

RATING REPORT ON

# Hürriyet Gazetecilik ve Matbaacılık A.Ş.



#### **BASED UPON**

"The Corporate Governance Guidelines of Turkey" issued by the Capital Markets Board of Turkey

RATING RELEASE DATE 24 September 2012

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## INTRODUCTION

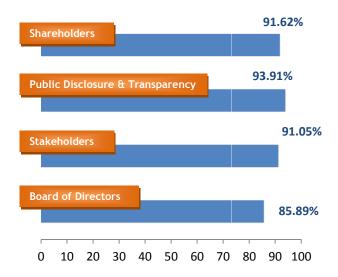
#### **GROUP**



#### **OVERALL SCORE**



#### **RESULTS BY CATEGORY**



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Stephan Costa +44 20 7618 2291 stephan.costa@isscorporateservices.com ISS Corporate Services (hereafter, ICS) assigns a rating score of 9.09 to Hürriyet Gazetecilik ve Matbaacılık A.Ş. (the "Company" or "Hürriyet"), which has increased from a score of 8.55. This rating reflects a good overall performance of the Company regarding its corporate governance structures as measured against the new Communiqués stipulated by the Capital Markets Board of Turkey (the "CMB Guidelines"). However, the result also signals that there still remains room to improve the Company's governance practices. Please refer to the "Rating Methodology" section for more information.

ICS was first appointed by Hürriyet in 2007 to review its corporate governance structures and processes in line with the CMB Guidelines. This rating report represents the fifth rating update after Hürriyet had been subject to a first rating released on 24 September 2007. Hürriyet then had been rated with a score of 7.96 (79.67 percent).

Hürriyet has steadily built upon its corporate governance foundation with a range of corporate governance enhancements in the past several years in numerous areas; such as an updated Articles of Association (AoA) to reflect the new CMB Guidelines (the CMB Communiqué Serial: IV, No: 56), a sound ethical and human resources policy and diligent and consistent communication with its shareholders and stakeholders.

Hürriyet continues to score particularly well on **Public Disclosure & Transparency** standards and in respect to **Shareholders.** On the other hand, Hürriyet achieves a lower result for **Board of Directors**.

The rating report is based on information provided to ICS prior to September 2012. The rating may be changed, suspended or withdrawn as a result of changes in or unavailability of such information.



## **COMPANY INFORMATION**



Hürriyet was originally founded in 1960. Operating in the fields of journalism, printing, advertising, publicity and online publishing, the Company has seven printing centers of which six of them located in Turkey and one in Germany. Through its subsidiaries and shareholdings Hürriyet is comprised of a network of 52 offices and 600 reporters in Turkey and abroad (Source: 2011 Annual Report).

The majority of the Company's shares are held by Doğan Yayın Holding A.Ş. (DYH), founded under Doğan Şirketler Grubu Holding A.Ş. The Company's shareholder structure is as follows:

#### SHAREHOLDER STRUCTURE

Shareholder	% of Share Capital
Doğan Yayın Holding(DYH)	66.56
Doğan Şirketler Grubu Holding A.Ş.	11.09

Source: KAP website

On 29 March 2007, Hürriyet acquired a 67.3 percent equity stake in Trader Media East Limited (TME) through its subsidiary, Hürriyet Invest B.V., registered in the Netherlands. TME is a classified advertising publisher, focused primarily on the real estate, automotive and recruitment segments, operating mainly in Russia and Eastern Europe by publishing various daily, weekly and monthly classified newspapers, magazines and websites.

As a listed company, Hurriyet has to comply with the Capital Market Regulations. Hurriyet has been listed on the ISE since 1992. As of August 2011, the Company's number of shares amounted to 552 million. As of June 2012, approximately 22 percent of the Company's issued shares were considered to be publicly floated and 40 percent of the Company's shares were in the "free float status" on the Istanbul Stock Exchange (ISE). TME shares are traded on the London Stock Exchange as Global Depository Receipts (GDRs).

No important changes occurred in the Company's management or operational organization during the accounting period. In June 2012, the Company transferred its headquarters from Evren Mahallesi, Gülbahar Caddesi, Hürriyet Medya Towers, Güneşli/İstanbul" to "100. Yıl Mahallesi, Matbaacılar Caddesi, No: 78, Bağcılar/İstanbul.

During the period under review, Hurriyet benefitted from the tax reconciliation law and settled all outstanding disputes. As a result, the total expense for the 2011 financial year was TL 19.8 million (including interest accrued).

#### **CREDIT RATING**

On 15 November 2011, Fitch Ratings confirmed the Company's local and foreign currency credit ratings as "B+" and improved its outlook from negative to stable.

Provider	Rating
Fitch Ratings	B+

Source: 2011 Annual Report

## RATING METHODOLOGY

#### **UNDERLYING REFERENCE**

The corporate governance rating at hand has been conducted by ICS based on the CMB Guidelines. As such, it differs in content and methodology from ISS' standard corporate governance ratings that are based on ISS' own methodology.

The CMB defined its first Corporate Governance Principles in 2003, followed by an amendment in early 2005 and most recently in December 2011, February 2012, June 2012, and September 2012. The new CMB Guidelines (the CMB Communiqué Serial: IV, No: 56) needed to be incorporated into the companies' articles of association by 30 June 2012. In light of the aforementioned changes, ICS updated its rating methodology under CMB's supervision.

It should be noted that with the latest CMB Guidelines, the governance landscape in Turkey has moved away from a "comply or explain" regime to one that is more regulated. One conclusion that may be drawn from this shift is that the CMB has increased its tone with a view to boost the competitiveness of Turkish companies globally.

According to the new CMB Guidelines, all ISE companies, excluding companies listed on Emerging Markets and Watchlist Market, are subject to mandatory implementation of certain CMB Guidelines. The CMB Guidelines continue to be divided into four main sections: (i) Shareholders; (ii) Public Disclosure and Transparency; (iii) Stakeholders; and (iv) Board of Directors.

#### THE RATING

Based on the CMB Guidelines, ICS identified close to 500 criteria to be included into the rating. Each single criterion has been examined thoroughly upon compliance by the Company, on the basis of publicly available information. Additional information was provided by the Company upon request.

