

KAGİDER Newsletter
January - February - March 2016

KAGİDER condemns terrorist attacks in Brussels and calls for peace and solidarity

KAGİDER condemns the terrorist attacks on innocent civilians in the heart of Brussels and at Zaventem airport, and expresses its deepest sympathy and solidarity with the victims of these horrible acts and all the people of Belgium. Following the recent attacks in Ankara and Istanbul and many others that have been taking place all around the world, we extend our sincere condolences to all the families and friends of those killed and to all those who have suffered trauma and injuries in the explosions of the terrorist attacks that targeted us and our way of lives at our home towns. As KAGİDER we call for peace and invite everybody to unite around the universal values of tolerance, peace and freedom.

Sanem OKTAR
President

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Uludağ Economic Summit Conference

On 25 March KAGİDER President Sanem Otkar spoke at a panel entitled "More Women in Business" at the Uludağ Economic Summit. Bringing attention to the W20 goals and outcomes Sanem Otkar urged all business representatives in supporting the UN Women HeforShe Campaign in raising the representation of women in employment. She pointed to the contribution women make to economic growth and emphasized the need for women to take on more decision-making roles in the business world.

KAGİDER's "Business Development" Meetings

Under KAGİDER's meeting series on "Business Development" Mehmet Soyer and KAGİDER Member, Serap Zuvin, made a presentation entitled "Selling Shares to Grow Your Business/Finding a Business Partner". In attendance were KAGİDER members who listened to the real world examples and the processes of selling shares and growing a business.

KAGİDER's Visit to Washington

On 21 March KAGİDER members visited Washington with visits to the Turkish Embassy where they met the Turkish Ambassador. In addition, they made visits to the House of the Republicans, the office of the US Small Business and Administration and met with representatives of the W20 engagement group.

KAGİDER and Vodafone Present the Women First in Soma Education and Production Center at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

At the 60th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women KAGİDER presented its Women First in Soma Education and Production Centre Project in partnership with Vodafone Turkey and the Soma Municipality. The panel opened with a speech by UNDP Administrator, Helen Clark, focusing on the need to decrease the gender gap and increase women's participation in the labour force. KAGİDER President Sanem Otkar pointed to the Soma Project as being a good example of cooperation between civil society, public and private sector as well as a good model for implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Arancha Gonzalez, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre, pointed to the market as being crucial for women vendors where more public procurement should be used to unleash the economic potential of women entrepreneurs. Vodafone Turkey CEO, Gökhan Ögüt, spoke about the use of technology as a means of closing the gender gap and empowering women in rural areas.

"Women and Inclusive Global Economic Growth: W20 Experience of Turkey" Side Event at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

On 16 March KAGİDER attended a side event organized by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey entitled "Women and Inclusive Global Economic Growth: W20 Experience of Turkey" at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The event took place under the

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auspices of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. KAGİDER President Sanem Otkar spoke at the event on the goals of the W20 Summit and the activities and projects of KAGİDER in reaching these objectives. She noted KAGİDER's focus on three major policy areas including empowerment of women entrepreneurs, child and elderly care and equal opportunity models.

“Supporting Women Entrepreneurs in the Supply Chain” at the Şişli Municipality

On 9 March, KAGİDER attended the “Supporting Women Entrepreneurs in the Supply Chain” event organized by the Şişli Municipality, Global Compact and Professional Women's Network Istanbul. The event aimed to connect women entrepreneurs with buyers from the private and public sector in order to increase the number of women in the supply chain. KAGİDER President and Şişli Mayor, Hayri İnönü delivered speeches both noting the importance of including women in public and private sectors while emphasizing that every day is March 8.

International Women's Day Event with KAGİDER and Garanti Bank

On March 8, Garanti Bank together with KAGİDER held an event for International Women's Day. KAGİDER and Garanti Bank introduced the International Trade Center's Women Vendor's Forum and Exhibition to be held in Istanbul from 1-2 September 2016. The event also featured a panel on “Opening New Markets for Women Entrepreneurs” featuring representatives from Galatasary University, Garanti Bank, WeConnect and success stories from successful women entrepreneurs.

Ezca Dolabı Concert Supports Women Leaders of the Future Project

On 7 March, the Ezacıbaşı Holding's Ezca Dolabı Orchestra and KAGİDER came together in supporting the Women Leaders of the Future Project. Proceeds from the concert went to KAGİDER's Women Leaders of the Future Project.

