

## DEBATE

### **Thierry de Montbrial, chairman and founder of the WPC**

We can take two or three questions, and let me ask the first one. It is very clear that everybody admires Turkey for what has been achieved in terms of domestic development since the coming of the AKP Party, of which you are a distinguished member. However, as we also saw in the discussions during this conference, there are many question marks about Turkish intentions in the Middle East and beyond. My first question will not be too directly political or linked with foreign policy, because I am not a minister for foreign affairs and I am aware of that. However, the question I would ask is this. To what extent do you think the Turkish model, as a success story in economic terms, has an impact in the Middle Eastern environment?

### **Mehmet Ceylan, Deputy Minister of Development of Turkey**

As I mentioned in my speech, Turkey has had good success in the last decade regarding development issues, and I wanted to talk about these in my speech. Turkey is a democratic country, so it could be a model for Muslim countries and developing countries as well. Of course we have some problems in the Middle East region, but we hope they will be solved in the near future. Regarding development issues, Turkey could be a good example and a good model for the countries in the region, especially for the Muslim countries.

### **Thierry de Montbrial, chairman and founder of the WPC**

We have Sung Joo Han, the former Foreign Affairs Minister in Korea, among many other things. You were never ambassador to the United States, and to my knowledge, you were never ambassador to Turkey.

### **Han Sung Joo, Chairman of the International Policy Studies Institute of Korea**

I was once the UN Secretary General's representative for Cyprus. While you are here, I would like to get some updates on what is happening in Cyprus, please.

### **Mehmet Ceylan, Deputy Minister of Development of Turkey**

Regarding the Cyprus issue, as you know, negotiations between the Turks and Greek Cypriots is continuing. We want peace on the island and we want both countries to be at peace on the island. We hope we will reach a solution in the end.

### **Hyun Hong-Choo, Senior Partner, Kim & Chang**

You said earlier that Turkey would like to be a financial centre and there are a number of requirements and conditions to make a country or city a financial centre. What do you think makes Turkey special and entitled to claim its status as a financial centre, in the present if not in the future? What is your view on that?

**Mehmet Ceylan, Deputy Minister of Development of Turkey**

We had a good performance in the financial sector. We had a good banking system in our country. As you know, as a result of the recent global financial crisis, many banks in Europe either went bankrupt or had to be supported with fresh capital funds from their governments. This did not happen in Turkey because of our financial system. In this crisis, none of our financial institutions suffered from liquidity hardships. We have a good financial system in our country, which supports macro economic developments and issues.

**Thierry de Montbrial, chairman and founder of the WPC**

I wish to thank you very much and repeat something once more that should be very clear. Turkey is a country that is very important to us at this WPC Conference, and we want Turkey to remain a full member of this club.