



M. Rifat Hisarciklioglu is the President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), which is the largest non-profit business organization in Turkey, covering **365 Chambers and Commodity Exchanges**. TOBB represents the country's **1.3 million companies** and acts as the most effective professional organization with a network of members reaching into all scale of businesses from different sectors, great to small in all regions in Turkey.

M. Rifat Hisarciklioglu was born in Ankara, in 1955. He is married with 3 children.

Mr. Hisarciklioglu earned his B.A. degree in Economics and Management from Gazi University in Ankara.

He is the **Chairman of Eskihisar Group of Companies**, which operates in the fields of construction, construction materials, export and import, agriculture, investments, land development, food industry and automotive sector.

Besides his professional career as a leading businessman in Turkey, Mr. Hisarciklioglu is the leader of the Turkish private sector.

After a one-year vice presidency period in the Union, on June 26th 2001 Mr. Hisarciklioglu became the president of TOBB. He was re-elected in May-2002 until 2005, and was re-elected again in 2005 for another 4 years term.

Since August-2001 Mr. Hisarciklioglu has been the **President of the Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEIK)**, which aims to contribute to the efforts for improving Turkey's external economic relations through Business Councils world-wide. DEIK assists the business community in the development of foreign economic and commercial activities for the benefit of the country and in the best evaluation of business opportunities through Business Councils established with 82 countries under the aegis of DEIK.

Having the inspiration to improve the quality of labour force of business communities and also bring light to education by combining academic and private sector cooperation, Mr. Hisarciklioglu pioneered the establishment of the **'TOBB University of Economics and Technology'** (TOBB-ETU) in Ankara, in July 2003.

The university focuses on science and technology, administrative and social sciences to train business leaders for the 21st century, providing innovative teaching and research programs to educate creative engineers who can acquire, synthesize and apply interdisciplinary scientific knowledge with entrepreneurial skills. Today, TOBB - ETU ranks as the 'most preferred university' among the universities in Turkey.

With an insight to respond to a much-felt necessity for a policy making institution, Mr. Hisarciklioglu pioneered the establishment of a think-tank. He is currently the **President of TEPAV - the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey**, which is engaged in research on economics, governance studies, strategic and foreign policy studies.

For the determination of the priorities in economic issues with participatory approach by taking views of businessmen, Mr. Hisarciklioglu took the initiative to establish **the Evaluation Board for Economic Issues (ESDK)**, which comprises of Ministries, TOBB and representatives from related private sector organizations.

ESDK aims to make significant contribution to the dynamism of the private sector and improve the adaptability of the Turkish economy to internal and external markets, in the course of evaluating issues and burdens on the Turkish business community.

Representing the Turkish private sector, M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu is also a **Member of the Economic and Social Council of Turkey** chaired by the Prime Minister. The Economic and Social Council is a social dialogue platform which covers various socio-economic groups and serves as an important cooperation and communication mechanism between these groups and the government.

Mr. Hisarciklioglu is also the President of the Association of Installation and Construction Material and Member of the Assembly of the Ankara Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Hisarciklioglu is also an Honorary **Member in the UNICEF National Committee** of Turkey.

With its flashing profile and contemporary spirit, TOBB plays an active role in international relations and global business arena. With this sense, Mr. Hisarcıklıoğlu carries wide range of responsibilities in the integration of the Turkish business world with the global market and increasing competitiveness.

During his Presidency, TOBB became the most active and influential umbrella organization for the Turkish business community, not only in the domestic arena but also international sphere.

Mr. Hisarciklioglu is the **President of the World Turkish Business Council**, which aims to create a strong consensus among the Turkish businessmen abroad and develop their commercial relations.

Mr. Hisarciklioglu has also been the **Chairman of the ICC-Turkey** (International Chamber of Commerce, National Committee), since September 2001.

Recognizing the importance of the U.S.-Turkey bilateral relationship, TOBB and the **Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS)** formed the CSIS-TOBB United States-Turkish Contact Group (CUTCG) in Washington D.C in June 2003. Mr. Hisarciklioglu is the Co-Chairman of this Contact Group.

Mr. Hisarciklioglu is the **Chairman of the Ankara Forum**, a permanent dialogue mechanism for a trilateral economic cooperation among Palestine, Israel and Turkey, initiated by TOBB. The first meeting of the Ankara Forum was held in Ankara on 27th April 2005, following 7 more meetings. The most concrete project within the Forum in the meantime is the establishment of the Industrial Peace Project in Palestine.

Mr. Hisarciklioglu is the **Chairman of the Istanbul Forum**, another unique platform to instigate and build up economic cooperation between Pakistan, Afghanistan and Turkey. The first meeting of the Forum took place in Istanbul on 26th October 2007 and the second on 28th January 2008.

Mr. Hisarciklioglu takes place in the board of various regional organizations:

- President of the Association of Balkan Commerce & Industry (ABC): 2007-2008
- President and the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry: 2007-2010

- Member of the Presidency Council & Board Member of Eurochambres: 2008-2009

Mr. Hisarciklioglu has a strong international mission. He works closely with his counterparts from other countries and international business organizations. He has always believed in playing a strong role in international organizations and sponsoring initiatives and hosting conferences and assemblies.

Since M. Rifat Hisarciklioglu's Presidency, TOBB has hosted meetings with worldwide leaders:

- 30 Presidents
- 48 Prime Ministers
- 2 Kings
- 1 Queen
- 1 Prince

Mr. Hisarciklioglu has received numerous Awards from reputable organizations:

- the 'Commendatore' from the Italian Republic
- the 'Medal of Inspiration' from Mongolia
- Honorary Doctorate from the Karadeniz Technical University
- Social Contribution Certificate by Suleyman Demirel University
- Special Science Award from the Popular Scientific Journal
- "Businessman of the Year" Award from the Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- "Social Scientist of the Year" Award from the Social Sciences High School Science & Technology Club
- Medal of Honour from the Assembly of French Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- International Road Transport Union (IRU) Honorary Award
- Gratitude Award by the Prime Minister of Turkey
- Gratitude Award by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Certificate of Appreciation by the Prime Minister of Turkey
- Certificate of Honorary Membership by the Turkish - American Businessmen Association
- Medal of Honour by Georgia
- "Civil Society Exemplary" Award of the Year by the Economist