Future Day at Yeditepe University

On March 1, KAGİDER President Ms. Sanem Otkar spoke at Yeditepe University's “Future Day” conference with this year's theme of the future of women.

Encouraging Women Entrepreneurship with KAGİDER and the Turkish Ministry of Economy

On February 26, KAGİDER, together with the Turkish Economic Minister, held a conference on “Encouraging Women Entrepreneurship” aimed at supporting women entrepreneurs in Turkey and globally. The two panels, “Country Practices in Women Entrepreneurship” and “Promoting and Supporting Young Women as Entrepreneurs by Mentoring” featured a number of notable individuals from the non-profit and private sector who shared their ideas and best practices.

KAGİDER and ITC WVEF Press Conference

On February 25, KAGİDER and the International Trade Center announced the 2016 edition of the World Vendors Exhibition and Forum at a press conference held at Marti Hotel in Istanbul. The event will be preceded by an annual Women and Trade Trailblazers Summit on 31 August, bringing together business, government and civil society representatives in advancing the role of women in business and trade. Announcing the WVEF in Istanbul was ITC Executive Director, Arancha González and KAGİDER President, Sanem Otkar. They highlighted the unique potential of hosting such a summit in Istanbul while recognizing the huge potential of Turkish women entrepreneurs.

“The Futurist within Us” Event at KAGİDER

On February 16, under KAGİDER's Networking Strategy Group's Sectoral Sharing activities, Ms. Ufuk Tarhan was hosted at the KAGİDER office with a focus on the culture of futurism. Her presentation titled “The Futurist

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Within Us” focused included the topics of “The Changing World” and “The Future Is With You”.

KAGİDER met members of the Iranian Diplomat’s Wives Association

On February 8, KAGİDER’s International Relations Strategic Committee and KAGİDER Board Members met representatives from the Iranian Diplomat’s Wives Association. KAGİDER Secretary General Yeşim Seviğ and Board Member, Şila Gok, presented the projects and activities of KAGİDER to the diplomat’s wives while highlighting the potential for future collaboration with women entrepreneurs in Iran.

Women Leadership Platform with TurkishWin and UPS Turkey

The Women Leadership Platform took place on February 11 at the Sofa Hotel in Istanbul with a focus on building business partnerships between women board members. The event included the sharing of best practices from the private sector and on the topic of strengthening women in management.

KAGİDER February Breakfast Meeting “We cannot wait 118 years for gender equality”

KAGİDER’s February Breakfast meeting held on January 26 was focused on the World Economic Forum that was held last week in Davos. Ms. Sanem Oktar, returning from Davos, quoted the World Economic Forum’s Report that gender equality can only be achieved in 118 years. Guests speakers at the breakfast meeting were newspaper columnist and writer, Meral Tamer and the General Manager of Cüneyd Zapsu Consulting, Gülşen Karanis Ekşioğlu who shared their comments and experiences from the Davos conference.

KAGİDER at Davos

KAGİDER’s President Sanem Oktar was present at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland from January 20-23. Ms. Oktar participated in a series of meetings with Ernst & Young titled “Women 3: The Power of

3” focusing on gender equality and women’s economic empowerment in the business world. The meetings also saw the participation of Chatham House as well as other notable women business leaders.

KAGİDER Participated in the National Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Conference

On January 22, KAGİDER attended the National Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Conference in Adana hosted by the Çukurova Development Agency and the International Entrepreneurship Centre. The conference brought together up to 100 groups representing private and public organizations, businesses, universities, civil society agencies and networks with a focus on growing regional and national entrepreneurial networks while fostering national and international business partnerships.

Young Ideas Strong Women Project Closing Meeting

On January 19 KAGİDER organized its closing meeting for the three-year running Young Ideas Strong Women Project. The project report, including the aim and objectives of the project and its results, was presented. The project focused on the role of technology in improving and supporting women’s role in economy, employment and social environments.

KAGİDER participated in a roundtable organized by the Şişli Municipality’s Social Equity Unit

On January 6, KAGİDER participated in one of the roundtable meetings organized by the Şişli Municipality’s Social Equity Unit under its Local Equity Plan which brings together civil society organizations all with women’s rights focused projects and activities. KAGİDER was represented by Board Member, Fisun Usta, and the meeting focused on seven main themes of women’s rights including education, health, economic participation, decision making mechanisms and violence against women.

