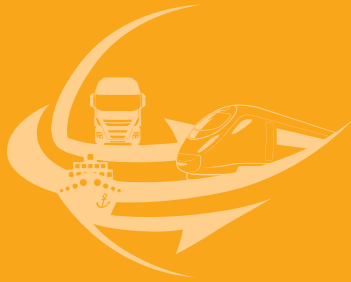




This programme is financed by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey



Transport Operational Programme  
Newsletter | No 2 | 2017

**KGR Exclusive Introductory Issue**

# TOP

## The project connecting Ankara to İstanbul

# KÖSEKÖY-GEBZE SECTION OF THE ANKARA-İSTANBUL HIGH SPEED TRAIN



Köseköy-Gebze section is 56 kilometers long. The infrastructure, superstructure, electrification, signalization and telecommunications works throughout the line have been completed.

“ **Our march towards to achieve immense goals in transport is in progress** ”



**Ahmet ARSLAN**

*Minister of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications*

**F**or the last 15 years, the Republic of Turkey has been taking giant steps for achieving a world class transport. We endeavor to rank Turkey at the top of world transport league with a versatile and planned approach including visionary predictions.

We spread on effort to ensure Turkish people making use of a faster, safer and more comfortable transport. These efforts sure have an economic aspect, as well. Each investment in transport, maritime and communications which fall into our Ministry's area of responsibility, deeply influences the economy, commercial affairs, social and cultural life, education, health, daily life and all related practices.

We will continue our march towards 2023 targets and beyond vigorously and decisively by improving the infrastructure of transport and logistics

which are the vital elements of economy; thus, increasing the competitiveness of our country.

I have no doubt that our colleagues of more than a hundred thousand will keep their devoted and diligent work in order to continue the success of our Ministry.

Significant projects are carried out with dedicated efforts of Ministry's Directorate General for Foreign Relations and European Union Affairs, Department for European Union Investments. These efforts have focused on the rehabilitation of railway infrastructure during IPA-I period. Conducting together with EU, the integration of Turkish railway with Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) is one of our national transport goals.

And we will continue to head towards this goal devotedly.



“ **We are working for a more balanced, safer and efficient transport system** ”



**Erdem DİREKLER**

*Director General for Foreign Relations and European Union Affairs  
Head of Operating Structure*

While facilitating the harmonization process of the Republic of Turkey with EU transport policies, Transport Operational Programme also plays a supportive role in the integration of Turkish railways with Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).

We are working to provide a more balanced, safer, comfortable and more efficient passenger and freight transport; and to continuously challenge ourselves and raise the bar higher. We have worked and will continue working in a rigorous manner with the same enthusiasm on every issue that falls into our Ministry's area of responsibility.

In each step we take, we prioritize our people, commit ourselves for providing a sustainable and increasing welfare for our nation, and we truly embrace the

responsibility of the future we will leave to posterity. Financial fund of about 574 million Euros provided by the European Union as part of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Financial Assistance IPA-I covering the period of 2007-2013, has aimed to support our works towards these goals. In transport, IPA-I has focused primarily on supporting the railway infrastructure and technical assistance. I would like to thank all my colleagues who had added value to these projects for their hard and devoted work.

We are determined to continue our works for a transport sector in which all transport alternatives are used in a balanced way and our services towards the integration of Turkey's renewed transport infrastructure with the EU transport network.



“ **Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Köseköy-Gebze Section of the Ankara-İstanbul High Speed Train Project, which was carried out by our Directorate with a budget of €212 million, contributed to bring Ankara and İstanbul closer...** ”



**Nedim YEŞİL**  
Head of Department for European Union Investments

The 2000s were the years in which rail systems, that is to say railway transport, began to make a comeback. In urban transport, investments began to focus on rail systems. Likewise, from the standpoint of intercity transport, work began on the renewal of the railway infrastructure and efforts were made to develop the infrastructure for high speed trains.

With this change of approach in the area of transport, Turkey's first high speed train was built between Ankara and Eskişehir. When plans to extend this line to İstanbul were added to the agenda, the European Union wanted to support the construction of the Köseköy – Gebze section, as it closely matched their own transport policies. The result was the “Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Köseköy-Gebze Section of the Ankara-İstanbul High Speed Train Project” carried out under the responsibility of our Directorate.

