

PROGRAMME
ISTANBUL, OCTOBER 12-14, 2012

12th October, Friday

Check-in at Hilton Hotel.

Reception / Dinner at Pera House (British Consulate General)

Welcome speeches by Suzan Sabancı Dinçer, Chairperson, Turkish British Business Council; Chairman and Executive Board Member, Akbank & HE Yaşar Yakış, MP, Co-Chairman Turkish British Tatlıdil and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey & The Rt Hon Jack Straw MP, Co-Chairman Turkish British Tatlıdil and former Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom

13th October, Saturday

Breakfast at Hilton Hotel / Şadırvan B Hall

Partners' programme starts from the Hilton Hotel. There will be a guided tour in the Historical Peninsula of İstanbul and luncheon at Karakol Restaurant at the Topkapı Palace / Guard Post (next to St. İrene)

Group A – Ball Room 1

Chair: Prof Bülent Aras, Chairman of the Strategic Research Center (SAM), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

Session 1: “Arab Spring” – Implications and Opportunities

Speaker: Associate Professor Şaban Kardaş, TOBB Economy and Technology University

The wave of popular uprisings that have dramatically changed the regional dynamics in the Middle East and North Africa have presented both opportunities and challenges to regional actors. The increasing volatility and unpredictability exerted an immense pressure on regional actors to adjust to the newly emerging regional order. Turkey in many ways experienced in the immediate repercussions of the revolutionary changes, especially to the extent that the uprisings gained a militarized dimension. Although it has been subjected to many security externalities generated by the regional turmoil, Turkey overall developed a positive reading on the causes and future direction of the Arab Spring. Turkish leaders have viewed the popular uprisings as a bottom-up demand for change and supported the masses demanding more rights and freedoms. With such considerations, for example, they have been at the forefront of the international coalition supporting the Syrian opposition. However, consolidation of the transition countries will take time and the regional order will remain fragile. This will force Turkey to maintain its proactive involvement in Middle Eastern affairs as well as maintaining the constructive dialogue with its Western partners.

Group B – Şadırvan A

Chair: The Rt. Hon. Jack Straw MP, Co-Chairman of British-Turkish Tatlıdil

Session 1: Crisis in the EU and its Implications for Turkey and UK

Speaker: Dr Lokman Gündüz, Central Bank of Turkey

The relations between Turkey and UK are multidimensional and based on historical ties. However, the global financial crisis of 2008-2009 that spilled over into a sovereign debt crisis in the several Euro area countries in 2010 became a turning point for economies of both countries. Since the beginning of the debt crisis, European leaders and institutions have implemented a number of extraordinary policy measures to fight against the crisis and to prevent the contagion. Until now, as being a member of the G20, Turkey with strong economic fundamentals has largely weathered the financial and economic crisis. This strength is related to her well-regulated banking sector, strong fiscal position, and new monetary policy framework. The UK is also slightly more insulated from the debt crisis than Eurozone members with its independent monetary policy. Despite the difficulties of reaching a consensus particularly on further European integration will take time, Eurozone is likely to overcome the crisis. International cooperation seems to be very crucial to overcome the problems in a such environment of uncertainty.

Group C – Ball Room 2

Chair: H.E. Ahmet Ünal Çeviköz, Ambassador of Turkey to the United Kingdom

Session 1: Sustainable Development and Environment

Speaker: Professor Erdal Tanas Karagöl, Yıldırım Beyazıt University

Sustainable development must be done in conjunction with a healthy environment. Exploitation of natural resources such as forests, land, water and fisheries have caused alarming changes in natural world in recent decades. This has affected the global economic development and social well-being. Thus, sustainable development should ensure the needs of present generations without jeopardizing the interest and needs of future generations. Achieving the important and remarkable objectives of sustainable development requires involving the well-informed and interested groups in this process. A key ingredient to sustainable development is making the law of development more environmentally sustainable.

