

## PRESS RELEASE

### Round Table with EU Commissioner Pierre Moscovici

Assessments on Turkey-EU macro-economic relations from business perspective:  
Which obstacles, risks and policy options for Turkey and the EU?  
Istanbul, 25 April 2016

Institut du Bosphore organized, in collaboration with TUSIAD (Turkish Industry and Business Association), a round table entitled "Assessments on Turkey-EU macro-economic relations from business perspective: Which obstacles, risks and policy options for Turkey and the EU?" on Monday 25th April



2016 in Istanbul, with the participation of **Mr. Pierre Moscovici**, EU Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, Member of the Institut du Bosphore Scientific Committee as well as **Ms. Cansen Başaran-Symes**, President of TUSIAD and **Ms. Ümit Boyner**, Co-President of the Institut du Bosphore Scientific Committee, Vice President of the TUSIAD High Advisory Council.

The debate was moderated by **Mr. Bahadır Kaleağası**, President of Institut du Bosphore. Discussions focused in particular on EU's global competitiveness and reform strategy, the future of Turkey-EU negotiations in the light of the EU's economic agenda and global risks as well as the fields of cooperation to accelerate the economic integration between Turkey and the EU such as the opening of Chapter 17 "Economic and Monetary Policy", the modernization of the Customs Union and Turkey's involvement in TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership).



**Mr. Pierre Moscovici** said: *"The context of this visit to Istanbul and Ankara is fully in line with my longstanding commitment to a closer relationship between the EU and Turkey. I have been a long-time supporter of EU-Turkish integration. And in today's global and interlinked context, perhaps even more than before, we now share some of the same challenges; so we need to cooperate in order to find viable solutions to our mutual benefit."* The Commissioner has also highlighted: *"Turkey needs a strong Europe" and "the EU needs a strong and open Turkey"*.

TUSIAD and Institut du Bosphore's representatives reiterated their optimism, enthusiasm and conviction for Turkey's accession to the European Union.



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**Ms. Cansen Başaran-Symes, President of TUSIAD** said: *“Earlier today, I had the privilege to meet with the Commissioner on the occasion of Turkey – EU High Level Economic Dialogue and to express TUSIAD’s views and convictions about the anchor role that the EU plays for Turkey. I would like to emphasize once again that while we appreciate the newly launched processes of political, economic and energy dialogue between the EU and Turkey, it is very important that our bilateral relations should not be reduced to any single domain of cooperation, (privileged) partnership, neighborhood or dialogue. Our main focus should be moving forward in the EU accession process.”*

**Ms. Ümit Boyner, Co-President of the Institut du Bosphore Scientific Committee** said: *“Institut du Bosphore, has a great responsibility to explain to both countries’ public opinions and policy makers and to convince them that France and Turkey have strong interests to build their future in Europe together. I am confident that through this initiative, we achieved a constant and objective voice in France. And I firmly believe that the Institute now has a tough but rightly chosen agenda to further its mission, and to constitute a constructive platform to generate structural solutions to the contemporary global challenges.”*



At this round table, Institut du Bosphore welcomed around twenty business people, experts and intellectuals such as **Simone Kaslowski**, Member of the Board & Co-Chair of the « Global Relations and the EU » RoundTable of TÜSİAD as well as Member of Institut du Bosphore Executive Board & the Scientific Committee, **Ömer Aras**, Vice-President of the High Advisory Council, TÜSİAD & Chairman and Group CEO, Finansbank, **Sedat Eratarlar**, President of the Tax Working Group, TÜSİAD & Founding Partner, Eratarlar Management Consulting, **Feridun Güngör**, Member of the Tax Working Group, TÜSİAD & Partner, Ernst & Young, **Seyfettin Gürsel**, Director, BETAM (Bahcesehir University Center for Economic and Social Research), **Livio Manzini**, Vice President of the Board, Institut du Bosphore & Chairman of «France Network », TÜSİAD & Chairman and CEO, Bell Holding, **Guillaume Lejeune**, Member of the Board, Institut du Bosphore & Member, TÜSİAD & CEO, Axa Sigorta, **Hasan Süel**, Chairman of « UK Network», TÜSİAD & Chief External Affairs Officer, Vodafone Turkey.

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#### INSTITUT DU BOSPHORE

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First ever think-tank dedicated to French/ Turkish relations founded in 2009 on the initiative of TUSIAD (Turkish Industry and Business Association), the Institut du Bosphore aims to reinvigorate and strengthen dialogue between Turkey and its European partners. Setting up this platform for dialogue and free and independent debate between business, society and intellectual figures has been both revealing and natural.

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