With a total budget of €212 million, this project was

one of the three major infrastructure projects carried out by our Directorate. When the budgets of “Modernization of Samsun-Kalın Railway Line Project” and “Rehabilitation and Signalization of Irmak-Karabük-Zonguldak Railway Line Project” are summed up, our Directorate managed a budget of more than €700 million during the term of IPA-I.

I would like to thank my dedicated colleagues at the Department for European Union Investments, Directorate General for Foreign Relations and European Union Affairs, all our Ministry's administrators, and the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey for their constant support during our work. This team spirit has contributed enormously to the success of these high-budgeted projects.

I believe that the work to be done during the term of IPA-II will be a great success, thanks to this team spirit and the support we will receive from our Ministry.

# Major Cooperation on High Speed Train Infrastructure

Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Köseköy-Gebze Section of the Ankara-İstanbul High Speed Train Project, implemented as part of TOP, has made an important contribution to the high speed train service that brings Ankara and İstanbul closer.



**212.000.000**

The total budget of the project (Euro)

As part of the project, which was implemented at a total budget of 212 million Euros; infrastructure, superstructure, electrification, signalization and telecommunication works of the 56 km line have been completed. According to the 2016 data, a total of 4,184 journeys were operated on the line with a maximum speed of 160 km/h.



**Project Name** Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Köseköy-Gebze Section of the Ankara-İstanbul High Speed Train Project

**Length of Railway Line** 56 km

**End Recipient** TCDD (DG for Turkish State Railways)

#### Works Contract

**Contractor Company** Salini-Impregilo S.p.A. - Kolin İnşaat Turizm Sanayi ve Ticaret A.Ş. - G.C.F. Generale Costruzioni Ferroviarie S.p.A. Joint Venture

**Date of Contract** 14.10.2011

#### Service Contract

**Consultant Company** ILF Mühendislik Teknik Danışmanlık Taahhüt ve Ticaret Ltd. Şti., ILF Consulting Engineers Austria GmbH, Obermeyer Planen + Beraten GmbH, Optim Obermeyer Proje Teknik Bilgi İşlem Merkezi A.Ş. and Neti Danışmanlık İnşaat Ltd. Şti. Consortium

**Date of Contract** 31.10.2011

Constructing railways suitable for high-speed trains is something that humanity has dreamed of since the early 1900's. By 1964, all the hard work, research and development had paid off and Japan was the country to first operate a high speed train, known as the "Bullet Train".

In Europe, on the other hand, the construction of the first high speed railway began in the 1980s. Initially, European countries made independent investments in this area. Later on, the European Union set a target for developing the Trans-European high speed rail network, and these rail lines, mostly trans-boundary, began to benefit from EU funds.

Turkey was introduced to high speed train in the early 2000s. After project planning and construction works, Turkey's first high speed train departed from Ankara to Eskişehir on March 13, 2009 at 09:40 a.m. The travel time between these two cities, on a 245 kilometre line, was cut to one hour 20 minutes and the high speed train began to have high demand. Following a competition organized by TCDD, the line was named YHT - the Turkish acronym for Yüksek Hızlı Tren - High Speed Train. When YHT's services began, Turkey ranked 6th

among those countries using this technology and 8th in the global arena.

The next step was to extend this line to İstanbul. When construction works regarding this extension began, the European Union expressed a wish to contribute to the construction of the line through IPA-I financial funds. The result was Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Köseköy-Gebze Section of the Ankara-İstanbul High Speed Train Project. Construction works on the line, undertaken by the Salini- Impregilo, Kolin and G.C.F. joint venture, started in 2011. Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Köseköy-Gebze Section of the Ankara-İstanbul High Speed Train Project mainly involved "the dismantling and reconstruction of the existing double track railway, and the installation of the electrification, signalization and telecommunication systems of the line." The integration of the line with the adjacent railway lines, electrification, signalization and telecommunication systems as well as the pre-construction geotechnical works have also been carried out within this context.

