

## Aspen Atlantic Group In Turkey



**The Influential "Aspen Atlantic Group" in Turkey, of Former Foreign Ministers Convenes at TOBB's New Headquarters in Ankara, Turkey.**

**The Turkish Union of Chambers & Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) will be hosting the Aspen Atlantic Group's 2009 Annual Meeting in Ankara at TOBB's new headquarters on April 24-25, 2009.**

At the two-day Annual Meeting which will include eight sessions, Turkish Foreign Minister Ali BABACAN, Minister and Chief EU Negotiator Egemen BAGIS, and TOBB President M. Rifat HISARCIKLIOGLU will be delivering keynote speeches.

This year's Annual Meeting will be titled "Turkey: Forging A Common Agenda For A Defining Moment."

"The 16 former foreign ministers who will be attending include, US Former Secretary of State Madeleine ALBRIGHT, the British Former Foreign Secretary Sir Malcolm RIFKIND, Italian Former Foreign Minister Lamberto DINI, Canadian Former Foreign Minister Lloyd AXWORTHY, Russian Former Foreign Minister Igor IVANOV, Dutch Former Foreign Minister Jozias VAN AARTSEN, German Former Foreign Minister Joschka FISHER, Danish Former Foreign Minister Niels Helveg PETERSEN, French Former Foreign Minister Hubert VEDRINE, New Zealand Former Foreign Minister Donald MCKINNON, Swedish Former Foreign Minister Jan ELIASSON, Hungarian Former Foreign Minister Janos MARTONYI, Mexican Former Foreign Minister Rosario GREEN, Spanish Former Foreign Minister Ana PALACIO, and Icelandic Former Foreign Minister Halldor AS GRIMSSON. In addition a select group of Turkish, American and European former Ambassadors, academicians, and researchers will be attending the sessions.

The "Aspen Atlantic Group" of Former Foreign Ministers under the leadership of TOBB President M. Rifat HISARCIKLIOGLU and Secretary Madeleine ALBRIGHT will be received by President Abdullah GUL and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip ERDOGAN separately at their offices.

### Statement by TOBB President M. Rifat HISARCIKLIOĞLU



TOBB President  
M. Rifat HISARCIKLIOĞLU

"We are living at a time when a new World Order is being formed, and when global capitalism and the international system are being restructured.

The G-20 countries, which include Turkey, is working on reforming the economic and financial order. On the other hand, there are many other topics of concern abroad. Turkey, with its history and geopolitical

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location, has been at the center of many important discussions on topics of global importance, from energy security, to achieving security and stability in Afghanistan and Pakistan, to Iran's nuclear ambitions, to stability in the Caucasus, and to the peace process in Israel and Palestine

EU enlargement, Turkey-EU relations and Turkey-EU-US relations have all been closely followed by foreign policy and analysts. These above mentioned topics which have been highlighted as key topics in global economy, politics and diplomacy will be discussed in detail by 16 former foreign ministers, diplomacy analysts, academicians and economists. As TOBB, we are extremely please to be hosting this year's Aspen Atlantic Group meeting at our new headquarters' in Ankara".

## ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS



aspen strategy group

**The Aspen Atlantic Group** is an initiative of former serving North American and European foreign ministers, from across the political spectrum. Building on a history of constructive negotiations and issue resolution, the senior statesmen are uniquely positioned to leverage their experience and insight to foster a more collaborative transatlantic exchange.

The Aspen Atlantic Group seeks to develop concrete, non partisan recommendations to help the two sides of the Atlantic address common global challenges. Though its members in-depth understanding of foreign policy, and continued influence as opinion leaders, members of parliament, and such issues as Iraq reconstruction, the fight against terrorism, Middle East peace Humanitarianism interention and reform of the transatlantic architecture.

The Aspen Atlantic Group is coordinated by US former secretary of state madeleine Albright. The Group was represented by the late former Foreign Minister Ismail Cem in turkey.



**The Turkish Union of Chambers & Commodity Exchanges (TOBB)** is the most comprehensive umbrella organization representing the Turkish private sector. TOBB was established in 1952 by the Turkish Constitution, and it consists of 365 local chambers of commerce, industry, commerce and industry, maritime commerce and commodity exchanges, representing 1.3 million small, medium sized and large companies operating within the country, from every sector of the economy.

Over the years, TOBB has evolved into one of the most successful civil society organizations in Turkey, helping shape policy nationally and in the greater region by representing the united voice and concerns of the Turkish business community to the decision makers.

TOBB Board of Directors found it crucial to have a Representantive Office in the United States. The US office, located in Washington, DC's Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade center on Pennsylvania Avenue, just minutes from the White House and across from the department of Commerce, represents the Turkish private sector in the US and works to strengthen US- Turkey business relations.

US Representative Office  
Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Suite 860  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
Phone: (202) 789-3643  
Fax: (202) 789-3646  
E-mail: [duzen@tobb.org.tr](mailto:duzen@tobb.org.tr)

Headquarters in Turkey  
Atatürk Bulvarı No:149  
Bakanlıklar 06640 Ankara  
Phone: +90 (312) 413-8000  
Fax: +90 (312) 413-3268  
E-mail: [info@tobb.org.tr](mailto:info@tobb.org.tr)  
Website: <http://www.tobb.org.tr>