TURSAB

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THE RECEPTION ORGANIZED ON THE OCCASION OF VENEZUELA NATIONAL DAY WAS HELD AT ISTANBUL PERA PALACE HOTEL The reception organized by the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the occasion of Venezuela National Day was held on Thursday, July 13, 2023 at Pera Palace Hotel in Istanbul. The reception held with the participation of His Excellency Ambassador Jose Bracho and Consul General Lissett Hernandez was attended by Yıldırım Taş, Board Member representing our Chairman Firuz B. Bağlıkaya.

The Venezuelan Delegation conveyed their request to come together with TÜRSAB for mutual cooperation to develop tourism.



MONTHLY MEETING OF THE HIGHWAY, TRANSPORTATION, TRANSPORT AND VEHICLE LEASING SPECIALIZATION **PRESIDENCY WAS HELD** 

The monthly meeting of the Highway, Transportation, Transport and Vehicle Leasing Specialization Presidency was held on July 13, 2023 in hybrid format. The agenda items of the meeting were; The latest situation and measures taken in pirate transportation and document rental, parking problems and reception areas at Istanbul and Sabiha Gökçen Airports, D2 and A1 authorization certificates and the update in the records of electric vehicles and the rates of rental and self-owned vehicles, the current situation and comparisons in Istanbul and other tourism centers and the

determination of the agenda and visits to the institutions.

### **CHANGE IN THE VISITING HOURS OF THE GARDEN AND RIHTIM** SECTION OF BEYLERBEYI PALACE WAS ANNOUNCED In the letter sent to our Association BY the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey National

Palaces Administration of the Directorate of Museology and Promotion Department regarding the Visiting Hours of Beylerbeyi Palace Garden and Dock Section; In line with the Procedures and Principles for Visiting, Allocation, Archive, Research and Image Taking in the Palaces, Mansions, Pavilions, Museums and Historical Factories within the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey National Palaces Administration, it was reported that the Garden and Dock Section of Beylerbeyi Palace will be open to visitors until 22:00 on Fridays and Saturdays from July 15, 2023 until September 9, 2023.



# **GDS TRAINING WILL BE ORGANIZED IN ANKARA IN COOPERATION** WITH TÜRSAB-SABRE

In cooperation with TÜRSAB - Sabre, basic and advanced GDS training will be provided for the new workforce for travel agency staff who want to be included in the ticketing department. Trainings will be held in Ankara on August 7-8-9-10, 2023 as Basic Level and Advanced Level in September. Participation in the training has a limited quota and applications will be received via https://akademi.tursab.org.tr. After the evaluation, participation information will be sent to the candidates who are entitled to participate in the training.

For detailed information; https://www.tursab.org.tr/announcements/announcement-about-the-gdstraining-organized-in-cooperation-with-tursab-academy-sabre



**ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE INFORMATION OFFICER EXAM** The application, exam dates and conditions for the Information Officer Legislation Exam, Foreign Language Exam and Foreign Language Interview to be held in accordance with Article 46 and following articles of the Travel Agencies Regulation have been announced. Exam applications will start on July 10, 2023 and will end on August 9, 2023 at 23:59. For details; https://www.tursab.org.tr/announcements/announcement-about-the-information-officerlegislation-exam



## **BASIC AND ADVANCED GDS TRAINING WILL BE HELD FOR** TRAVEL AGENCY EMPLOYEES IN COOPERATION WITH **TÜRSAB - TRAVELPORT**

In cooperation with TÜRSAB - Travelport, basic and advanced GDS training will be given to travel agency employees. Trainings will be held on August 7-8-9, 2023 (Basic Level) and September 4-5-6, 2023 (Advanced Level) at TÜRSAB Headquarters Building. The quota for participation in the training is limited and applications will be received via https:// akademi.tursab.org.tr. After the evaluation, participation information will be sent to the candidates

who are entitled to participate in the training. For detailed information; https://www.tursab.org.tr/announcements/announcement-about-the-gdstraining-organized-in-cooperation-with-tursab-academy-travelport

**APPLICATION WAS MADE TO THE PRESIDENCY FOR THE CANCELLATION OF THE ACCRUAL OF THE 2023 DUES OF OUR** TRAVEL AGENCIES OPERATING IN THE EARTHQUAKE ZONE Under Law No. 1618, we are obliged to notify our travel agencies on a quarterly basis for the accrued dues balances. As it is known, an application has been made to the Presidency for the cancellation of the 2023 dues accrual for our travel agencies operating in the earthquake zone.