TOP brings the transport sector together at Haydarpaşa Train Station

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Transport Operational Programme



The works projects implemented through the Transport Operational Programme (TOP) and carried out by the Republic of Turkey and the European Union, were shared with the media and representatives of the transport sector at a magnificent event and photo exhibition held at Haydarpaşa Train Station.



The first event to introduce the works projects carried out within the scope of the Transport

Operational Programme (TOP) conducted by the Republic of Turkey and the European Union was held in the historic Haydarpaşa Train Station.

The Republic of Turkey Ministry of Transport, Maritime, Affairs and Communications, Director General for Foreign Relations and European Union Affairs and the Head of the Operating Structure, Erdem Direkler; the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey, Counsellor, Head of the Economic and Social Development Department, François Begeot; the Head of Department for

European Union Investments, Nedim Yeşil; together with TOP personnel and institutions serving in the transport sector and representatives of sector associations and the media, attended the event.

At the launch event, two promotional films about TOP were shown on big LED screens. The TOP Photo Exhibition opened following opening speeches of Erdem Direkler and François Begeot. The exhibition comprised artistic photos focusing on nature, people and technology, related to the three major works projects carried out within the scope of TOP.

The three-day exhibition including music recitals and films, attracted people from all over Istanbul.



François BEGEOT

Counsellor, Delegation of the European Union to Turkey Counsellor

“ Turkey and Europe have the same target and objective, and we will continue to advance confidently towards this mutual goal ”



François BEGEOT, Counsellor at the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey, who gave a speech at the opening ceremony of the Haydarpaşa Photo Exhibition, held to introduce Transport Operational Programme, said that “The transport sector continues to safeguard its position at the top of the European Union’s agenda” and added:

“From the standpoint of Turkey, the transport sector is of great significance both for regional development and for being a competitive country, and Europe has established a very extensive and sound investment plan in this regard. And we continue to support

Turkey in this sense. Turkey and the Europe have the same target and objective, and we will continue to advance confidently towards this mutual goal.”

In his speech, Counsellor Begeot also mentioned ‘Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Köseköy-Gebze Section of the Ankara-Istanbul High Speed Train Project’ and said that:

Speaking for myself, I am very fond of railways. My grand grandfather used to work on them and my grandfather was a high speed train motorman. Also, my cousins and several other relatives work in the rail sector. As a result, for us,

this sector is very close to our hearts. It is, of course, not the only reason. As my dear friend Mr. Erdem mentioned before, railways have a significant place in our lives; as well as enabling freight to be carried much more efficiently and safely, they reduce traffic accidents, traffic congestion and reduce air pollution.

While we care about freight transport, and have co-financed the IKZ and SAKA projects; after freight transport, passenger transport is also one of the areas we consider to be important. Therefore, by contributing to 56 km section of the line, we became a part of the Ankara-Istanbul High Speed Train Line construction.

“

**The transport sector continues to safeguard its position at the top of the European Union’s agenda. And we continue to support Turkey in this sense.**

We care about it. The introduction film you watched today is just perfect. I congratulate you for this film. When you see the photos in the exhibition, you will see something else, apart from these projects. You will see the beauty of this country. As part of my job, I traveled a lot in Turkey. I can sincerely say that, with its people, culture, nature and all of its riches, it is a wonderful country, and I think these projects, these works, are very significant in making this beauty visible.

Partly for this reason, these projects are highly significant. In order for the beauty of your country to be visible and accessible, it is crucial to build safe, efficient and comfortable railways. That's why we have implemented this co-financing within the scope of the IPA-I Transport Operational Programme. At this point, I would like to once again extend my thanks to the Ministry of Transport, and wish for their continued support for the planning. This is because, if we want to be better prepared for the future, master plans and planning are paramount. For

the last two days, Commissioner Violeta Bulc has been with us. It has been an intense but enjoyable schedule for us here. I would like to thank Mr. Erdem and the authorities of the Ministry personally for this programme. The programme was very productive and extremely positive. Ms. Bulc has enjoyed being here in Turkey and has left feeling very satisfied. Her impressions were extremely positive and you can be confident that a very positive planning process awaits us with regards to transport. Ms. Bulc also confirmed that our Halkalı-Kapıkule project is considered to be a flagship enterprise and hopefully we will very shortly be making progress with regard to procurement activities.

