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INVESTMENT SUPPORT AND
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A Giant Step in Technology Cooperation from Turkey and Switzerland

Istanbul, September 19, 2009 - The Prime Ministry Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (ISPAT), along with a committee of high ranking executives, parliamentarians and academics, held talks in Switzerland on September 16-19, 2009 in order to closely monitor and evaluate areas of cooperation and investment opportunities.

As a result of studies conducted by ISPAT in technological areas, the committee, formed by the technopark executives of the Middle East Technical University (METU), Bilkent, the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) and Istanbul Technical University (ITU), management of Ankara University, the Turkish Exporters Assembly, Marmara University and Bahcesehir University along with the top representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Turkish National Assembly, had the opportunity to meet with the executives of Switzerland's leading technology companies during the three-day program.

The committee also looked into investment and cooperation opportunities in innovation, R&D, venture capital, micro and biotechnologies during the onsite visits paid to the Swiss Centre of Electronics and Microtechnology CSEM; which serves its R&D work experiences as an incubator through the formation of new companies providing also consultation and capital support, CSEM's largest partner, one of the world's leading engineering schools; University of Lausanne Polytechnic FEDERAL SCHOOL EPFL, the coordinator organization; BioALPS aiming at making Western Switzerland a centre of attraction in the area of "life sciences" and BioPole; a leading techno park administration company partnered by the public sector.

The decision for the academic cooperation taken by the FEDERAL Polytechnic SCHOOL of LAUSANNE - EPFL and the Bahcesehir University as regards the urban planning, emergency management and microtechnology issues is the first mutually beneficial result of this giant step taken between the two countries. Looking into future, further international cooperation is planned to continue.

Commenting on the Switzerland program, Mr. Alpaslan Korkmaz, President of ISPAT, stressed the importance of technological investments that play a key role in the future of a country. Mr. Korkmaz went on to say: **"As ISPAT, we are not only after drawing investments to our country but we also act as an intermediary in areas that will create added-value. In this area, we received an invitation from relevant organizations in Switzerland. The Agency managed coordination between the most important high-technology institutions and acted as a means of contact for the purpose of extending benefits to our country. Hence, with the participation of this committee and as a result of the intense agenda, the initial and important steps for cooperation between the technoparks in our country and the centers in Switzerland were taken."**