While in most instances a straightforward 0 (no) or 1 (yes) scoring approach has been applied, we also

attributed a score of 0.5 points in some instances to acknowledge a partial fulfillment by the Company or where the rating criteria could not be applied.

#### **THE GROUPS**

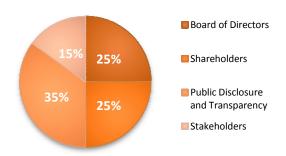
The new CMB Guidelines classify ISE companies in three main groups based on the systematic risk companies pose to Turkish capital markets:

- 1. Group I: ISE companies with a market value exceeding TL 3 billion and free float exceeding TL 750 million;
- 2. Group II: ISE Companies with a market value exceeding TL 1 billion and free float exceeding TL 250 million; and
- **3. Group III:** All other ISE companies which do not fall under either Group.

Group I companies are required to comply with all mandatory Principles whereas Group II and III companies benefit from certain exemptions.

#### **WEIGHTING SCHEME**

The weighting scheme applied for the four main sections was pre-determined by the CMB:



Further sub-weightings have been attributed to the sub-criteria according to ICS's own reference. Based on the scoring and adjusted weightings, the overall rating result is calculated. The result reflects the overall compliance of the Company. Besides the overall assessment, results also have been calculated for each main section, providing a differentiated picture of the company's strengths and weaknesses.



### THE GOVERNANCE LANDSCAPE IN TURKEY

Though the corporate governance structure and performance on the company level is of particular interest for shareholders, one should also acknowledge the corporate governance landscape on the country level. Despite the fact that the country level is not a part of the rating itself, ICS believes that an overview can enable investors to enhance their perspective and evaluation of corporate governance in a more holistic approach.

Turkey is well aware of the structural changes and the need for ongoing development and harmonization of its capital market legislation. Although Turkey is a latecomer to corporate governance, it has tried to speed up the progress since the year 2000. The overall legal framework regulating public companies in Turkey is determined by the new Turkish Commercial Code (effective 1 July 2012), the Capital Markets Law, the Decree-law, CMB regulations, and Istanbul Stock Exchange (ISE) listing requirements.

Focusing in particular on corporate governance, the CMB and the ISE can be observed as key players in promoting relevant regulations. They are supported by several other organizations such as the Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association, Corporate Governance Association of Turkey, Corporate Governance & Sustainability Center and the Corporate Governance Forum of Turkey.

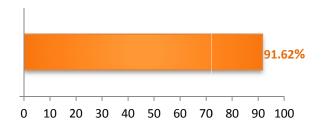
Below we have highlighted the general aspects of the governance landscape in Turkey.

 Within Turkish companies stock ownership is concentrated, very often characterized by the presence of a majority shareholder. In addition, holding structures, conglomerates, pyramid shareholding structures, and cross-shareholdings are quite common. Through these mechanisms Turkish families control a considerable amount of Turkish listed companies. Additionally, one can also find shares containing multiple voting rights, thus preserving family control.

- Due to the influential holdings of the families, family members are often present on the boards of the holdings and subsidiaries or act as executives.
- Due to the limited free float, hostile takeovers are rare, thus, weakening the market for corporate control.
- State ownership has declined significantly in line with privatization efforts, but is still to be found in the energy, communication and mining industries.
  In the meantime, foreign institutional investors started to increase their holdings.
- Issued stocks in Turkey range from ordinary shares, to preference shares. Golden shares only exist in few companies.
- Minority rights are granted to shareholders that own at least 5% of the company's capital, providing them with the right to call an extraordinary general meeting or bring in a shareholder proposal.
- Even though pre-emptive rights are granted by Turkish law at the first instance, companies can, through their articles of association, exclude preemptive rights in case of capital increases up to 100% of their registered capital.
- Mandatory tender offer bid requirements exist above a 50% threshold.
- Disclosure of indirect or direct ownership in case various thresholds (e.g. 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 1/3, 50, 2/3, and 75%) are passed.
- Companies have adopted IFRS accounting standards.
- Companies have a single tier board structure.
- The current CMB Guidelines outline rules that regulate the independence of board members.

## **SECTION I - SHAREHOLDERS**

#### **SHAREHOLDERS**



#### **SUMMARY**

Hürriyet continues to attain a good result of 9.16 in this category, which represents an increase from a score of 8.68 since ICS's last review. A clear dividend policy is in place and voting rights are well defined. Each share is subject to the **one share - one vote - one dividend principle**.

Hürriyet maintains a **clear dividend policy** with the level of payout determined by the local regulations, the national and global economic conditions as well as the Company's growth strategy. No dividend was paid again during the 2011 financial year, but the reasons for not paying a dividend have been provided by the Company.

Hürriyet pays close attention to **minority rights** which have been clearly defined in the Company's AoA. However, a few areas of improvement do remain. For example, the right to request a **special auditor** is still not granted under Hürriyet's AoA (though this right is protected under the new Turkish Commercial Code) and **cumulative voting** still does not apply. In addition, in case of a capital increase, the board can restrict the rights of the existing shareholders to acquire new shares (exclusion of **pre-emptive rights**). This feature continues to be in place today.

An **Investor Relations (IR) Unit** has been established to enable shareholders to exercise their rights and obtain relevant information. Hürriyet's IR website is easily accessible from the Company's main website and includes information concerning the Company's

corporate governance structure, financials, and pertinent news. Another good feature of the IR website is the fact that foreign investors could access it in English.

The General Meeting (GM) invitation, agenda and accompanying documents (including the proxy voting form) are uploaded to the corporate website and announced in two leading newspapers well in advance of the GMs. A summary of the vote results and attendance rate (the "Minutes of the AGM") is uploaded on the Company's website.

The GMs appear to be conducted in a fair and efficient manner where shareholders are allowed to exercise their statutory rights. In addition, although not yet incorporated in its AoA, Hürriyet permits the media to attend general meetings if asked beforehand.