At the end of my speech, and in the presence of the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications, I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard in this process. We pay the uttermost attention to this sector and the



work we do. We are working really hard for this. Sometimes, of course, we cannot always agree but our target and objective is the same, and we will continue to advance confidently towards this mutual goal.

The transport sector continues to safeguard its position at the top of the European Union's agenda. From the standpoint of Turkey, the transport sector is of great significance both for regional development and for being a competitive country, and Europe has established a very extensive and sound investment plan in this regard. And we continue to support Turkey in this sense. Finally, I would like to conclude my speech with a slogan for railways: Vive le train! (Long Live the Train!)



**Railways have a significant place in our lives; as well as enabling freight to be transported much more efficiently and safely, they reduce traffic accidents, traffic congestion and air pollution.**



Together with the EU,  
we will put our  
signatures to major  
projects

**Erdem DİREKLER**

*Director General for Foreign Relations  
and European Union Affairs  
Head of Operating Structure*



TOP has an important role in diversifying transport services and implementing a more balanced, safer, efficient and rational transport sector. Considering our joint vision with the EU in the field of transport, together we will put our signatures to larger and more meaningful projects.

**At** the Opening Ceremony of the TOP Haydarpaşa Photo Exhibition, Erdem DİREKLER, Director General for Foreign Relations and European Union Affairs at the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications and Head of Operating Structure, gave the following speech:

Today, we have gathered together for the opening ceremony of a photo exhibition that illustrates the works projects conducted within the scope of the Transport Operational Programme and the transport stories that have been encountered during the programme. As most of you already know, the Transport Operational Programme is covered by the Regional Development component of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance IPA-I. This programme, which was prepared by the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications to manage funds for transport infrastructure investments, was approved by the European Commission on December 7, 2007. Our Ministry was chosen as the Operating Structure for the term of IPA-I. The programme, covering the period from 2007 to 2013, will be finalized in 2017 and the funds for the term of IPA-II, covering the period from 2014 to 2020, will begin to be used.



“ Our work under IPA-I focused on railways

In the context of the work carried out by Turkey to become a full member of the European Union, IPA-I projects are being implemented in two major areas. One of these areas is infrastructural investment, while the other is technical assistance projects.

During IPA-I, strengthening railway infrastructure and technical assistance activities were prioritized. And in accordance with these priorities, new works and modernization projects were applied to the railway lines covered by current or future Trans-European Networks.

The programme assumes an important role during the European Union full membership process of Turkey for diversifying transport services in the country and implementing a

more balanced, safer, efficient and rational transport sector.

Within the scope of this programme covering all of Turkey, IPA-I investments focused on three major infrastructural projects. These projects were the Rehabilitation and Signalization of Irmak-Karabük-Zonguldak Railway Line Project, Modernization of the Samsun-Kalın Railway Line Project and Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Köseköy-Gebze Section of the Ankara-İstanbul High Speed Train Project. And here, Haydarpaşa Train Station is an intermediate station in Istanbul for the High Speed Train Line.

“ TOP Photography Exhibition An archive of our shared history

While the aim is to integrate this and similar projects with the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), there will also be the following

benefits for our citizens: Reducing the negative conditions created by road traffic, such as accidents, traffic congestion and environmental pollution; shortening travel time for passengers and freight transport; reducing the cost of travel and transport; creating a safer and more comfortable transport system for passengers and a convenient one for transporting freight.

The projects covered by the photo exhibition you are about to see document the mutual success stories of the Republic of Turkey and the European Union, and serve as an archive of our common history. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported this fruitful collaboration, especially the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey and my colleagues at the Department for European Union Investments, for their dedication. I believe that, with our common vision in the field of transport, together with the European Union, we will be putting our signatures to much larger and meaningful projects.

## The TOP exhibition was visited by tens of thousands of people from all over İstanbul

Promotional films and photographs of the Transport Operational Programme (TOP) and the works projects were displayed at the historic Sirkeci Train Station. The exhibition opened at the entrance to Marmaray Sirkeci Station, which 60,000 people use every day, attracted great interest from İstanbul's residents...

