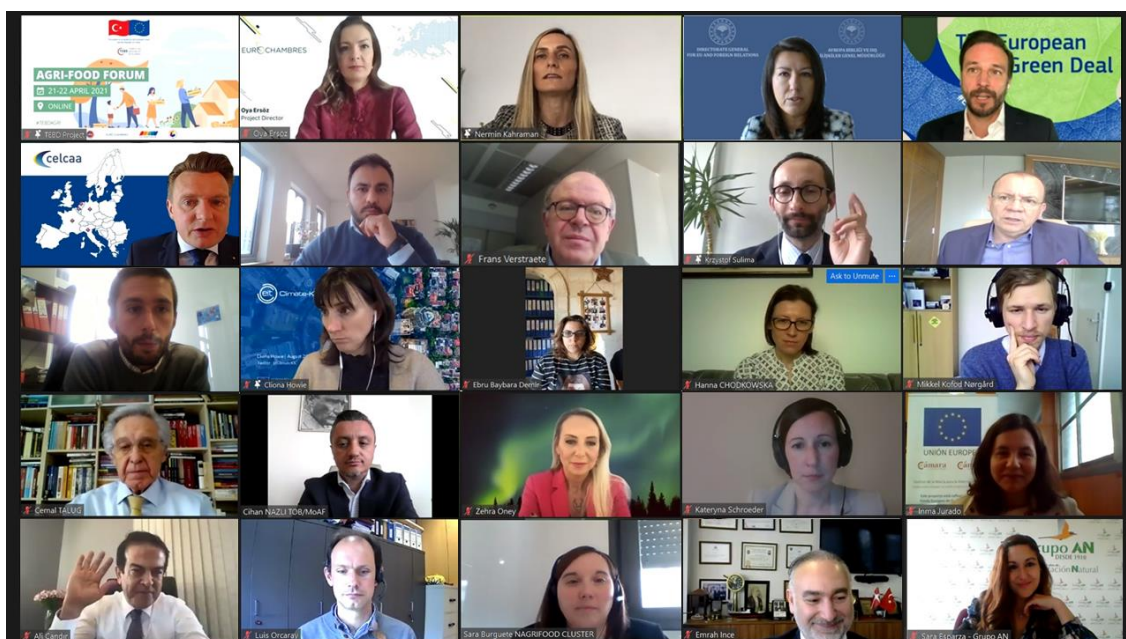
The workshop was opened by **Milen Dobrev**, Executive director of Ruse Chamber of commerce and Industry; **Oleg Stoilov**, Chairman of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Stara Zagora; **Mehmet Ali Erdem**, Commercial Attaché to the Consulate General of the Republic of Turkey in city of Plovdiv; and **Svetoslav Kirkov**, Economic Adviser, Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Ankara, Turkey sharing words on Turkish and Bulgarian relations.

The workshop was continued by speeches on Trade and investment exchange between Bulgaria and Turkey, and their challenges and opportunities given by **Mehmet Ali Erdem** and **Svetoslav Kirkov**. This was followed by **Ismet Cavuşoğlu**, Coordinator of the Trade department “Direction Turkey” of Stara Zagora Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Manager of Elte Engineering Ltd information on the topic of Assistance for the development of bilateral relations between Bulgaria and Turkey. The workshop was finalized with a discussion panel on Challenges and possible solutions in the bilateral economic relations between Bulgaria and Turkey.

The TEBD project was presented by **Ángela Ustárroz Roa**, Capacity Building Expert.

TEBD Agri-Food Forum

Virtual | 21-22 April 2021



With the aim of discussing key topics in the Agri-Food sector; industry leaders, policymakers, farmers, Agri-Food supply chain actors, organizations, SMEs, and other public institutions gathered in the **TEBD AGRI-FOOD FORUM** organized online on 21-22 April 2021.

The TEBD Agri-Food Forum was organized by the TEBD Project, which is co-financed by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey, implemented by EUROCHAMBRES in close cooperation with TOBB.

In order to understand the future of the sector in the post-pandemic world and the needs and the opportunities of the ecosystem, the Agri-Food Forum was realized with 4 engaging and interactive sessions:

- Session 1: EU Green Deal & Farm to Fork Strategy
- Session 2: EU and Turkey Rural Development Policy & Circular Economy
- Session 3: New Trends in the Agri-Food Sector
- Session 4: Needs and Opportunities of the Agri-Food Ecosystem

The Forum counted with 659 engagements. 396 of these engagements were from participation from 23 countries via Zoom virtual platform and 263 views from social media live streams.

Stakeholders from the Agri-Food sector joined as speakers from all over Europe and Turkey, consisting from members from the European Commission's DG AGRI and DG SANTE; Turkish Ministry representatives; organizations such as CELCAA, EIT, COPA-COGECA,

World Fair Trade, WTech, and the World Bank; European and Turkish Chamber representatives; and Agri-Food companies.

Did you miss the event? You can watch all the sessions [HERE](#).

CHAMBER PARTNERSHIPS

Success Story

Strengthening EU-Turkey Business Bridges

“Strengthening of EU-Turkey Business Bridges through more cooperation and comprehension of the EU” is a project that has been developed and implemented by Samsun Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Turkey) in partnership with Czech Chamber of Commerce (Czech Republic). It is one of 19 Chamber Partnership projects which is being supported by the European Union in the framework of TEBD.

The partnership project of Samsun Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Samsun CCI) and Czech Chamber of Commerce (Czech CC) aims to strengthen EU-Turkey Business Bridges, which will allow to share experience, whilst establishing cooperation through comprehension of EU issues among the Samsun and Czech business communities.