Our members will be informed separately based on the response from the Presidency.



ANNOUNCEMENT ON SAUDI ARABIA INTRODUCTION DAYS EVENT

Between 24 - 28 July 2023, "Saudi Arabia Promotion Days Event" will be organized in 5 cities with presentations in Turkish. Our members who want to participate in the event in question must fill out the participation form

on our website until 20.07.2023 at 17.00. For detailed information; https://www.tursab.org.tr/announcements/announcement-on-saudiarabia-promotion-days-event



## STATEMENT ON TUREB NOTICE

The letter dated 11/07/2023 published by TUREB was received with regret by our members. In its letter sent to the professional chambers, TUREB briefly states that "they have requested an increase in the base fees for 2023, the Ministry has not accepted this increase within the scope of the provisions of the legislation, but as TUREB, they have determined the new fees as a recommendation and this recommendation should be communicated to all guides".

The opinions of our Association on the issue of "base wage", which has once again come to the agenda with TUREB's letter, are well known by the public. As everyone who is familiar with the dynamics of the tourism economy agrees on, it is unfair that tourist guides to be assigned by travel agencies on tours, regardless of factors such as the nature of the tour, the nature of the group, etc., are charged a fee under the name of "base wage", which is more than the profit obtained by travel agencies, which take commercial risks, undertake serious costs and put forth the knowledge and experience of a large team, and which is extremely high compared to the conditions of the country.

Moreover, it is an unacceptable approach to circumvent the law under the name of "advisory fee" in the already unfair and exorbitant "base fee" practice without warning about the widespread practice that tourist guides, who are not satisfied with such a high base fee and who sometimes earn more income than the travel agency in a tour prepared with great efforts without any investment, do not even issue self-employment receipts in return for these incomes.

Problems such as the inability to find guides for tours for Turkish citizens and the problem of "Turkish Guides" are among the most important issues that need to be resolved as soon as possible. In 2019, we remind once again below our opinions, evaluations and demands shared by our Association with the Ministry and the public, and we expect the amendment of the Tourist Guide Profession Law No. 6326 prepared by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to be realized.

#### TÜRSAB OPINIONS ON THE TOURIST GUIDING PROFESSION LAW NUMBERED 6326

Law No. 6326 needs to be addressed in many aspects; in terms of legal technique, content, concepts and most importantly tourism realities and needs in a way to improve the "Tourist Guiding Profession". Below are TÜRSAB's suggestions regarding some provisions of Law No. 6326 that directly affect the travel agency profession and sectoral practices, which, if changed, will provide significant convenience in practices and progress in the tourism economy.

1. Replacing the expression "Provided that it is not a travel agency activity ..." at the beginning of the definition of "Tourist Guiding Service" in subparagraph (I) of paragraph 1 of Article 2 with the expression "Depending on a travel agency ..." will eliminate the perception that the guiding profession "can be done alone" in the current situation and make the definition in accordance with the purpose and spirit of the law.

2. The requirement of passing a foreign language exam for admission to the profession of guidance is meaningless in terms of guidance services provided to Turkish-speaking people within Turkey and causes difficulties in the supply of guides in the domestic tourism movement. For this reason, Tourist Guidance departments of universities are required to;

# a. Regionalization of two-year department graduates REGION-BASED

b. Four-year program graduates' COUNTRY BASED c. Among master's degree graduates, those with a bachelor's degree in art history or archaeology -COUNTRY BASED

It should be ensured that they start their profession as Tourist Guides. The requirement of passing the foreign language exam within 5 years can be imposed on guides with a national kokart entering the profession as Turkish tourist guides.

3. It will be important to ensure that the base fee for Turkish guide services is 35% below the foreign language guide fee for regional guides and 25% below the foreign language guide fee for national guides.