#### 1.1 RIGHTS OF SHAREHOLDERS

#### **GOVERNANCE FOCUS**

- + Established dividend policy
- + Clearly defined voting rights
- + No preferred shares issues
- + One Share One Vote respected
- No cumulative voting procedures
- Shareholders are not able to appoint a special auditor under the Company's AoA (however, such right in enshrined into Turkish law)
- The board may exclude pre-emptive rights

# 1.1.1 Equal Treatment of Shareholders and Their Ability to Obtain and Evaluate Information

According to ICS's analysis, no provisions hindering the equitable treatment of shareholders were identified. No written or verbal complaints reached the Company during the 2011 financial year concerning the exercise of shareholder rights, nor is the Company aware of any legal proceedings initiated against itself in this regard.

The Company has an active Investor Relations (IR) Unit that enables shareholders to exercise their rights. respond to written requests from shareholders, ease their access to information, and oversee the Company's Disclosure Policy. The Company's Shareholders Department that also includes IR Unit is made up of the following individuals: CFO Dursun Ali Yılmaz, Financial Control and Investor Relations Manager Inci Tarı, Financial Affairs Manager Halil Özkan and other related professional personnel. Investor Relations Coordinator Suzi Apalaçi Dayan left the Company in 2012 and her responsibilities were assumed by the Investor Relations Manager, Inci Tarı.

Verbal and written requests for information received from shareholders during the 2011 financial year were responded in a timely manner under the supervision of the Shareholders Department and in compliance with the Capital Markets Law.

A good level of information continues to be provided to shareholders and Hürriyet has made a strong

effort to comply with the CMB Guidelines in this regard. Information that may be of interest to shareholders is provided in an accurate, timely, and diligent manner.

#### 1.1.2 Dividend and Voting Rights

#### **Dividend Rights**

Each share is entitled to an equal dividend. None of the Company's shares incorporate special rights concerning the distribution of the Company's profits.

A dividend policy is established and accessible through the Company's public documents and website, in English and Turkish. Depending on the financial results of Hürriyet, a dividend will be paid to investors. ICS notes, however, a targeted dividend payout ratio has not been communicated by the Company to its shareholders. The Company's public documents suggest at least 50 percent of the distributable net profit is subject to allocation.

As with the 2010 financial year, the Company paid no dividends for the 2011 financial year. Taking into consideration the term's fiscal charge, deferred tax revenue as well as minority interests, the Company reported a consolidated Net Term Loss of approximately TL 235.7 million. As such, it was not feasible to make dividend payments within the arrangements for profit distribution of the CMB.

#### **Voting Rights**

As the Company has not issued any preferred stock, each share is entitled one vote without any further privileges. The right to vote is automatically granted when the share is purchased, and no arrangements can be installed that would hinder this right or cause a delay in exercising voting rights, following the share acquisition.

Voting rights are well defined in the Company's AoA, ensuring equal and clear voting procedures. The exercise of voting rights can be delegated to a proxy whether or not the person is shareholder. According to the Company's AoA, voting is exercised by a show of hands, though closed ballots are mandatory if



requested by 5 percent of shareholder represented at the AGM.

Shareholders are enabled to exercise their proxy voting rights, through either another shareholder or a non-shareholder. In order to comply with the CMB Guidelines, Hürriyet makes the electronic proxy form available on its website. When exercising their votes international shareholders mostly use local intermediaries as proxies.

There are no ceilings on the number of votes a shareholder might exercise during the meeting. The Company's share capital does not involve any cross-shareholdings. Finally, ICS is not aware of any voting agreements aimed at increasing control over the management of the Company.

#### 1.1.3 Minority Rights and Transfer of Shares

#### **Minority Rights**

Minority rights, as stipulated by the AoA, are granted to shareholders owning (collectively) at least 5 percent of the Company's issued share capital. Those rights include requesting to convene an extraordinary meeting or requesting special agenda items. According to the TCC, both aspects are up to the discretion of the board, though shareholders can appeal to the court to decide on the GM to convene.

Mirroring Turkish market practice, Hürriyet does not permit cumulative voting in the belief that the effect of cumulative voting on the board is achieved by the presence of independent directors on the board. However, the Company stated that it may consider granting this right to shareholders in the future.

The ability to appoint a special auditor is considered crucial by ICS, though this is only a recommendation by the CMB principles and a right protected under the new TCC. Hürriyet does not grant this right and notes that it has not received any requests in that sense during the reporting period.

In the case of a capital increase, the board can decide to exclude pre-emptive rights, according to

the AoA. Although not endorsed, ICS notes that this is a common practice in Turkey.

#### **Transfer of Shares**

There are no provisions installed or included in the AoA that may impede the free transfer of shares by shareholders.

#### 1.2 GENERAL MEETINGS

#### **GOVERNANCE FOCUS**

- + Timely provision of information on agenda items
- + Sound execution of the General Meeting
- + Voting procedures are clear
- + Sufficient disclosure on candidates
- + Remuneration policy disclosed and voted at the AGM
- + Minutes of the AGM are disclosed in a clear and timely manner

#### 1.2.1 Invitation

The Company can convene a General Assembly ordinarily or extraordinarily. The announcement of the 2011 AGM, including the necessary information like the date, time and location, agenda items, procedures for attendance at the meeting, proxy forms and arrangement procedures were published 21 days in advance. The announcement was also published in two leading Turkish newspapers 21 days in advance. In addition to the procedures stipulated by legislation, the AGM announcement and all necessary documents (annual reports, etc.) were also made available at the Company's Headquarters and on the Company's website 21 days prior to the meeting in an attempt to reach the maximum number of shareholders possible.

The agenda for the 2011 AGM was prepared in a solid manner, clearly indicating each agenda item. In line with the CMB Guidelines, the Company allows shareholders to put forward agenda items to be voted on at the general meeting. However, for the 2011 AGM, the Company received no such request.

Considering the administrative proceedings, voting procedures are set up in a clear and understandable



manner and proxy forms are available in written and electronic form.

Finally, according to Hürriyet, general meetings are open to related parties and the media. However, participants without an entrance card providing shareholder or proxy status are not allowed to vote. A clause to this regard can be inserted in the Company's AoA.