The Czech CC is an important organization that provides services at the Czech Republic level. Therefore, this project does not only allow businesspeople to be well supported on access to EU market issues in order to increase their and implicitly the Chambers role on the EU-Turkey dialogue, but also reinforces the service capacity of both Samsun CCI and Czech CC. More particularly, in EU based, EU acquis and SME internalization services via utilizing from the experience of the both Chambers.



Mutual study visits were organized by Samsun and Czech delegations. During these Study Visits, Business Forums and B2B Meetings were held and a sustainable cooperation bridge was established. Also, Joint awareness seminars were organized for SMEs and institutions on the EU Market and acquis with the participation of well-known expert trainers and an attendance of 238 participants.

Based on the needs of SMEs in the Samsun region, a 10-day training to 52 young professionals was given to qualify in foreign trade, six of which were employed by local companies following the training. Additionally, professional export consultancy was provided to 40 SMEs for four months where expert roadmaps on EU acquisition and how to enter the EU market were drawn up for SMEs in Samsun.

“I attended the foreign trade training organized by the Samsun Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Later, with the support of Samsun Chamber of Commerce and Industry, I started to work as a Foreign Trade Specialist in Merida Park Equipment. With the information I received from the training, I learned how to do it, which route to follow and which map to walk on. I try to add new customers to my portfolio with the information I received.” - Uğur ÖZAY, Trainee at Merida Park Equipment.



Under the name [Samsunexporters](#), an e-commerce platform was established, to which export companies/SMEs in Samsun can become a member and promote their products in seven different languages. This initiative resulted in over 210 new company entries. This platform also allows for communication between the buyer and seller, via e-mail and direct message.

Due to COVID-19, the project was suspended until 31 March 2021. Nonetheless, a virtual fair was held for SMEs to increase their foreign trade and reach the EU market, and between April and May 2021 activities such as Preparation and Dissemination of Project Final Booklets, a Project Closure Meeting, a Virtual fair, and Professional Surveys will take place.

Find more information on the Strengthening of EU-Turkey Business Bridges through more cooperation and comprehension of the EU project [HERE](#).

In the framework of TEBD, the European Union is supporting 19 partnership projects involving Chambers in Turkey and Chambers in the EU Member States.

For more information about **Chamber Partnerships**, please see the [TEBD website](#).

Monitoring Visits

Artvin Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Turkey | 07 April 2021



In the scope of the “**Increase Your Opportunities of Networking Through Strengthened Digital Information Management System**” TEBD Chamber Partnership Project carried out under the coordination of [Artvin Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#) (Artvin CCI) in partnership with the Arad Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (Romania), TEBD Project Director **Oya ERSÖZ** and TOBB official **Burcu ATILGAN** performed the third Monitoring Visit to Artvin CCI on 07 April 2021.

We would like to thank the president of the Chamber **Seçkin KURT**, Vice President **Sedat Ali ÖKTEM**, and Secretary General **Yüksel ÇORUH** for their kind hospitality, extraordinary success, and contributions within the scope of the project.

The project “Increase Your Opportunities of Networking Through Strengthened Digital Information Management System” is one of the 19 TEBD Chamber Partnerships Projects developed in the framework of the TEBD project. Visit the project website [HERE](#).

Kars Commodity Exchange, Turkey | 09 April 2021

Following the third Monitoring Visit to Artvin CCI, a second Monitoring Visit was carried out on 09 April 2021 by TEBD Project Director **Oya ERSÖZ** in the scope of the “**Accreditation Guidance to Kars Commodity Exchange and provision for cheese production variety**” TEBD Chamber Partnership Project carried out under the coordination of [Kars Commodity](#)

[Exchange](#) (Kars CE) in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serres (Greece), Galati Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (Romania), and Ardahan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Turkey).

Ms ERSÖZ was kindly welcomed by **Adem MOCO**, Secretary General Kars CE and **Çağatay ERGİN**, Project Assistant to review the progress of the project and provide adequate feedback.

The project “Accreditation Guidance to Kars Commodity Exchange and provision for cheese production variety” is one of the 19 TEBD Chamber Partnerships Projects developed in the framework of the TEBD project.

Virtual Networking Event

Eskişehir Chamber of Industry, Turkey | 27-28 April 2021



The TEBD Chamber Partnership “**Develop SMEs and Clusters by International Networking**” Project, coordinated by [Eskişehir Chamber of Industry](#), successfully realized the Virtual International Networking Event organized on 27-28 April 2021 in cooperation with Eskişehir Chamber of Industry, Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Chamber of Commerce. The event provided large companies, SMEs, Chambers, clusters, investors, public institution, and associations with a unique opportunity to establish business and technology partnerships via pre-scheduled one o one meetings. A total of 595 B2B business meetings were held at the event, which was attended by 369 companies and

organizations from 34 countries. The event, held within the aviation, rail systems, and automotive industries, provided a unique networking opportunity, sharing and collaboration platform for the participants.

Upcoming Events

Energy Efficiency Audit Training



[Energy Efficiency Audit Training 2 | 25-26 May 2021](#)

Hosted by Turkey-EU Business Dialogue Project via virtual Zoom platform

TOPIC: Energy Efficiency

Samsun Export Virtual Fair



This project is funded by the European Union



SAMSUN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Samsun Chamber of Commerce and Industry invites you Samsun Export – Samsun Industry and Export Products **Virtual Fair** that will be held virtually between 3 -12 May 2021.

You can discover the cooperation opportunities with the Samsun companies that are existing with more than 100 virtual booths in the virtual fair. The event profoundly reflects on current industrial and export products of Samsun which is located in **Blacksea Region of Turkey**.

www.digitalsamsunfair.com



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We wish everyone nice Bayram Holidays!

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TURKEY-EU BUSINESS DIALOGUE

Avenue des Arts, 19 A/D | 1000 Brussels - Belgium

For questions concerning the newsletter, please contact tebd@eurochambres.eu

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