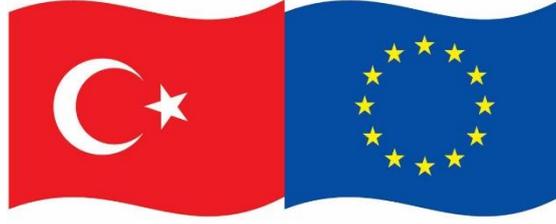


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This Project is co-funded by the European Union  
and the Republic of Turkey



## NEWSLETTER #8 | JUNE 2020

*Dear Colleagues and Stakeholders of TEBD,*

*We hope you are all in good health! Fortunately, the pandemic seems on retreat and countries are starting to loosen measures. The TEBD Project has so far been able to deal with the COVID-19 fairly well by moving some of our activities online. Nevertheless, the crisis impacts our activities and we will continue and expand our contingency measures.*

*We are pleased to present our online activities and timely innovative Chamber Partnership “SME Hospital and European Network” Project which has been implemented by five notable chambers: Afyonkarahisar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Turkey) in partnership with Siauliai Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts (Lithuania), Sibiu Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (Romania), Afyonkarahisar Commodity Exchange (Turkey), and Bingöl Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Turkey).*

*We hope you will enjoy this latest edition of our newsletter and we wish you continued strength. With that, stay safe and take care!*

*Oya ERSÖZ - TEBD Project Director*

## RECENT ACTIVITIES

### Turkey-EU Business Dialogue Webinar on "Post COVID-19 Turkey-EU Economic and Trade Relations"

Zoom platform | 11 June 2020

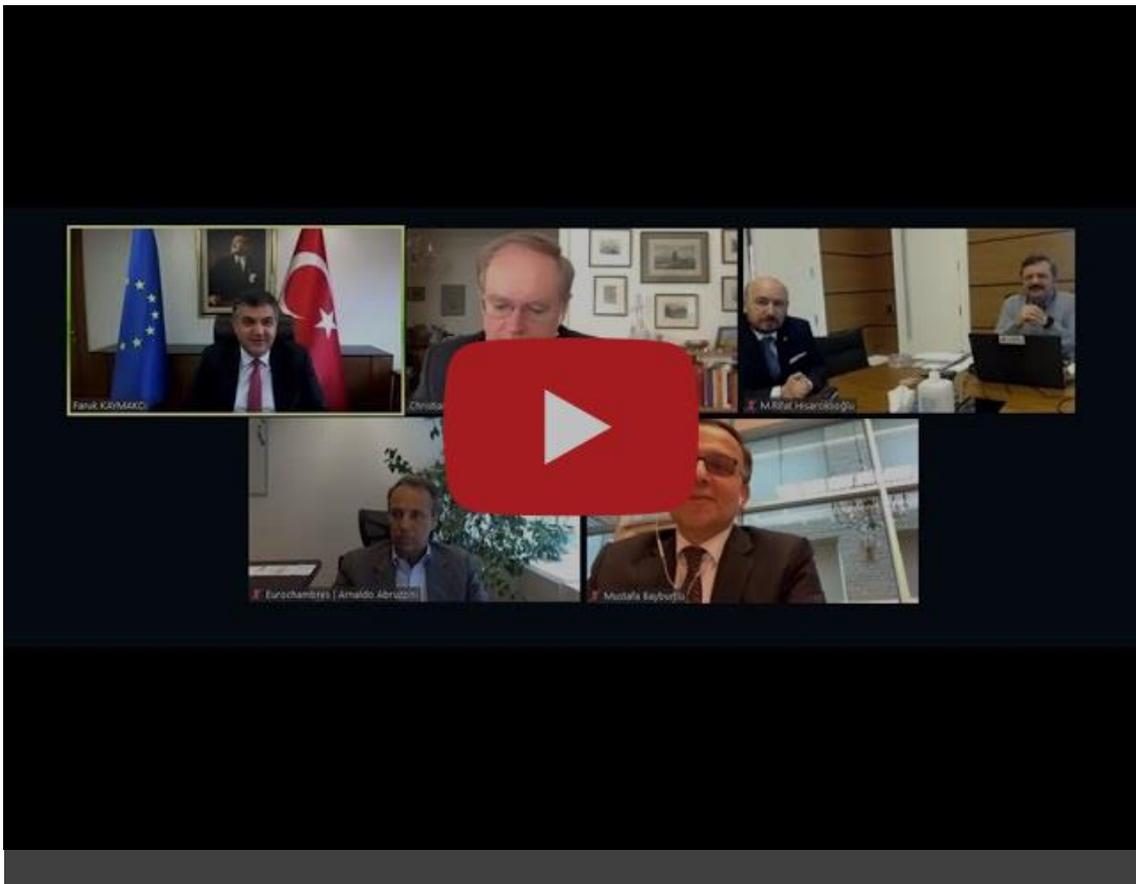


The TEBD Project organized a Business Dialogue Webinar on “Post Covid-19 Turkey- EU Economic and Trade Relations” on 11 June, 2020.

The TEBD webinar attracted around 320 participants from Turkey and the EU whom had the opportunity to listen to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs & Director for EU Affairs

and Ambassador, Faruk Kaymakcı; the Head of EU Delegation to Turkey and Ambassador, Christian Berger; the President of the Union of Chambers and Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), M.Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu; and CEO of the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry (EUROCHAMBRES), Arnaldo Abruzzini, analyzing and discussing the Economic and Trade Relations between the EU and Turkey, and how it can be further strengthened so as to maximize the benefits for both sides.