#### 1.2.2 Functioning

Hürriyet held its AGM on 26 June 2012, not in the three months following the end of its financial year. Upon engagement, the Company noted that it had to amend its AoA to reflect the recent corporate governance changes made by the CMB. These changes and their approval process by the legal authorities caused the Company to hold its AGM at a later date than usual. In addition, it should be noted that it is common practice in Turkey that companies have their AGM's between April and June.

Since Hürriyet was moving into its new headquarters (again located in Istanbul), the 2011 AGM was held at DYH's headquarters. This location is considered as easily accessible to shareholders. The Company's AoA does allow for meetings to be held at another location where most of the shareholders are residing. The Company states that any future requests in this regard will be duly considered.

Following our examination, Hürriyet's AGMs continue to be held in an appropriate way, led in an unbiased manner by the chair of the AGM and overseen by an official government representative, and thereby ensuring that all shareholders are able to exercise their statutory rights.

The AGM functions as a forum to discuss the Company's annual report and financial results. The appointed audit company is held responsible to present the latter to the auditorium. The chair of the AGM reads a summary of the annual report and the Company's financial performance at the beginning of the AGM. This is followed by a discussion of the questions raised by shareholders. According to

Hürriyet, all questions coming from shareholders are, in principle, responded to in detail. However, according to the Minutes of the AGM, shareholders did not exercise this right during the 2011 AGM.

It is our understanding that the chair of the meeting ensures an equitable participation among shareholders and leads the meeting in a fair and efficient manner, where each agenda item is voted upon separately and where there are no special privileges enjoyed by any of the Company's shareholders.

Board members, auditors and other authorized and responsible persons attend the AGM to answer requests put forward by shareholders. If any Company official who has been invited to a meeting cannot attend the meeting, the reasons of non-attendance shall be announced by the chair of the AGM.

Candidates to be elected to the board are obliged to disclose a wide range of information covering nearly all aspects put forward by the CMB Guidelines. These requests comprise for example, their educational background, previous board membership(s) and experience, financial status, and independence considerations. All of this information was provided to the shareholders at the 2011 AGM.

The specific right of shareholders to ask questions to the candidates is not mentioned in the Company's public documents, but from engagement with the Company, we have ascertained that such rights are provided.

The AoA enables the AGM (with a majority of three-fourth) to allow board members to be engaged in business with the company or competition against the company. Once again, no board member made use of this authorization and was involved in business or competitive activities with the Company during the 2011 financial year.

#### 1.2.3 After the General Meeting

As a follow-up to the meeting, minutes are made available for the examination of shareholders at the Company's headquarters. This information is also



disclosed on the Company's website (in English and Turkish) summarizing and reflecting the meeting in a short but clear manner.

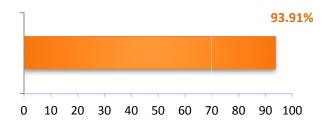
Information pertaining to previous annual meetings of shareholders is stored on the Company's website and is easily accessible. The English versions of the invitation, summary of the voting results, etc have all been uploaded on the Company's website for the previous eight years (AGMs held in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012).

In compliance with the CMB Guidelines, in cases where questions are raised by shareholders that cannot be answered immediately, the IR Unit organized under Shareholders Department is responsible for providing a response in a fast manner.



# SECTION II - PUBLIC DISCLOSURE & TRANSPARENCY

# PUBLIC DISCLOSURE & TRANSPARENCY



#### **SUMMARY**

Hürriyet attains a score of 9.39 in this category which represents an increase from last year's score of 9.18. This reflects the continued good flow of information between the Company and its investors and an acceptable level of transparency.

A **Disclosure Policy** document has been provided on the Company's website and contains Hürriyet's policy on how it will approach public disclosure of material events. The Company's board is responsible for overseeing, reviewing and improving the Disclosure Policy. The Corporate Governance Committee provides information and recommendations to the board, executive board and the Shareholders Department on matters regarding the Disclosure Policy. The Shareholders Department is charged with overseeing and monitoring all matters regarding public disclosures.

Hürriyet also discloses a Code of Behavioral Conduct, traditionally known as a code of ethics, and a comprehensive Insider Trading List on its website. With regard to Hürriyet's Code of Ethics, this document is a set of essential rules that have been formulated Company-wide to govern the relationships, the relationships between the Company and its employees, and the relationships with customers, suppliers, and other stakeholders. Additional safeguards governing the behavior towards clients, employees and corporate governance principles are also formalized in this document.

There have been no major changes in the management or operational organization of the Company during the 2011 financial year, nor are any such changes envisioned for the near future. In the case such change does occur, the Company confirms that it will share with the public within the scope of legislative requirements.

A website for investors is easily accessible and is continuously improved. The content on the website is well structured and comprehensive. As for the Company's annual report, it is detailed in terms of form and content and contains a corporate governance section that explains the Company's rationale for opting-out of key governance provisions.

#### **GOVERNANCE FOCUS**

- + Disclosure Policy is established and covers material disclosure aspects
- + Disclosure proceedings are clearly defined and assigned to high level personnel
- + A Code of Ethics has been disclosed
- + The Company's website provides a good level of resource for investors
- The board's evaluation of its own performance and that of its key Committee has not been disclosed
- Remuneration policy is limited in content

#### 2.1 DISCLOSURE – PRINCIPLES & MEANS

#### 2.1.1 Information Policy

The Disclosure Policy has been disclosed to the public and is accessible through the Company's website.

The Company's main disclosure principle is to share information on its performance and forward looking developments within the scope of generally accepted accounting principles and Capital Market



Legislation, in a fair, complete, accurate and comprehensible manner to shareholders, investors, and other capital market experts.

To underline the importance placed by Hürriyet on public disclosure, the board has been tasked to enforce, supervise and develop the Disclosure Policy. The Corporate Governance Committee informs the board, the executive board, the audit committee and the CFO on issues related to the disclosure policy and makes suggestions.

The Disclosure Policy covers forms and methods of disclosure, authorized personnel regarding public disclosure, how investors are dealt with, and procedures with regard to forward looking statements.

