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SUNDAYS ZAMAN

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Kapikule border modernization completed

Turkey's Kapikule border crossing, the opening to the European continent situated on the Turkish-Greek border, has been renovated by the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB).

With construction launched in August 2007, TOBB has now finished the project and expects to make the official inauguration in June. Turkish citizens and visitors from Europe will see a more modern Kapikule than before, Durmuş Zor, the Customs and Tourism Enterprise general manager, said on Tuesday. Noting that the border gate will cover an area of 330,000 square meters, Zor stressed that Kapikule will leave behind its previous old-fashioned image and will provide a faster and easier service.

"We faced a lot of problems in the past. There used to be long vehicle queues here. But now, after this modernization, people will be able to come in and out easily. For instance, it will take eight minutes for a truck to finish its customs process and pass through," he said. Zor asserted that the checkpoint will be able to serve some 4,000 vehicles per day. "We expect Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to participate in the inauguration ceremony," he went on to say.

20 May 2009, Wednesday

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