

AMCHAM EVENTS & COMMITTEES | 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER

# Newsletter

AmCham ★ Turkey  
American Business Forum In Turkey

***“We are the strong voice of  
American business in Turkey”***

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 8** | Healthcare Committee Meeting with Arda Ermut, President of the Investment Office, Presidency

**April 14-16** | ATC - TAIK 37th Annual Conference on US-Turkey relations

**April 26** | Healthcare & Life Sciences Committee Meeting with TITCK (Ankara)

**April 26** | Roundtable on Fintech, Innovation & Technology (TBA soon)

**April 29** | Briefing Seminar on Competition Law with BTS & Partners (TBA soon)

**April 30** | Public Affairs Committee Meeting

**May 10** | Digital Economy Committee Meeting

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### **Event Share**

#### **ATC & TAIK 37th Annual Conference on U.S.-Turkey Relations, April 14-16, 2019**

ATC & TAIK will organize their 37th annual conference on US-Turkey relations on April 14-16 in Washington DC. Last year, the conference hosted 400+ representatives from numerous sectors, government offices, government affiliated organizations and non-governmental organizations. For detailed information: [www.atctaikconference.com](http://www.atctaikconference.com)

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

### AMCHAM EXCLUSIVE EVENTS

#### March 15 | AmCham Turkey/ABFT Ordinary Election General Assembly

AmCham Turkey held its Ordinary Election General Assembly at Hilton Bosphorus with the participation of 40+ member company representatives. Following the opening remarks of AmCham Chair Serra Akçaoğlu, *U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Jeffrey Hovenier* took the stage and highlighted the importance of U.S.-Turkey economic relations as well as AmCham's role in further improving the bilateral trade and investments. The General Assembly also hosted *Arda Ermut, President of the Presidency Investment Office* as a guest of honor.

During the General Assembly, new members of AmCham Board of Directors were elected. Citibank Turkey CEO and Board Member Serra Akçaoğlu was elected as the Chair of AmCham Turkey Board of Directors. The new Board of Directors for the 2019-2021 period are comprised of CEOs/Regional Directors of U.S. member companies including; *Citibank, Procter & Gamble, General Electric, Dow Chemical, PwC, Boeing, Baker & McKenzie, PepsiCo, Mondelez International, Heidrick & Struggles, 3M, MSD, Microsoft, Coca-Cola, IBM, Medtronic, Nielsen, UPS, GittiGidiyor/eBay, Hilton, Honeywell.*



### January 18 | U.S. Investments Workshop

AmCham Turkey organized a workshop with the participation of its member companies as the leading representatives of the U.S. investments in Turkey. The workshop aimed to get feedback on the opportunities and challenges of the business and investment climate and pave path to further increase Turkey's competitiveness in the global arena.

AmCham and PwC's recent report on U.S. investments was presented to member companies for the first time after intensive work and deep analysis.



### February 22 | AmCham Public Affairs Committee "Fostering Business Through Cultural Cooperation" Project Kick-Off Meeting

AmCham Turkey/ABFT hosted the kick-off event of the 'Fostering Business Through Cultural Cooperation' Project on February 22, 2019, with the support of the *Turkish Fulbright Commission* and the *American Turkish Society (ATS)* and the sponsorship of *Dow Turkey*.

The kick-off event, which marks the beginning of a broader effort to boost economic ties between Turkey and the U.S through promoting mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue, featured a panel moderated by *Ihsan Necipoğlu, Board Member of AmCham Turkey and President of Dow Turkey and Central Asia*.

The panel hosted influential speakers who have internalized the Turkish and American cultures and whose success have transcended national borders, namely

- *John McCarthy, Board Chairman of the Turkish Fulbright Commission,*
- *Namık Tan, former Turkish Ambassador to the U.S.,*
- *Kemal Kirişçi, TÜSİAD Senior Fellow and Brookings Institute Director of the Center on the United States and Europe's Turkey Project,*
- *Ayşegül İldeniz, the American Turkish Society Board Member and*
- *Douglas Parks, DowAksa CEO*

Some 200 leading figures from the business world, public sector as well as academia attended the kick-off event. In their closing remarks, *Jennifer L. Davis, U.S. Consul General to Istanbul* and *İnan Özyıldız, General Director of the U.S. Department of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador,* delivered their support for the project.