Forward-looking statements made in the Company's written documents will be identified accompanied with disclaimers that risks, uncertainties and other factors could cause actual results to differ materially from the expectations expressed in the forward-looking statements. The statements will only be made by authorized representatives. According to the Company's Disclosure Policy, forward looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions and estimates and can be revised upon deviation due to unforeseeable risks and developments.

#### 2.1.2 Disclosure Procedures

After reviewing Hürriyet's public disclosures, no issues were found that would harm investors' interests. Given Hürriyet's shares are traded on the ISE in Turkey; announcements made to the ISE are simultaneously translated into English and put on the Company's website.

In 2011, 17 material disclosures were made to the public. These material disclosures were also posted on the Company's website.

The Shareholders Department is tasked to monitor and supervise all issues related to public disclosure. Questions of third parties are responded to by the CEO, the CFO, and the IR Manager depending on the content of the questions.

The responsibility for public disclosure is clearly defined and assigned to specific individuals within the Company. The methods used to disclose information to the public are: financial statements and footnotes, the Company's website, analyst meetings and conferences, declarations and announcements in newspapers and to data vendors, and press releases. The Company's press releases can be found on the website.

Press statements for written and visual media and to data distributors can only be made by designated individuals within Hürriyet. Unless being specially assigned such responsibility, Hürriyet employees cannot answer questions coming from capital market participants.

#### 2.1.3 Transparency Issues

Transparency issues cover ethical behavior, insider trading rules and the functions of the external audit.

To ensure a high degree of transparency Hürriyet discloses its ethical rules to the public. The company adheres to the "Values" it has announced on its website and annual report, as well as the "Editorial Principles" and the Code of Conduct of DYH. For more information on the Company's Code of Ethics, please refer to the "Stakeholders" section of this report.

In order to prevent insider trading, Hürriyet provides a comprehensive list of executives and other third parties who potentially have access to information that can impact the value of the capital market instruments issued by the Company. This list can be found in the annual report. The Company states that it tries to enforce necessary measures and precautions; however, these measures are not explained.

Since the appointed audit company (i.e. Deloitte under the legal entity of DRT Bağımsız Denetim ve Serbest Muhasebeci Mali Müsavirlik A.Ş) does not



provide any consulting services, it can be considered as independent from having other business interests that may impede the objectivity of the auditing services. As for the rotation of auditors, the CMB requires mandatory chief auditor rotation within a maximum period of seven years, which is the case at Hürriyet.

#### 2.2 ANNUAL REPORT

#### **GOVERNANCE FOCUS**

- + Detailed information on the board of directors
- + Key risks and mitigation efforts are disclosed
- + Detailed information on the Company's operation and strategy

Overall, the annual report continues to be well prepared and houses all of the pertinent content and information relevant for investors. For example, Hürriyet's Corporate Governance Compliance Report, risk management philosophy, and general investor information can all be found in both tabular and graphic form. Financial information is presented in a manner that is easy to follow and the notes to the financial statements clarify the content.

A Statement of Responsibility, signed by former board member Ahmet Toksoy, CFO Dursun Ali Yılmaz and Financial Affairs Manager Halil Özkan, has been included in the annual report. This statement shows that the board and the audit committee have approved the consolidated financial statements for the 2011 financial year. According to the Company's independent auditor, Deloitte, the financial statements truly reflect the current financial status of the Company.

There is a dedicated section on the Company's efforts with regard to corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the annual report. It outlines a thorough and concrete plan regarding employees' social rights and the environment. It also highlights reductions and advances Hürriyet has made in areas such as energy consumption, sustainability and human rights.

There is a risk management mechanism in place and an explanation of the different types of risks encompassed. For more information on Hürriyet's risk management and internal control systems refer to the "Board of Directors" section of this report.

In conclusion, while the Company's annual report provides basic elements, there is still room for improvement to cover more items. Issues that could be added in the annual report include, but are not limited to, the following: detailed information on the remuneration of executives, a statement referring to how the Company prevents conflicts of interest between the Company and related companies (parties) offering investment, consulting and auditing services; and, the performance evaluation of the board and its key Committees.

#### 2.3 WEBSITE

Hürriyet has a dedicated website for IR where shareholders may find information on the Company's corporate governance practices, financial statements, annual reports, etc. As a means of communication the use of the website is also subject to and incorporated in the Disclosure Policy.

The website is considered by ICS as a satisfying instrument for shareholders to access information on the Company. The Company notes that the website is continuously being improved. For foreign investors an English version of the website is also available, which does not differ in content from the Turkish version.

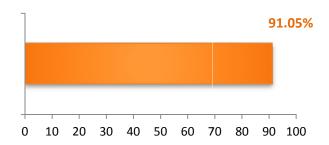
The Company's website content is structured in a sound manner, where investors find relevant documents suggested by the CMB for inclusion. Features like the investor presentations and the FAQ section are all positive steps taken by Hürriyet which demonstrates its belief in informing its shareholder to the fullest extent. The website also offers a section that includes information previously disclosed to the public

Finally, the Company's letterhead clearly indicates the address of its website.



## SECTION III - STAKEHOLDERS

#### **STAKEHOLDERS**



#### **SUMMARY**

The Company has scored 9.10 in this category, which represents an increase when compared to its previous rating of 8.31. Hürriyet identifies its readers, advertising clients and employees as its main stakeholders. Some reference is made to other stakeholders, such as the environment, suppliers, and society as a whole.

Hürriyet adheres to DYH's **Code of Conduct** and **Editorial Principles**. Both regulations provide the essential framework of rules to be applied in the relationships between the Company and its stakeholders. However, compensation in case of violation of rights is only foreseen for advertisers and there are no concrete measures in place to avoid conflicts of interest.

Stakeholders are continually kept informed within the framework of the Company's Disclosure Policy, established with respect to governing legislation and the Company's code of ethics.

Although no formal procedures have been devised and disclosed by the Company publicly, the Company appears to be in contact with its stakeholders and engaged with its employees. Hürriyet's annual report suggests that all feedback received from the stakeholders is presented to senior management for evaluation and solution proposals and policies are developed from such feedback.

