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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release:** Friday, April 4, 2014

***4<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkic American Convention  
Energy, Trade & Development***

*Leading policymakers, academics, businesspersons and expert stakeholders from the United States and the Turkic nations to discuss issues focusing on energy, trade and regional development in Eurasia, Central Asia and the Caucasus.*

**Washington, DC – April 8-9, 2014** - On April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Turkic American Alliance (TAA), TUSKON (Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists of Turkiye), the Rethink Institute and the Turkish American Chamber of Commerce (TACC) will be hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkic American Convention in Washington, D.C. The convention will officially begin on the evening of Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, with a welcome reception at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium from 6:00pm to 9:00pm, and will continue with a full day of events (8:00am-9:00pm) on Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Willard InterContinental Hotel.

There will be 4 Forum Sessions deliberating on issues concerning the New Silk Road Initiatives, the Trials and Tribulations of Turkish Democracy, the Eurasian Energy Corridor and Energy Security, and U.S. Strategic Partnership and Cooperation in Central Asia and the Caucasus. The Forum Sessions are organized by the Rethink Institute (<http://www.rethinkinstitute.org/>).

Attendees to the Turkic American Convention will network with individuals from many different backgrounds, providing guests with a unique opportunity to build relationships with representatives from various industries. Last year over 1,200 people attended our

Turkic American Alliance  
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convention, among them 40 U.S. Members of Congress, 8 U.S. Senators, 20 Members of Turkic Parliaments, 15 U.S. and Turkic Ambassadors, 4 Mayors, 1 Governor, 2 Secretaries of State and representatives from the Departments of State, Defense, Energy and Commerce, USAID and the United Nations. Keynote addresses were delivered by Minority Speaker Nancy Pelosi and then-Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Ambassador Robert O. Blake, Jr.

The **Turkic American Alliance** is the largest national Turkic organization in the United States, representing six regional federations and over 240 community associations, cultural and dialogue centers, business chambers and education institutions. The Turkic American Alliance also functions as a powerful advocate for dialogue not only among the Turkic American and American communities, but also among the Turkic states—Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan—and the United States. Please visit our website at [www.turkicamericanalliance.org](http://www.turkicamericanalliance.org) for more details.

The **Rethink Institute** is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan research institution devoted to deepening our understanding of contemporary political and cultural challenges facing communities and societies around the world, and in realizing peace and justice, broadly defined. The Institute pursues this mission by facilitating research on public policies and civic initiatives centering on dispute resolution, peacebuilding, dialogue development and education. Toward these goals, the Institute sponsors rigorous research and analysis, supports visiting scholar programs, and organizes workshops and conferences.

As the most widespread non-governmental, non-profit institution representing business community in Turkey, the Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists of Turkey (**TUSKON**) is dedicated to share know-how, experience and communication networks with its businesspersons who aspire to be global players in today's world. TUSKON functions as an umbrella organization for 7 regional federations and 202 business associations with over 52,000 business members and 140,000 firms in Turkey. TUSKON organizes trade and investment delegations to prospective countries as a follow-up to its Trade Bridge Programs. TUSKON is also the best-positioned organization in the Turkish business community in organizing matchmaking events for international business people.

The **Turkish American Chamber of Commerce** (TACC) was founded as a self-supporting and non-profit organization in Chicago by a group of businesspersons and professionals to facilitate commerce between the United States, Turkey and Central Asia and to establish partnerships between Turkic and American businesspersons. Established by a number of volunteers who wish to use their experience and encourage their contacts in the U.S., Turkey and Central Asia to work towards this goal, TACC also believes that in order to perform more efficient business activities in the region, the United States also needs to establish stronger business relations with Turkey and the Central Asian republics.

**Location:**

**April 8, 2014 – Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, 1301 Constitution Ave NW,  
Washington, D.C. 20240**

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**April 9, 2014 – Willard InterContinental Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave NW,  
Washington, D.C. 20004**

**Additional Organizers:**

*JĪA – Association of Young Entrepreneurs, Kyrgyzstan*

*KATIAD – Association of Businessmen of Kazakhstan and Turkey, Kazakhstan*

*TATSIAD – Tajik-Turkish Industry and Business Chamber, Tajikistan*

*TÜSIAB – Azerbaijan International Society of Turkish Industrialists and  
Businessmen, Azerbaijan*

**Convention Sponsors:**

***Main Sponsor:***

*Ipek Yolu Business Chamber, Azerbaijan*

***Additional Sponsors:***

*Today's Zaman*

*Turkish Review*

**Select Distinguished Speakers and Forum Panelists:**

*The Hon. Minister of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic, Temir Agreмбаевич Сариев*

*The Hon. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, Fatima  
Z. Sumar*

*H.E. the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United States and Canada, Muktar  
Djumaļiev*

*H.E. the Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United States, Kairat Umarov*

*H.E. the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the United States, Elin Suleymanov*

*The Hon. Senator of New York, Kirsten Gillibrand*

*The Hon. Senator of Connecticut, Chris Murphy*

*The Hon. Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic,  
Kanybek Imanaliev*

*The Hon. Senate Deputy of Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Dr. Serik  
Nugerbekov*

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs at the  
Department of State, Amb. Richard E. Hoagland*

*David Koranyi, Acting Director of the Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center of the Atlantic  
Council*

Full list of speakers and panelists available here:

<http://turkicamericanconvention.org/speakers-panelist/>.

**Masters of Ceremonies:**

*Gwen Tolbart, Weather Anchor/Reporter, WTTG Fox 5*

*Alison Starling, Co-anchor, WJLA-TV's 5PM/11PM Newscast*

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**For more information**, please visit our convention website at <http://turkicamericanconvention.org> and our Twitter page at @TAConvention with hashtag #TAC14.

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