4. It should be ensured that guides cannot accept work that starts or takes place outside the jurisdiction of the chamber in which they are registered.

5. The activities in which guides are obliged to be present should be redefined, guiding services should be compulsory for museums and ruins, and guides should not be required for transfer activities to these places. In particular, activities such as trekking, cycling tours, Turkish nights, rafting, and other activities that do not include elements such as city trips in their programs should not require a guide.

6. The exams and trips, which are compulsory for entry to the profession of guide, should be required by law to be held regularly every year, especially to meet the needs in rare languages, and should be carried out by the Ministry upon the request of TÜRSAB.

7. Paragraph 1 of Article 4 of the Law stipulates that the profession shall be performed as selfemployment or in accordance with the Labor Law. However, it is known that although guides are self-employed, they do not issue self-employment receipts and collect their fees through expense receipts issued by travel agencies. This leads to serious problems for travel agencies and causes them to be unfairly penalized in terms of SSI legislation. This problem will be solved by adding the provision "In case the profession is performed as a self-employment, a self-employment receipt shall be issued for the guidance fee." to the 1st paragraph of Article 4.

8. The regulation in paragraph 7 of Article 7 of the Law allows the chambers of guides to inspect the activities of travel agencies on their own and to be assisted by law enforcement officers in this process. Arrangements should be made to ensure that the audits of travel agencies related to guides can be carried out together with TÜRSAB or the Ministry, and guide chambers should be prevented from auditing travel agency activities.

We respectfully submit for the information of our members and the public.



#### ADVANCED GDS TRAINING WILL BE ORG SIC AND FOR OUR TRAVEL AGENCY EMPLOYEES IN COOPERATION WITH **TÜRSAB - TRAVELPORT**

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who are entitled to participate in the training.



**1ST ISTANBUL BALKAN TOURISM EXCHANGE FAIR ON SEPTEMBER** 20-22 AT LÜTFİ KIRDAR INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS AND **EXHIBITION PALACE** 

Hosted by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and organized by TÜRSAB Fuarcılık Hizmetleri A.Ş. with the main support of TÜRSAB and in cooperation with IBB Kültür A.Ş., the 1st Istanbul Balkan Tourism Exchange Fair will bring tourism professionals and visitors together at Lütfi Kırdar International Convention and Exhibition Center between 20-22 September 2023. The 1st Istanbul Balkan Tourism Exchange Fair, which will be organized in Istanbul, one of the important milestones with its contributions to the development of tourism vision in Turkey and its values, will create a brand new

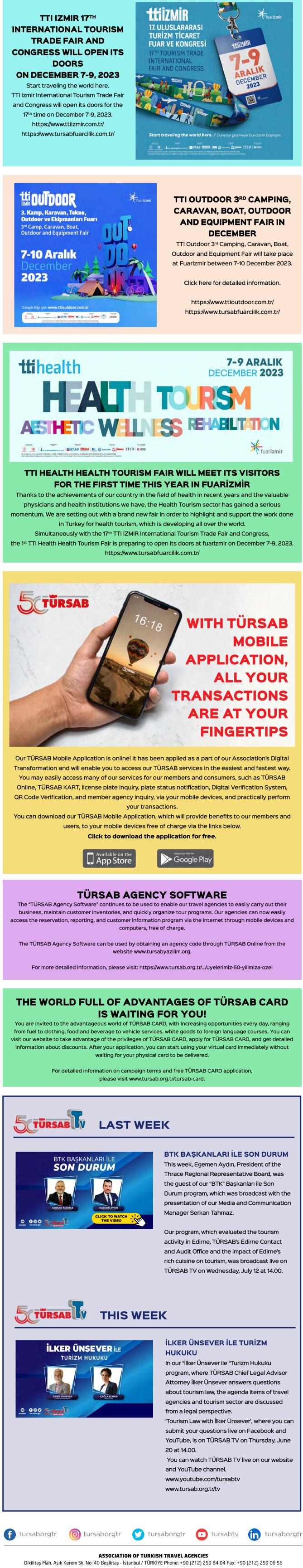
resource for the sector and increase the opportunities for sectoral cooperation.

For detailed information about participation in the fair;

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