



This Project is co-funded by the European Union
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Dear Colleagues and Stakeholders of TEBD,

As the world comes to terms with a global pandemic that has threatened and turned upside-down the lives and livelihoods of people across the globe, it is clear we are living in extraordinary times.

Like many other organisations, we have postponed all of our public events until

further notice, whilst adjusting to working more over the internet and replanning our activities with innovative models.

We have also focused on supporting Chamber Partnerships and Chamber Capacity Building, as we all try to understand how this crisis is going to impact on the EU-Turkey Business Dialogue in the short and long term.

We hope you will enjoy this latest edition of our newsletter and discover many opportunities to engage in and support our activities!

Oya ERSÖZ - TEBD Project Director

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

All TEBD events postponed until further notice

The TEBD team is closely following ongoing developments regarding travel restrictions and other measures that are being applied in Turkey and in the European Union, in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Nothing is more important to us than protecting the health and safety of our partners and stakeholders. Therefore, we have decided to postpone (until further notice) all of the public events, which were due to take place in the framework of the TEBD project between 18 March and 30 April 2020.

In case you have any questions regarding specific events or activities, you may

contact the TEBD team (tebd@eurochambres.eu).

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

TEBD Workshop for SMEs in Sanliurfa, Turkey

12 March 2020



Sanliurfa Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted a TEBD Workshop on ‘How to Improve EU-Turkey Economic Relations & Projects’ in Şanlıurfa (Turkey) on March 12th. The participants included representatives of 30 local SMEs.

This event was opened by **Mr İbrahim Halil Peltek** (Chairman of Sanliurfa CCI) and the TEBD project was presented by **Ms Burcu Atılgan** from TOBB. **Ms Funda Suran** (President of the EU & Foreign Affairs Working Group of Gaziantep City Council) gave a detailed presentation on the main topic of the Workshop.



PHOTO: Mr İbrahim Halil Peltek (Chairman of Sanliurfa CCI) opening the TEBD Workshop in Şanlıurfa (Turkey) on 12 March 2020

CHAMBER PARTNERSHIP

Hazelnuts are the focus of a fruitful Partnership between Giresun (Turkey) and Turin (Italy)

'Increase of Hazelnut Added Value in Giresun by Increasing The Collaboration of The Chambers' is the name of a partnership project that began in April 2019 under the leadership of the Giresun Commodity Exchange, in collaboration with the Turin Chamber of Commerce and Giresun Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This is just one of the 19 partnership projects which is being supported by the European Union in the framework of TEBD.

The project partners came together in Giresun (Turkey) for the Kick-off Meeting on 8 October 2019, which was followed by a meeting between producers and the signing of a **Cooperation Protocol** on 9 October. The delegation from Turin gained valuable information about the hazelnut industry and licensed warehousing in the Giresun region with the visit of hazelnut plants and sharing of technical know-how.



PHOTO: Visit to the Fiskobirlik warehouse in Giresun (Turkey) on 9 October 2019

In December 2019, a delegation from Giresun took part in a five-day **Technical Visit** to Turin, which included visits to several factories and hazelnut gardens in the Piemonte region. The participants visited companies with state-of-the-art processing and production facilities for food production (Ziccat and Tastelanghe) and an industrial automation company that specializes in food processing and packaging (DSC).

At the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Pollenzo, the Turkish visitors learned about the latest trends in the production and consumption of various food products. The programme of the Study Visit facilitated valuable contacts between representatives of Turkish and Italian companies, and it is expected that these contacts will lead to cooperation that should bring positive benefits to all of the parties involved.



PHOTO: Visit to Tastelanghe production facilities in Somano (Italy) in December 2019

One of the most significant results of the project has been the preparation of a **'Research report on Chocolate Production with Giresun Hazelnuts'** which contains detailed information about the technical requirements of chocolate production facilities. This report has been published in Turkish and Italian versions (100 copies in each language), and is being distributed by the project partners to companies in the Giresun Province of Turkey and those in the Piedmont Region of Italy.

Other notable activities that have been carried out in the framework of this project include an **'Information Seminar for Hazelnut Manufacturers'** which was attended by 13 representatives of hazelnut producers in the Giresun Province.

The last activity organised in the framework of the project was a training session on **'Foreign Trade and Marketing Methods'** intended for companies in the Giresun Province. This was an opportunity for the 18 participants to learn about export-oriented marketing strategies; market information, market relations, buyers, suppliers, prices, commercial regulations and labour legislation in the target market.

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](#).

OTHER NEWS

European Commission coordinates EU efforts to manage economic impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic

The European Commission is coordinating a common response to the Coronavirus outbreak at the level of the European Union, including measures to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 13 March, the European Commission announced several measures including a [Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative](#), using money from the EU structural funds to support the EU Member States' efforts to address the pandemic. This initiative entered into force on 1 April, and [additional measures](#) were announced on 2 April.

On 2 April, [the Commission proposed](#) the creation of a new temporary instrument for **Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE)**, which is designed to help protect jobs and workers affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

On 6 April, [the Commission announced](#) that the **European Investment Fund (EIF)**, will issue special guarantees to incentivise banks and other lenders to provide liquidity to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small mid-cap companies hit by the economic impact of the pandemic, for an estimated available financing of €8 billion.

For more information about how the EU is responding to the current pandemic, see the [Coronavirus response](#) section of the European Commission website.

See also the [letter from the President of EUROCHAMBRES](#) to the President of the European Council (sent on 25 March).

TESTIMONIAL

Every hour of the Study Visit to Latvia and Estonia was arranged meticulously. The Latvian CCI and Estonian CCI were also very hospitable. The companies we visited, especially ABB Factory, were very impressive. We have learned useful information about the Baltic States, and we have seen that cooperation and collaboration is possible between Turkey and the Baltic States.



Pinar ALEGÖZ
Tarsus Commodity Exchange

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

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