A **Human Resources Policy** is in place and disclosed publicly. In accordance with its human resources policy, the Company offers equal opportunity to people with the same qualifications in recruitment and career planning.

There is also a **Corporate Social Responsibility** section in the annual report and website outlining Hürriyet's social and environmental efforts.

#### **GOVERNANCE FOCUS**

- + Companywide human resources policy
- + Employee rights are warranted
- + Code of Ethics governing companywide relationships disclosed publicly
- + A section on Corporate Social Responsibility is included in the Company's annual report
- No formal model to include employees and/or stakeholders in the company's management, but some actions in place
- Equity not considered when determining pay

#### 3.1 RIGHTS & DUTIES OF STAKEHOLDERS

Not much has changed in this regard since ICS's last rating. Hürriyet recognizes and guarantees the rights of employees in its code of ethics. There is also a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) section in the annual report where information on Hürriyet's social initiatives is provided.

Stakeholders are kept informed by the Company through annual reports, material event disclosures, press releases, meetings, and its website.

Hürriyet could benefit from publishing a new policy that establishes concrete measures on how potential disputes between the Company and the stakeholders are dealt with. According to the Company, however, no conflicts have occurred to date.

The Company only foresees compensation in case of violation of the rights of the advertisers but not of other stakeholders. According to the Company, in

the event of the publication of incorrect news, the Company immediately apologizes and corrects the mistake in consecutive issues. In addition, if the Company's lawyers agree that there was a violation of rights, a written response from the person who was the subject of the news will be published.

# 3.2 RELATIONS WITH CUSTOMERS & SUPPLIERS

According to the Corporate Governance Compliance Report, Hürriyet takes a great effort to ensure readers and advertisers satisfaction and takes the quality of its publications and its social responsibilities seriously. As a proof of this, the Company publishes and puts into practice DYH's Core Principles and Hürriyet's Editorial Principles. Additionally, Hürriyet adheres to the universal journalism guidelines.

The Company's most important raw material is newsprint. Newsprint is supplied by Doğan Dış Ticaret ve Mümessillik A.Ş., a subsidiary of Doğan Yayın Holding and Işıl İthalat İhracat Mümessillik A.Ş. The newspapers and their supplements are printed at company-owned Doğan Printing Centers in Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Adana, Antalya, Trabzon and Frankfurt. The printing of supplements on offset paper is subcontracted to Doğan Ofset A.Ş., another subsidiary of the group. The newspapers are distributed by Doğan Dağıtım A.Ş. nationwide.

A substantial portion of revenue consists of advertisements. The Company makes its best efforts to ensure the satisfaction of advertisers. Advertisements that are not published in accordance with the customer's requests are compensated for in the shortest possible time.

#### 3.3 PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMENT

Stakeholders (inclusive of employees) do not take part in the Company's management. However, in order to take into account stakeholders' opinions, as recommended by the CMB Guidelines, some actions are in place. For example, the Company's management is encouraged to join NGOs formed by stakeholders. Participation in such endeavors is

perceived by the Company to better understand stakeholders' needs and ensures sustainable growth and financial strength. In addition, stakeholders are continuously informed through the IR Unit and the corporate website.

According to the Company's annual report, feedback received from stakeholders is evaluated and submitted to senior management, to assist the development of solutions and policies. To date, no comprehensive model has been set up to include stakeholders in the Company's management. Notwithstanding, customers can give their feedback to Hürriyet using different channels such as the website or the reader representative. In addition, advertisers can contact the Company's add department.

ICS considers it essential that Hürriyet commit itself to formulate and incorporate formalized mechanisms to ensure a stronger recognition of employee and stakeholder matters.

# 3.4 EMPLOYEES & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY Employees

As at 31 December 2011, Hürriyet had a total of 7,198 employees.

To manage its large workforce, Hürriyet has a written human resources policy which is in the Company's public documents. This policy talks about training employees on the job as well as promotion procedures. Employee relations are conducted by the Human Resources Coordination Department. There are no trade union members in the Company.

The Company ensures that equal opportunities are provided to all employees. According to the Company, no cases of discrimination have been reported during the 2011 financial year.

Employees are evaluated on the basis of their responsibilities, qualifications, work development and contribution to the Company's objectives. Outstanding performance is differentiated from all



others and rewarded by various benefits. With respect to performance based compensation, the Company states that the principles and the operation process of the 360-degrees performance evaluation system was reviewed. To ensure recognition of the publishing group's work, employees with outstanding work are selected each month to receive a prize of TL 5,000 by the evaluation committee. The awards are assigned in three categories, including the best page, the best photograph and the best interview.

One area where the Company has yet to show any improvement against the CMB Guidelines is the fact that, equity has not been utilized to pay its employees. To this end, the Company states that the non-use of equity will be considered in the future.

#### Social Responsibility and the Environment

Social responsibility activities Hürriyet carried out are given in detail in the Social Responsibility and Environmental Activities portion of the Annual Report. No lawsuits were brought against the Company in relation to harming the environment during the period under review.

Hürriyet complies with all regulations regarding the environment, consumer and public health, as well as ethics rules, and directs and supports its subsidiaries to behave in the same manner.

As for the environment, Hürriyet has also provided information on its sustainability efforts. On 31 January 2011, the Company established an Environmental Control Unit and initiated analytical studies to mitigate the effect of the Company's productions and operation on the environment and to improve the level of environmental awareness among employees.

In 2011, the Company's printing houses and some offices were inspected in accordance with the Environmental Control Regulations and the Environment Law; subsequently, inspection reports were presented to senior management. The inspections and reviews will continue in 2012 and

accordingly reports again will be presented to top management.