Coffee Break

Group A – Ball Room 1

Session 2: “Arab Spring” – Implications and Opportunities

Speaker: Professor Rosemary Hollis, Professor of Middle East Studies, City University, London

Group B – Şadırvan A

Session 2: Crisis in the EU and its Implications for Turkey and UK

Speaker: The Rt. Hon. David Lidington MP, Minister for Europe of the United Kingdom

Group C: Ball Room 2

Session 2: Sustainable Development and Environment

Speaker: Dr Dieter Helm, Fellow of Economics, New College, Oxford

Drinks and Lunch at Hilton Hotel – Şadırvan B Hall

Spouses / Partners who wish to have an afternoon's outing can spend a couple of hours in the nearby Grand Bazaar (Kapalıçarşı).

Group D – Şadırvan A

Chair: HMA David Reddaway, CMG, MBE, British Ambassador to Turkey

Session 3: Turkey – EU Relations

Speaker: Associate Professor Ali Resul Usul, Istanbul Commerce University

Is the EU membership of Turkey a dream of Turkish people alone? Are there other visioners in Europe who have jointly designed that membership process? Is anything less than full – EU membership acceptable for Turkey? Could the idea Customs Union of 1995 ever be purchased by the Turkish Government as anything other than “a by-product of full membership”? Obviously Turkey has not come to that point alone, but today it looks very much so.

Group E – Ball Room 1

Chair: Sir David Logan, KCMG, Chairman of British Institute at Ankara and former British Ambassador to Turkey

Session 3: Innovative Business Models: Turkey and UK

Speaker: Mr. Hamdi Akin, Chairman, TAV-Aksan Holding

The traditional function for production, namely “manpower+capital=product” of the last Century has been changed in line with the demands of the economic and trade realitions. Current formula is: “manpower+capital+innovation=product”
Today, mass production of various goods and objects without an innovative touch are bounded to remain in the stock piles of the companies with less chance to compete in the international markets. Turkish and British cultures can help the business people to find innovative ways of production, financing, transportation and marketing.

Group F – Ball Room 2

Chair: Assoc Prof Dr Mesut Özcan, Deputy Chairman of the Strategic Research Center (SAM), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

Session 3: Turkey and UK – Societies in Dynamic Change?

Speaker: Professor Talip Küçükcan, Marmara University & SETA Foundation

Turkey and Britain share important similarities in terms of the nature of social dynamism, political stability and economic growth. Moreover, both countries have similar visions in international affairs and security matters. Since the establishment of modern Turkey, the two countries have worked together under the umbrella of international organizations for peaceful resolution of conflicts. The UK has been supportive of Turkey’s bid for full membership of the EU while some other countries in the Union have reservations. The presence of many Turks from the mainland Turkey and Northern Cyprus in Britain on the one hand and increasing number of British investors (in fact the British families) especially in the Southwestern towns and cities in Turkey make bilateral relations much closer. There are several avenues of closer and more fruitful cooperation between Turkey and Britain such as education, technology and trade. It is time to explore these possibilities to address the challenges that Turkish and British societies are facing today.

Coffee Break

Group D – Şadırvan A**Session 4: Turkey – EU Relations**

Speaker: Dr. Robin Niblett, Director of Chattam House

Group E – Ball Room 1**Session 4: Innovative Business Models: Turkey and UK**

Speaker: Sir Julian Horn-Smith, Co-chairman of Turkish British Tatlıdil

Group F – Ball Room 2**Session 4: Turkey and UK – Societies in Dynamic Change?**

Speaker: Dr. Frank Duvell, Senior Researcher on Migration, Policy & Society, Oxford University

Free Time

Welcoming Reception at Sait Halim Paşa Mansion

Gala Dinner at Sait Halim Paşa Mansion

Keynote speeches from H.E. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Foreign Minister of Republic of Turkey & The Rt. Hon. David Lidington MP, Minister for Europe of the United Kingdom

14th October, Sunday

Breakfast – Şadırvan B Hall

Closing Plenary Session – Ball Room

Co-Chairs: H.E. Yaşar Yakış, Co-Chairman Turkish British Tatlıdil and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey & The Rt. Hon. Jack Straw MP, Co-Chairman Turkish British Tatlıdil and former Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom

Group Chairs report, followed by discussion.

Keynote Speech by H.E. Egemen Bağış, Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator of Turkey

Coffee & Refreshments