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KAGİDER Board Member, Şule Yüksel, spoke at Startup 100 Awards Ceremony

On January 6 KAGİDER Board Member, Şule Yüksel, spoke at the StartUp 100 Awards Ceremony at the Wyndham Hotel in Istanbul. Startup100 was created with the aim of supporting the field of entrepreneurship by bringing attention to successful startups and providing network assistance in Turkey with investors, risk funds, banks and other cooperatives. The ceremony gave awards to the top 10 startups from four different categories: most successful, women-led, Anatolian based and youth-led startups. Ms. Yüksel presented an award to the founder of Armut.com, Başak Taşpınar Değim. Last year Ms. Değim had received the award for Turkey's Most Promising Women Entrepreneur under KAGİDER and Garanti Bank's Women Entrepreneur's Competition.

EU Agenda

Teenage refugees are the future “workers and geniuses” in Europe, say YEYS delegates

Your Europe, Your Say! (YEYS) lived up to all expectations, as young people from the EU-28 and candidate countries shook things up with their enthusiasm and fresh ideas to help integrate migrants into European societies – the theme of this year's event. [Read more](#)

Commission makes immediate proposal to implement EU-Turkey agreement: 54,000 places allocated for resettlement of Syrians from Turkey

Following the agreement between the European Council and Turkey, the Commission is adopting a proposal to amend a Council Decision to relocate people in need for international protection from Italy and Greece. [Read more](#)

EU-Turkey statement, 18 March 2016

The Members of the European Council met with their Turkish counterpart. This was the third meeting since November 2015 dedicated to deepening Turkey-EU relations as well as addressing the migration crisis. [Read more](#)

SMEs in Turkey to benefit from €20 million in EU-guaranteed loans

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Turkey will get easier access to risk capital. This is thanks to the InnovFin SME guarantee, a new EU-backed loan facility under the Horizon 2020 programme. [Read more](#)

Commission announces winners of 2016 EU Prize for Women Innovators

The three winners of the 2016 EU Prize for Women Innovators have been announced. The winners, from Portugal, Finland and Ireland, have all received EU research and innovation funding at some point in their careers, and recently founded or co-founded a successful company based on their innovative ideas. [Read more](#)

8 March 2016: International Women's Day - Part-time employment of women in the EU increases drastically with number of children- Women earned on average 16% less than men in the EU

In 2014, the gender pay gap stood at 16.1% in the European Union (EU). In other words, women earned on average 84 cents for every euro a man makes per hour. Across Member States, the gender pay gap in 2014 ranged from less than 5% in Slovenia and Malta to more than 20% in Estonia, Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany and Slovakia. [Read more](#)

Women care for society, it's time society cares for women

On International Women's Day, the European Women's Lobby (EWL) launches its Campaign 'Together we can make it happen, Equal Pension Rights for Women Now!' The campaign draws attention to the blatant discrimination that women face as they age. [Read more](#)

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Meeting of the EU heads of state or government with Turkey

On 7 March 2016, EU heads of state or government held a meeting with Turkey to strengthen their cooperation on the migration and refugee crisis. European Council President Donald Tusk chaired the meeting, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu represented Turkey. [Read more](#)

Commission proposes EU accession to international Convention to fight violence against women

The European Commission has proposed for the European Union to ratify the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention, a comprehensive international treaty on combatting violence against women and domestic violence. [Read more](#)

Managing the Refugee Crisis: Stepping up return procedures to Turkey

The Commission is able to confirm that Greece is in the process of returning 308 irregular migrants to Turkey. The European Union is stepping up its efforts to ensure those who do not qualify for international protection in Europe will be quickly and effectively returned to their countries of origin or transit. [Read more](#)

Commission Visa Progress Report: Turkey makes progress towards visa liberalisation

The Commission has adopted the second report on progress by Turkey in fulfilling the requirements of its Visa Liberalisation Roadmap, highlighting the steps made by Turkey since the last report in October 2014. [Read more](#)

Inaugural event of the Civil Society Dialogue between EU and Turkey IV Project was organized

The inaugural event of the "Civil Society Dialogue between EU and Turkey IV Project" was organized by the Ministry for EU Affairs on 29

February 2016 in Ankara with the participation of the Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ambassador Volkan Bozkır. [Read more](#)

Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ambassador Volkan Bozkır has announced Turkey's National Action Plan for the EU Accession

National Action Plan for the EU Accession, updated in line with the 2016 Action Plan of the 64th Government, is one of the main roadmaps of Turkey in the accession process. [Read more](#)

Labour market shows positive signs: highest overall EU employment rate since 2008