## WOMEN LEADERSHIP NETWORK

### March 5 | AmCham Turkey, EBRD and H&S International Women's Day Event

AmCham Turkey, with its strategic partners EBRD (*European Bank for Reconstruction and Development*) and Heidrick & Struggles organized "*Women in the Digital Age*" seminar on the occasion of the International Women's Day. The event that hosted 180+ participants kicked off with an opening speech from *Serra Akçaoğlu*, *Chair of AmCham Turkey* and followed by remarks from *Associate Professor Hatice Karahan*, *Senior Advisor to the President, Republic of Turkey* on women and business. The event hosted two separate panels from Human Resources and CEO point of view;

#### HR Panel

- *Bülent Bayram*, *Human Resources Director, Vodafone*;
- *Buket Çelebiöven*, *Human Resources Director, Arçelik*
- *Cristina Mesón*, *Senior Director, Human Resources, PepsiCo*
- *Özlem Gündoğdu*, *Head of Human Resources, Citibank*

#### CEO Panel: Women in the Digital Age

- *Ebru Özdemir*, *Chairperson, Limak Investments*
- *Murat Kansu*, *General Manager, Microsoft*
- *Bülent Hiçsönmez*, *Country Director, Google*
- *Murat Emirdağ*, *CEO, Hepsiburada.com*
- *Deniz Yurtseven*, *General Manager, MetLife*
- *Ayşegül Aydın*, *Managing Partner, Heidrick & Struggles*



## EXCLUSIVE ROUNDTABLE EVENTS

### February 5 | Roundtable meeting with Tim Kobe of Eight Inc., designer of Apple stores

AmCham Turkey organized a roundtable event with Tim Kobe, the founder and CEO of Eight Inc., the strategic designer who worked with the world's most iconic brands such as Apple, Virgin Atlantic, Citibank, Nike and Tesla.

The meeting focused on Tim's presentation and experience on Design Thinking & Artificial Intelligence, Future of Retail, Designing Human Experiences and Apple's story.



### February 8 | Roundtable Meeting with Rick Johnston, Citi International Government Affairs MD

AmCham Turkey Public Affairs Committee members attended to a roundtable meeting with *Rick Johnston*, *Citi International Government Affairs Managing Director*. The meeting focused on U.S. foreign economic relations including trade outlook, investment and export controls, new trade agreements.



### March 21 | AmCham & BMS Event on “Design Talks: Workplace Wellbeing”

AmCham Turkey and its member BMS / Herman Miller organized a seminar on “*Design Talk: Fundamental Human Needs & Workplace Wellbeing*” with the attendance of Mark Catchlove, Insight Manager at Herman Miller. In the seminar, Mark Catchlove shared Herman Miller’s point of view and ongoing discoveries about Human Dynamics and Work, all grounded in research and first-hand experiences.



## AMCHAM BOARD EVENTS

### January 11, February 15 and March 29 | AmCham Turkey/ABFT Board Meetings

AmCham Turkey/ABFT Board Members meet regularly to evaluate the activities, financials and membership status in the past term, as well as the future events and committee activities.

### February 5 | Board Meeting with Mustafa Varank, Minister of Industry and Technology, Republic of Turkey

AmCham Turkey/ABFT Board Members participated to a roundtable meeting with Mustafa Varank, Turkish Minister of Industry and Technology. The meeting focused on discussions around investment prospects between Turkey and the U.S.



## AMCHAM TURKEY AS A MEMBER OF AMCHAMS IN EUROPE & U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### February 5-7 | ATC & U.S. Chamber of Commerce (USCC) Mission to Ankara

AmCham Turkey/ABFT, as a member of U.S. Chamber of Commerce, attended USCC & ATC's joint mission to Ankara. The business delegation, led by *USCC Senior Vice President Khush Choksy* and *ATC Chair General Jim Jones*, met with high-level officials from Turkish government to Show support for expanding bilateral trade and investments between Turkey and the U.S.

