

## INVESTORS AROUND THE WORLD HAVE GATHERED IN LONDON FOR TURKEY'S INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

**London, 28 March 2013** – “Invest in Turkey’s Infrastructure” conference, organized under the patronage of ISPAT (The Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey) and the sponsorship of ÜNLÜ & Co, was held in London on the 28th of March. The conference aiming to introduce and present the investment goals of Turkey to the foreign investors, brought more than 200 international investors and fund managers together with the primary infrastructure companies of Turkey.

The conference focused on the details of recent infrastructure projects, such as bridges, motorways, airports, railways and urban transformation projects with the presence of His Excellency Minister Binali Yildirim, Turkey’s Minister of Transportation, Maritime Affairs and Communications, and His Excellency Minister Mehmet Simsek, Turkey’s Minister of Finance.

President of The Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey, **İlker Aycı**, stated in his opening speech that “Turkey’s infrastructure sector is attracting investors, who would like to get involved in long term business opportunities, more and more each day” and added the following:

*“Local and international authorities in Turkey are focusing on infrastructure projects tailored for education, energy, construction, defense, transportation, information and communication sectors with the public private sector cooperation projects. Similarly, there are many opportunities in the privatisation program of Turkish economy. Among these projects the foreign investors are interested mostly in the Third Airport Project of Istanbul, Canakkale Transit Bridge Project, high speed train routes such as Izmir-Ankara, Istanbul-Bilecik routes, privatisation of ports such as Izmir and Derince Ports and USD 400 mln worth of urban transformation projects. The total worth of the privatisation projects in Turkey has reached USD 50 bln in the previous 9 years, but privatisation opportunities are still open to development.*

*We can conclude that Turkey offers a big opportunity for investors interested in energy sector as well, with the energy consumption that requires investments worth USD 100 bln for the next decade. In this regard we are expecting the renewable energy plants, privatisation of power plants and development of nuclear and lignite reserves”.*

The sponsor of the event **ÜNLÜ & Co**’s Chairman **Mahmut L. Ünlü**, has stated that the conference will be beneficial for promoting the investment opportunities in Turkey to the foreign investors.

**Ünlü** also noted that “As **Ünlü & Co**, we are very happy to support the initiatives of The Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey via the organization and execution of this conference. We believe that in the

*next decade Turkish economy will focus around “consumer” and “infrastructure” sectors. The privatisation projects until now were the first step in the development of the infrastructure sector. From now on, we believe the primary and secondary public offerings of the infrastructure companies, stock share offerings, refinancing of the first financing packages will gain more importance and move us to the second phase of the infrastructure investments. As Ünlü & Co, we offer professional services in all the areas of financing and advisory for these projects. We are aiming to actively take part in this process and we have the sufficient resources and experience to support the investors and infrastructure companies.”*

The first panel in the conference **“Previous Infrastructure Projects in Turkey and Success Stories”** was moderated by Hasan Pehlivan, Principal Advisor of The Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey, with the panelists; Suat Hayri Aka, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Maritime Affairs and Communications, Sani Şener, CEO and President of Tav Airports Holding, Ebru Özdemir, Chairperson of Limak Investments, Suha Güçsav, CEO of Akfen and Marco Rosso, Business Development Director of Meridiam.

**“Financing and Legal Aspects of the Infrastructure Projects in Turkey”** the second panel of the conference was held by the moderator Attila Koksall, General Manager of Ünlü & Co; with the attendance of Oğuz Sarıoğlu, CFO of Makyol Holding, Özge Arioğlu, Partner and Board Member of Yapi Merkezi, Nicholas WONG, Partner of the Global Finance Group of Clifford Chance and Şevki Acuner, Deputy Director for Turkey, EBRD.

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**For more information please contact: -----**

#### **About ISPAT**

The Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (ISPAT) was established under the auspices of the Prime Ministry in 2006. ISPAT is the official organization for promoting Turkey's investment opportunities to the global business community and providing assistance to investors before, during and after their entry into Turkey. ISPAT serves as a reference point for international investors and as a point of contact for all institutions engaged in promoting and attracting investments at national, regional and local levels. It works on a fully confidential basis and combines a private sector approach with the backing of all governmental bodies. ISPAT's free-of-charge services include, but are not limited to providing market information and analyses, site selection, B2B meetings, coordination with relevant governmental institutions, and facilitating legal procedures and applications, such as establishing business operations, incentive applications, obtaining licenses and work permits.

#### **About Ünlü & Co**

Founded in 1996, ÜNLÜ & Co is the leading merchant banking business in Turkey with its broad investment banking and asset management platforms. Established as an independent financial advisory firm, ÜNLÜ & Co transitioned into a leading financial institution. With its unrivalled professional network and broad capabilities, ÜNLÜ & Co provides innovative solutions to client's needs with its world-class capabilities in corporate finance advisory, global market transactions, public offerings of debt, equity and asset management.

Based in Istanbul, ÜNLÜ & Co provides services with its specialized staff of more than 200 individuals and serves a diverse set of clients that include blue-chip companies, major conglomerates, financial institutions and high net worth individuals. ÜNLÜ & Co is dedicated to maximizing the benefit and satisfaction of its worldwide customers.