The 2015 winter edition of the Employment and Social Situation Quarterly Review shows improvements on the EU labour market. Employment and activity rates have continued to increase in the EU, across all population groups and most notably for older workers (55 - 59 years). [Read more](#)

Online toolkit for entrepreneurs to help you with your business

To support the Business Planet series, Euronews has created an online toolkit for entrepreneurs. The toolkit features handy tips and expert advice from entrepreneurs and industry specialists. [Learn more](#)

High-level Conference on the Digital Transformation of European Industry

EU Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs Elzbieta Bieńkowska, hosted together with Vice-President Jyrki Katainen, and Commissioners Carlos Moedas and Günther Oettinger, a High-level conference on 'The Digital transformation of European Industry and Enterprises'. Digital technologies are driving a new industrial revolution. They have the potential to transform EU industries and have a significant social, economic and environmental impact. [Read more](#)

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Launch of the 2016 European Social Innovation Competition: Social Innovation for Refugees and Migrants

On 25 February in Amsterdam the launch of the 2016 European Social Innovation Competition took place. The event introduced this year's theme as social innovation for refugees and migrants. [Read more](#)

Managing the Refugee Crisis: Commission reports on implementation of EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan

On 29 November 2015, at the EU-Turkey summit, Turkey and the EU activated the Joint Action Plan aimed at stepping up cooperation for the support of Syrian refugees under temporary protection and their host communities in Turkey and to strengthen cooperation to prevent irregular migration flows to the EU. The European Commission has published a report on the implementation of the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan, assessing the follow-up of the respective commitments under the Action Plan. [Read more](#)

European Women's Lobby's priorities to the European Union 2016/2020

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) has issued its priorities for the European Union (EU) for the next 5 years. Based on EWL Strategic Framework 2016-2020, "Together for a Feminist Europe", our priorities highlight the key policy change we want to see in Europe by 2020 for all women and girls. They also give visibility to the work that EWL members will be carrying on over the next 5 years, in five key areas for women's and girls' human rights. [Read more](#)

New EWL-WRC project: From conflict to peace? Women's and girls' voices on the move

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) and the Women Refugee Commission (WRC) have decided to work together to raise awareness on the situation of women and girls in Europe fleeing conflict. European and

national policies are gender blind to the reality faced by women and girls on the road, especially when it comes to the different forms of violence they face at all stages of their journey towards peace. With the #womensvoices project, the EWL and WRC will join efforts to influence decision-makers thanks to strong recommendations, visible events, strengthened members' networking, and awareness raising of the needs of women and girls refugees at both EU and national levels. [Read more](#)

Women's rights? Looking for a new equal gender strategy

The European Parliament called for the European Commission to table a communication on a new strategy for gender equality and women's rights 2016-2020 as soon as possible and deliver on its political commitments. "The Commission has a clear responsibility to launch policies on equality between women and men and to address important issues such as violence against women, the gender pay gap, and the balance between personal and working life" declared MEPs. [Read more](#)

Celebrating International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation

6 February marks the International Day of Zero Tolerance against Female Genital Mutilation. A day in which States are called to raise awareness and educate people about the dangers of FGM. Female genital mutilation comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. [Read more](#)

Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ambassador Bozkır visited Brussels

Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ambassador Volkan Bozkır paid a visit to Brussels on 4-5 February 2016 to hold official talks with the EU Commissioners. [Read more](#)



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KAGİDER, Women Entrepreneurs Association of Turkey was founded in Istanbul in September 2002 by 38 successful women entrepreneurs and is a nation-wide, non-profit civil society organization. Today, KAGİDER has over 300 members, all active in various sectors including textiles, communication, public relations, tourism, mining, chemistry and health. Our mission is to develop and support entrepreneurship among women to strengthen their status economically and socially. Our vision is a world in which women produce and establish their existence freely and play an effective role in decision-making processes. KAGİDER has established its EU Office in Brussels in 2008 and has been very active at the EU level and international arena. KAGİDER is also member of World Women Entrepreneurs Association (FCEM), Mediterranean Business Women Association (AFAEMME), European Women's Lobby (EWL) Turkey Coordination and Balkan Coalition and has the ECOSOC Consultative Status at UN. Nevertheless, KAGİDER was selected to Chair the W20 and undertake the Secretariat of the engagement group throughout the Turkish Presidency.

KAGİDER is also member of SEDEFED (Federation of Industrial Associations) and has joined to TURKONFED (Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation).

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