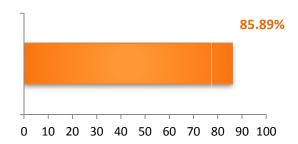
During the 2011 financial year, the Company made a total of TL 1.28 million in donations to various foundations and associations working for the public good:

Organization	Amount (TL)
ARALIK (Association for Voluntary	354,678
Education and Cultural Research)	
Turkish Red Crescent	206,050
Press Institute Foundation	197,335
Columbia University	94,350
Istanbul Culture & Aid Foundation	55,778
Others	371,889
Total	1,280,080



## SECTION III - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



#### **SUMMARY**

Hürriyet has improved its score to 8.58 in this category when compared to last year's score of 7.67. Firstly, it is important to highlight that the Company's board has experienced some change since it was last reviewed. The board's size has increased from eight to nine members. However, the number of independent non-executive directors (NEDs) has remained at two directors.

Following the changes that took place during the period under review, ICS notes that the composition of the Company's board complies with the CMB's Guidelines that there should be two independent NEDs in light of its size. ICS notes that the compositions of the board's key Committees are in line with the CMB Guidelines.

The suggested separation of the chairman of the board and the CEO is followed. Mrs Vuslat Sabancı serves as the board's chairwoman and Mr Ahmet Dalman serves as the Deputy CEO.

Hürriyet still has a number of areas to improve with regard to its board. As seen from the score, it remains its weakest area amongst the four categories. Areas of improvement include, for example, disclosure on the performance evaluation of its board and its key Committees and the disclosure of its remuneration policy (which is considered to be limited in content).

#### **GOVERNANCE FOCUS**

- + The board plays an active role in the Company's strategic planning
- + The Company does not lend money to board members or executives
- + Each board member is entitled to one vote
- + A secretariat has been established to support the board
- + The board has two independent NEDs
- Cumulative voting in board elections is not provided
- Board members are not restricted to accept other positions outside the Company
- Disclosure surrounding remuneration is limited

Each board member has one vote without any privileges. Attendance at board meetings is encouraged and all board members need to be present in-person at meetings where important matters concerning the operations of the Company are going to be discussed. However, no information on the attendance rates has been provided. Through engagement, the Company stated that all meetings were attended in full.

There are risk management and internal control systems in place at Hürriyet, which have been made more robust over the years.

# 4.1 PRINCIPLES OF ACTIVITY, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

Following a review, Hürriyet's board appears to fulfill its duties with diligence and meets its responsibilities. As stated in the AoA, the board defines the Company's mission and vision and is thereby leading the Company. The board and the executive committee continuously review the Company's position in the market and define new targets and strategies responding to changing conditions.

All of the nominated and appointed members of the Company's board possess the qualifications stipulated in CMB's Guidelines. The board is structured to ensure maximum influence and effectiveness. Article 13 in the Company's AoA stipulates the principles regarding this matter. It is

the Company's principal aim to appoint board members who possess knowledge regarding the principles governing the legal Company's transactions and business, are qualified and experienced in corporate management, and possess the capability of examining financial statements and reports. Background information of the members of the board is included in the annual report and the Company's website. Having looked at the board members' experience, ICS concludes that such requirements have been met by the Company's directors.

It is mandatory that independent board members issue an independence declaration and inform immediately the board in case their independence is compromised. In such event, in principle, a member whose independence has been compromised resigns and a new member is elected in his/her place. Before commencing work, board members have to declare compliance with all necessary internal and external regulations in writing.

Concrete mechanisms used to keep board members regularly and comprehensively informed on pertinent matters are not explained, but there is a secretariat with the aim of keeping directors informed. The information on the attendance of board members to the meetings is also not publicly disclosed but has been provided upon engagement with the Company.

Hürriyet does not impose any rules or restrictions on its board members assuming additional duties outside of the Company. Nevertheless, as suggested by the CMB Guidelines, the Company's AoA provides guidance to the issue of board members engaging in business or competitive activities with the Company. Such activities have to be approved by three-fourths of the Company's shareholders at the AGM. The annual report states that no board member engaged in any business or competed with the Company in 2011.

An official declaration confirming the careful preparation of financial statements is provided by

the board, the Audit Committee and the responsible financial officers in the annual report. This declaration is also posted to the ISE.

A performance evaluation of the board and its key Committees has not been provided in the Company's public documents. Turkish Law foresees the joint liability of the board. In accordance with this, the AoA states that the board should perform and carry out its duties in accordance with the provisions of the Capital Markets Law, Turkish Commercial Law and the AoA.

Hürriyet has a formal training/compliance program for new board members. The compliance program is led by the Corporate Governance Committee and implemented under the responsibility of the CEO. Every new member joining the board receives an information folder prepared by the secretariat of the board and attends meetings organized by the secretariat, obtaining information on such issues as the Company's operations, the situation of the industry as a whole, the competitive environment and reader profiles.

There are no sanctions foreseen for employees that obstruct the flow of information to board members, apart from the ones foreseen in Turkish Labour Law. Hürriyet may consider including those in internal regulations or in the AoA.

#### **4.2 BOARD STRUCTURE**

The Company's AoA suggests a minimum board size of six members with a maximum of nine members. In addition, the Company's AoA stipulates that it will have sufficient independent representation on its board as required by the CMB.

The current board is composed of nine members, which is an increase from last year. There are only two executive directors — Ahmet Dalman and Enis Berberoğlu. On 1 March 2012, Hakkı Hasan Yılmaz, who served as chairman of the executive committee, resigned from his post in order to pursue his academic studies which he had suspended during his



service at the Company. He maintains his position as a board member.

Of the seven NEDs, two are considered to be independent. We note that pursuant to the CMB Communiqué Series: IV, No.56 which took effect on 30 December 2011, it is sufficient to have two independent NEDs for a company of Hürriyet's size.

The suggested separation of the chairman of the board and the CEO is followed. Vuslat Sabancı serves as the board's chairwoman and Ahmet Dalman serves as the CEO.

Name	Role	Independent
Vuslat Sabancı	NED	
Hanzade V. Doğan Boyner	NED	
Hakkı Hasan Yılmaz*	NED	
Enis Berberoğlu	ED	
Ahmet Nafi Dalman	ED	
Yahya Üzdiyen	NED	
Kai Diekmann	NED	
Ahmet Burak	NED	Х
Beatrice de Clermont Tonnerre	NED	Х

Appointed board members at Hürriyet seem to be highly qualified and show a high level of knowledge and experience, reflected in their long-lasting career backgrounds.