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION





The historic Sirkeci Train Station was the second stop for the promotional activities relating to the Transport Operational Programme (TOP) and the works projects carried out under the programme. Opened at the entrance to Marmaray Sirkeci station, which is used daily by 60,000 people, the exhibition was open to the public for three days and tens of thousands of İstanbul's residents came along to learn about the infrastructure projects carried out by TOP.

Nedim Yeşil, Head of Department for European Union Investments, paid a visit to Tayfun Akbulut, Director of the Sirkeci Train Station, to thank him for his enthusiasm regarding the exhibition.

The exhibition, which also included films shown on big LED screens and music recitals, was open for three days, where TOP promotional materials were distributed to the public.







## Technical Assistance for the Operating Structure to Prepare and Strengthen Programming for the Period 2014-2020

### PROJECT NEWS



### Second Steering Committee Meeting is realized

**S**econd Steering Committee meeting of Technical Assistance for the Operating Structure to Prepare and Strengthen Programming for the Period 2014-2020 Project was held on 13 January 2016 with the participation of Nedim Yeşil, Head of Department for European Union Investments; Mr. Göktuğ Kara, Delegation of the European Union to Turkey; potential end recipients' representatives of IPA-II period and the Contractor.

In this meeting, progress of the project from the first steering committee meeting and planned activities for the next period were handled and discussed by the representatives of Contractor, MoTMC, Delegation of the European Union to Turkey and the other stakeholders.

As part of Transport Operational Programme (TOP)

## Technical Assistance for Information and Publicity Activities – II Project



As part of Transport Operational Programme (TOP), Technical Assistance for Information and Publicity Activities – II Project has started on 9 December 2016. The purpose of the project, which is carried out by Particip GmbH and European Service Network S.A./N.V. consortium under the leadership of Norm Consulting Danışmanlık A.Ş., is to provide visibility with the necessary information about the activities and policies of the TOP which is financed by European Union IPA funds. It is planned to reach the following targets at the end of a year-long project:

- Creating public awareness of the TOP policy, its activities, achievements and opportunities.
- The incentive of operations financed under the TOP and the target groups being informed about the programmes and projects.
- Development of the sufficiency for the personnel of Department for European Union Investments and the beneficiaries related to the promotion of the projects.
- Providing the sustainability of the publicity and visibility activities.

Within the scope of the project, firstly the existing communication strategy was renewed and the production of communication and promotional materials was started. The first Steering Committee Meeting of the Project was held on 27 March 2017, the future plans were discussed and with the action plan, the calendar was clarified.



## Memleket Garları

Haydarpaşa, Sirkeci, Basmane... Famous train stations of the country... The book that prepared by Kemal Varol is not only paying attention to Haydarpaşa, but also to all the train stations of the country. He is not just visiting 'main' stations, he is also stopping by at some secondary stations'. From the East to West, from the North to South, series of stations. Haydarpaşa, Sirkeci, Hadımköy, Alsancak-Buca-Seydiköy, Basmane, Akhisar, Eskişehir, Samsun, Ankara, Ulukışla, Pozantı, Adana, İskenderun, Diyarbakır, Batman, Kurtalan... Information, memories and observations about the stations... Dreams created by stations...

Compiled by: Kemal Varol  
İletişim Yayıncılık, 2012 Edition  
224 Pages  
(From the Publicity Bulletin)



## Tren Bir Hayattır

Train is not only a means of transport. At least not for the fancier. Train is a mobile window, actually a landscape itself. Train is a life. There is a type of human called "railroader": Railroaders from the occupation and railway-train addicts. Train has a unique romance. This book builds a network line extending from railway policy of Turkey to this train romance. The history of the railroaders in Turkey... Aegean and İzmir trains... Ankara Express... Station "fact"... Station restaurants... Railroaders and unionism... Railroader football teams... Railroad equipments, railroad wares... Train songs-folk songs... Trains and films... Train emotions...

Compiled by: Tanıl Bora  
İletişim Yayıncılık, 2012 Edition  
328 Pages  
(From the Publicity Bulletin)



## Güncel Lojistik

Contemporary Logistics book written by Paul R. Murphy, Jr. and A. Michael Knemeyer has translated into Turkish by faculty members of Gediz University and several universities in Turkey, under the leadership faculty members of Gediz University, Professor Funda Yercan and Assistant Professor Şerife Demiroğlu. The basic functions of logistics management are examined in detail in the book.