The meetings held as part of the mission included; *President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan*, *First Lady Emine Erdoğan*, *Minister of Finance & Treasury Berat Albayrak*, *Minister of Trade Ruhsar Pekcan*, *Deputy Minister of Energy Alparslan Bayraktar*.



## MEETINGS WITH BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS & GOVERNMENTAL BODIES

### January 16 | Atlantic Council Roundtable

AmCham Turkey/ABFT attended a roundtable session featuring *Atlantic Council President and CEO Frederick Kempe* and *U.S. Consul General Jennifer L. Davis*. The meeting focused on the further improvement of U.S.-Turkey economic relations and investments.

### January 17 and March 27 | International Chambers Corner Reception

AmCham Turkey/ABFT members attended to the "Chamber Corner" events in January & March, joint networking events of the leading bilateral Chambers of Commerce in Istanbul.

The reception organized by *Belgian - Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce* on January 17th and *German-Turkish Chamber of Commerce and Industry* on March 27th hosted Chambers of 12 countries.



**January 29-31 | Ankara Visits as part of the Culture Project**

AmCham Turkey/ABFT and its member *The Dow Chemical Company* as the Public Affairs Committee Chair, had a series of visits to high-level bodies in Ankara to present Public Affairs Committee's key Project '*Fostering Business Through Cultural Cooperation*' which aims to boost economic ties between Turkey and the U.S through promoting mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue. The visits included high level representatives from the Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Treasury & Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Presidency Finance Office, Presidency Communications Office, TUSIAD and the U.S. Embassy.

**February 5 | Meeting with AmCham China**

AmCham Turkey organized a meeting with Alan Beebe, Executive Director of AmCham China. The meeting focused on an introduction of both organizations' activities and discussion of potential areas of cooperation.

**February 14 | Meeting with Presidency Finance Office**

AmCham Turkey held a meeting with Presidency Finance Office President Prof. Dr. Göksel Aşan. The meeting focused on Turkey's economic highlights and investment prospects between Turkey and the U.S.

**February 14 | Meeting with TAIK**

AmCham Turkey organized a meeting with Mehmet Ali Yalçındağ, President of TAIK. The meeting featured discussion on potential cooperation areas between the two organizations for ATC - TAIK Annual Conference in Washington D.C.

**February 25 & March 25 | Meetings with AIFD**

AmCham Turkey/ABFT held two separate meetings with AIFD (Association of Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies) to discuss potential cooperation areas with a focus on AmCham Healthcare Committee.

**February 26 | Attendance to Atlantic Council Conference**

AmCham Turkey attended to Atlantic Council's conference on the new regional gas market dynamics. The conference gathered high-level representatives from the public and private sectors as well as international experts.

**March 13 | Attendance to World Bank's Workshop**

AmCham Turkey members attended to World Bank's workshop on Turkey's economic outlook. The meeting intended to identify important research areas that support private sector development and inclusive economic growth in Turkey. The outcomes of the workshop will be used to identify the topic of a new economic study to be undertaken over the next year.

## COMMITTEES

### Public Affairs Committee

**Committee Chair:** *Ihsan Necipođlu, AmCham Board Member & Dow President of Turkey & Central Asia*

**January 10** | Public Affairs Committee Meeting

**January 29-31** | “Fostering Business Through Cultural Cooperation” Project High-Level Ankara Visits

**February 8** | Roundtable Meeting with Rick Johnston, Citi International Government Affairs MD

**February 22** | “Fostering Business Through Cultural Cooperation” Project Launch Event

**March 6** | Public Affairs Committee Meeting with the attendance of Dr. Pınar Artıran, Advisor to the Minister of Trade and World Trade Organization Chair Holder

### Healthcare & Life Sciences Committee

**Committee Chair:** *Canan Özsoy, AmCham Board Member & GE Turkey President & CEO*

**January 10** | Healthcare & Life Sciences Committee, Policy Working Group Meeting with Hakkı Gürsöz, President of the Turkish Medicines and Medical Devices Agency (TITCK)

**January 22** | Policy Working Group Meeting

**January 24** | Financing Working Group Meeting

**February 6** | Financial Sustainability Working Group Meeting

**February 25** | Healthcare & Life Sciences Committee Meeting

**March 25** | Healthcare & Life Sciences Committee Workshop with AIFD