Watch the full replay below to learn more about challenges and ways to strengthen relations between European & Turkish businesses.



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## Global Europe Webinar:

**EU funded projects supporting businesses to look beyond**

## the EU and internationalize

Zoom platform | 23-24 June 2020



As one of the main EU projects supporting SMEs, the TEBD project was presented by the TEBD Director, Ms Oya Ersöz, during the Global Europe Webinar on 23 and 24 June 2020, hosted by the Polish Chamber of Commerce, the Croatia Chamber of Commerce, and EUROCHAMBRES.

The Global Europe Webinar focused on EU funded projects that support SMEs and business support organizations and their internationalization across the globe - Turkey, China, Myanmar, India, Latin America, and more. Participants discovered how they can seize international opportunities for their business.

## CHAMBER PARTNERSHIP

### Success Story

## Test, diagnose, and cure... The SME Hospital and European Network project

The “SME Hospital and European Network” project has been developed and

implemented by Afyonkarahisar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Turkey) in partnership with Siauliai Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts (Lithuania), Sibiu Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (Romania), Afyonkarahisar Commodity Exchange (Turkey), and Bingöl Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Turkey). It is one of 19 partnership projects which is being supported by the European Union in the framework of TEBD.

SMEs are the backbone of European economy and play a major role in exports as well as employment, not just in Europe but worldwide. The SME Hospital and European Network project aims to diagnose financial problems SMEs encounter and create sustainable and permanent solutions, as well as bringing Turkish SMEs to a position where they can compete on the same level with their EU counterparts.



Within the scope of the SME Hospital and European Network project, Afyonkarahisar Chamber of Commerce and Industry has organized multiple field trips to Romania and Lithuania and conducted Study Visits. After the Study Visits, a B2B meeting was organized in Afyonkarahisar (Turkey) with the participation of local and international project partners, the Romanian Ambassador, the Romanian Counselor, and the Lithuanian Counselor. In this meeting, Romanian and Lithuanian representatives presented their countries and possible business opportunities.



During the 15 months of the project, also multiple educational training's and seminars were organized to increase the knowledge of SMEs in managing financial resources. Mentoring visits have been carried out to 80 SMEs in Afyonkarahisar (Turkey), Bingöl (Turkey), Sibiu (Romania), and Siauliai (Lithuania), analyzing and surveying their financial needs and knowledge. The results of the analysis and surveys identified the SMEs strong and weak points, leading to recommendations. Also, a free E-learning platform available in four languages (Turkish, English, Romanian and Lithuanian) on which SMEs can find education modules on finance and financial management has been created.

As a result of this Chamber Partnership Project SMEs have increased their awareness and knowledge on managing their financial resources effectively, and mutual knowledge between Turkish Chambers and their EU counterparts has increased.

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

**Tarsus Commodity Exchange Webinar on "Trade with  
Baltic States and Opportunities"**

## Zoom platform | 23 June 2020



In January 2020 the TEBD Project organized a Study Visit to Latvia & Estonia on “Business Cooperation between Turkey and the Baltic States”. Mrs Pinar Alegöz, International Trade Coordinator from Tarsus Commodity Exchange (Turkey), was one of the participants that had the chance to visit several factories and institutions that are producing according to the EU Acquis.

The Baltic States imports fresh fruits, vegetables and other agri-foods, and produces wooden products. As the agriculture sector in the Tarsus region in Turkey is very developed, Tarsus Commodity Exchange saw great possibilities of collaboration between Turkey and the Baltic States after the TEBD Study Visit and took action towards potential collaborations and partnerships, and sharing best practices.

As a result of the TEBD Study Visit, Tarsus Commodity Exchange organized a webinar on "Trade with Baltic States and Opportunities". During the webinar, the Commercial Counsellor of The Turkish Embassy in Vilnius, Mr Umit Atesagaoglu, introduced the Baltic States market to the members of Tarsus Commodity Exchange. Mr Atesagaoglu shared detailed information on importers of the Baltic States and Tarsus Commodity Exchange member sprang into action contacting these

importers. The webinar proved to be successful and fruitful.

Currently Tarsus Commodity Exchange is organizing a digital commercial delegation during which introductions will be made and bilateral meetings will take place. When ruling allows, Tarsus Commodity Exchange will visit companies in the Baltic States for possible collaboration and invitations will be extended to visit the facilities of the members in Turkey.

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## **Strengthening EU and Turkey relations is vital for regional and global stability and security**

**On 3 June 2020, EUROCHAMBRES Vice President and President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, M.Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, published an article on what is needed for EU-Turkey relations to work to the benefit of an economic recovery post COVID-19.**

Encouragingly, the effects of COVID-19 on health seems to be slowing down, which helps us to overcome the first shock and focus on our disrupted economies. According to the Spring 2020 version of the European Economic Forecast published in May, EU GDP is forecast to contract by about 7½ % this year, far deeper than during the Global Financial crisis in 2009, and to rebound by only 6% in 2021. According to IMF data, the global economy is projected to contract sharply by -3 percent in 2020. More than that the recovery is uncertain as many variables exist including the pathway of the pandemic....

Read the full article here: <https://lnkd.in/esjnSwV>

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