**Overview of the ‘Sakarya Chamber of Commerce and Industry’ (SATSO)**

Sakarya Chamber of Commerce and Industry was founded on 20 December 1924 by the decision of Kocaeli Province General Assembly. Sakarya Chamber of Comemrce and Industry has been working with all kinds of support for 88 years on national and international platform to provide the best and the highest quality, to protect the Sakarya’ and Sakarya Residents’ rights.

The Sakarya Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SATSO) have been continued to collectively by The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey and (TOBB)& Eurochamber Project. The SATSO have been “Chamber Accredite” statute.

The Sakarya Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SATSO) have been Quality Management System Certificate EN ISO 9001:2000 (Certificate Registration No:15 1000 31887)

**Duties and Responsibilities**

* Protecting occupational morals and integrity and working for the development of commerce in accordance with general interests,
* Working for the development and protection of the region’s commercial, industrial, touristic and agricultural activities, and supporting and giving advice to businesspeople in these topics,
* Compiling and sending information and news on economic issues to relevant individuals, provide information requested by official authorities, and provide or make it easier to reach information requested by members needed in their occupational life,
* Issuing Declaration of Place of Origin for export goods,
* Carrying out all sorts of studies relating to economic activities and forming indices and statistics on these activities,
* Giving advice and requests to ministries and other related authorities on occupational activities,
* Determining commercial traditions, customs, and practices,
* Deciding on codes of conduct for the commercial institutions,
* Setting up relations with international economic institutions, Chambers of Commerce, and institutions alike, institutes and individuals or companies, exchanging information, giving advice and reference on traders, producers, providers and other businesspeople and/or institutions,
* Helping with the establishment and development of members' international contacts
* Pointing to and developing legal and other measures affecting commercial, industrial, touristic and agricultural issues,
* Acting as a body of arbitration in conflicts arising from commercial, industrial, touristic and agricultural relations,
* Preparing information on commerce, industry and agriculture,
* Publishing newspapers, magazines, books and leaflets to facilitate the development of its objectives,
* Protecting its members' interests at official committees and other such institutions,
* Buying and selling, renting, using or disposing of any moveable or immoveable property to facilitate the development of its interests and to better serve the societal economy and its members,
* Acting in a way that will not contradict the above mentioned objectives in economic and commercial issues,
* Organizing and supporting exhibitions and fairs in the fields of commerce, industry, tourism, and agriculture. SATSO organizes participations in exhibitions and trade fairs upon its members request. Every year SATSO organizes participation to world's biggest industrial fair Hannover Messe with its willing memebers every year. IPM - International Trade Fair For Plants, Technical Equipment, Floristry in Germany and Sales Promotion and MIDEST International Industrial Subcontracting Exhibition in France are the two exhibitions SATSO had organized participations in last two years addition to Hannover Messe.

**Structure**

To ensure that SATSO complies with all necessary regulations and adheres to its mission of promoting economic development in Sakarya and Turkey, the organization has been structured to include an assembly, board of directors, general secretariat and a series of professional committees.

**The Assembly**

Consisting of 90 members elected every four years and represented in official capacities by a president, the SATSO Assembly is the organization’s main decision-making, regulatory and auditing body. It approves the chamber’s annual budget, all internal regulations and decisions presented by SATSO’s professional committees, in addition to having the authority to punish and settle disputes.

**Board of Directors**

SATSO’s Board of Directors acts as the organization’s executive body. It consists of 11 elected members who serve four-year terms within the assembly. The board’s main function is overseeing SATSO’s administrative needs to ensure the organization is working in the best general interest of the chamber. This includes preparing the annual business program and budget; assessing proposals and demands from all interested parties; and ruling over all appointments, promotions, and terminations within the administrative organization. Additionally, SATSO’s Board of Directors is the organization’s official legal representative and has the authority to enforce the regulations and bylaws outlined by the assembly.

**General Secretariat**

The administrative organization utilizes the general secretariat as its main resource for finding solutions to economic, legal, social and cultural issues within Turkey. SATSO’s General Secretariat consists of one secretary general, who is appointed by SATSO’s Board of directors and serves as the administrative organization’s chief officer. The secretary general is supported by a team of deputies that is responsible for various duties.

**Members and Professional Committees**

SATSO has approximately 11.000 members and professional groups, which elect professional committee representatives every four years. SATSO’s professional committees act as the chamber’s professional expertise organ. SATSO has 32 Professional committees consist of five, seven or 11 people, depending on the number of registered members of the relevant group. Generally, such committees are responsible for pinpointing sectorial issues/obstacles and suggest courses of action to the assembly or board of directors.