Nobel Akademik Yayıncılık,  
2016 Edition  
326 Pages  
(From the Publicity Bulletin)



## İlham Veren Öyküler

This book, which is published by the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey, conveys the projects and the success stories that have realised under the European Union and Turkey Financial Cooperation. "Civil Liberties, Free Movement of Goods, Employment, Education and Social Policy, Socio-Economic and Regional Development, Energy, Transportation, Agricultural and Rural Development, Environment and Climate, Democracy and Governance" fields take part in the book. Moreover, the success story of Irmak Karabük Zonguldak Railway Line takes part in transportation field.

You can download the electronic version of the book from this link:  
[www.avrupa.info.tr/tr/node/892](http://www.avrupa.info.tr/tr/node/892)

For detailed information on TOP: [op.udhb.gov.tr](http://op.udhb.gov.tr)



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Announcements [31/01/2017](#)

Technical Assistance for Information and Publicity Activities - II



[SEARCH TENDER](#)



Minister of Transport,  
Maritime Affairs and  
Communications  
**Ahmet ARSLAN**



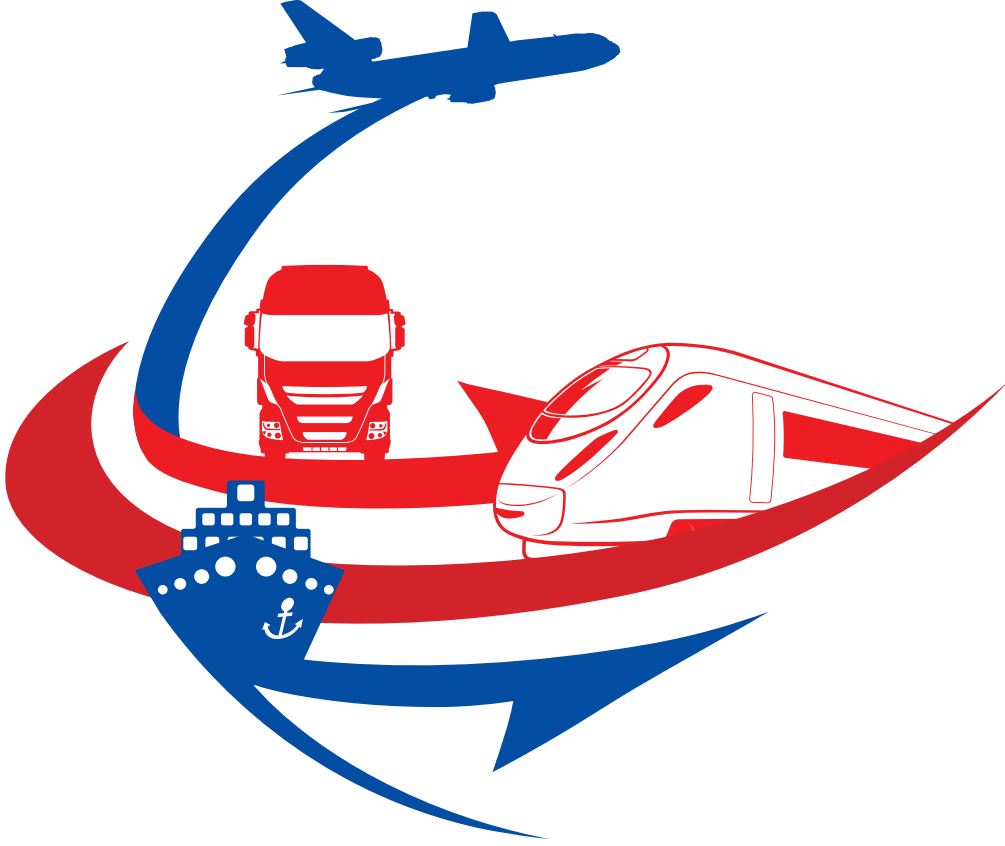
Director General for  
Foreign Relations and EU Affairs  
Head of Operating Directorate  
**Erdem DİREKLER**

Irregularity  
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Appointment  
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Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications  
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