There is no age limit prescribed in the Company's AoA. Pursuant to the current AoA, board members are elected for a maximum period of three years, with re-election possible at the end of term.

As for diversity on the board, ICS notes that there are three women serving on the board - Vuslat Sabancı, Hanzade Vasfiye Doğan Boyner, and Beatrice de Clermont Tonnerre.

No lawsuits were brought against board members with regard to the Company's activities during the period under review.

#### **4.3 BOARD COMMITTEES**

#### 4.3.1 General

Hürriyet has established an Audit Committee and a Corporate Governance Committee. Both Committees met in 2011 four times. Upon

engagement, the Company confirmed that all meetings were attended in full.

#### 4.3.2 Audit Committee

The Audit Committee, reporting directly to the board, oversees the financial and operational activities of the Company. The Audit Committee scrutinizes the effectiveness and adequacy of the internal control and internal audit. The Audit Committee is also responsible for ensuring that measures are taken such that internal controls are transparent.

The Company's AoA stipulates that the Audit Committee shall meet at least once a month upon the invitation of the Committee chairman. Senior executives responsible for financial affairs are not allowed to be Audit Committee members.

The external audit firm is invited to the meetings of evaluation of the financial statements if the Audit Committee members consider that its presence could help clarify issues.

Following changes made to the board during the 2011 financial year as well as the most recent changes approved by shareholders at the AGM held in June 2012, the Committee's composition is as follows:

Name	Role	Independent
Ahmet Burak	Member	X
Beatrice de Clermont	Member	х
Tonnerre		

This composition is in line with the CMB's requirements.

#### **4.3.2 Corporate Governance Committee**

A Corporate Governance Committee has been established. This Committee's function is to assist the board in creating and improving the Company's governance structure and practices. The Committee also acts as the Company's Nomination Committee, Remuneration Committee, and Early Detection of Risk Committee.



Following the changes made to the board during the 2011 financial year as well as the most recent changes approved by shareholders at the AGM held in June 2012, the Committee's composition is as follows:

Name	Role	Independent
Ahmet Burak	Chairman	х
Yahya Üzdiyen	Member	
Dr.Murat Doğu*	Member	

<sup>\*</sup> Dr. Murat Doğu is not a board member.

Ahmet Burak is the Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee and is an independent board member, which is in line with the CMB regulations. In addition, the Committee has two non-executives, which again meets the CMB Guidelines. Finally, the CEO and CFO do not take part of this Committee.

#### **4.4 EXECUTIVES**

The day-to-day running of the Company is assigned to the senior management, consisting of six executives. Previous correspondence with the Company revealed that monthly reports of the performed works by the executives are prepared, as per the CMB's Guidelines.

Below is the list of the Company's senior management team:

Name	Role
Enis Berberoğlu*	Editor in Chief
Ayşe Sözeri Cemal	Advertising Group Head
Dursun Ali Yılmaz	Financial & Administrative Affairs Head
Tijen Mergen	Marketing Group Head
Ahmet N. Dalman	Deputy CEO
Tuba Köseoğlu Okçu	Human Resources Director

\* Member of the Board Source: Company's website

Within ICS's analysis, no issues have been revealed that would cause doubt about the transparent, reliable and accountable work of the executives. The Executive Committee reports to the board and the Company's results are scrutinized every month in comparison to the budget. Penalties to be applied in cases of losses arising from the failure or

underperformance of managers serving in the technical and administrative organization are specified in the Company's Personnel Regulations.

The chairman of the Executive Committee, who shall direct the activities of the Executive Committee and assume the Company's activities and transactions, is determined by the board.

The Executive Committee meets upon the invitation of the CEO at intervals required by the Company's business. Company executives as well as third persons approved by the chairman of the Executive Committee (CEO) may also attend the meetings. All decisions of the Executive Committee are put into writing. The Executive Committee convenes once a week or at least once a month.

The Company does not have management liability insurance.

#### 4.5 FUNCTIONING OF THE BOARD

Hürriyet's board convenes as required by the business, provided that it is at least once a month. During the 2011 financial year, 65 board resolutions were taken. According to the Company, all resolutions were approved unanimously.

The agenda of the board meeting is drafted by the CEO and is submitted to all board members by the secretariat of the board at least one week before the date of the meeting. The agenda may be revised in accordance with the suggestions of the board. As a rule, the board convenes upon the invitation of either the chairwoman or the vice-chairman. It is also mandatory for the board to convene upon the joint request of at least three of its members.

Any internal auditor or minority shareholder may invite the board to a meeting by determining its agenda in advance. The chairwoman has the right to evaluate the emergency of the matter specified in the request and determine whether to call for a meeting immediately or postpone the discussion of the matter to the next board meeting.



Although all board members are required to attend meetings in person, the Company provides the provision to attend the meetings by using any technological methods that would provide remote access. The opinions of the members, who are not able to attend the meeting but present their opinions in writing, shall be submitted for the information of the other members.

Each board member is entitled to one vote without any preferential voting or veto rights. In case of equality of votes, the subject matter is added to the agenda of the next board meeting and if it cannot be approved and decided upon by a majority of the votes at the next board meeting, the relevant motion is deemed to have been disapproved.

The board and majority decision quorum are both stated in the AoA. The board shall convene in the presence of at least one more than half the number of its membership and decisions shall be taken by a majority of the meeting's participants. It is not stated in the Company's AoA if executives have to attend board meetings. From previous engagement with the Company, ICS was informed that executives attend meetings on a frequent basis and when called upon by the board.

A board secretariat has been established in order to prepare and assist the board meetings as well as to ensure convenient access to information for board members.

In line with the CMB Guidelines, the board members who cast negative votes must sign the minutes by also stating their justifications. The documents concerning the meeting as well as any related correspondences shall be archived by the secretariat. No such opposition or alternative opinion has been expressed in any of the board meetings in 2011. As such, the Company made no announcement to this effect to the public.

According to the Company, travel and meeting expenses of the board are paid out of the Company's general budget.

Overall, the board meetings appear to be conducted in an efficient and sound manner. Conducted interviews did not reveal any issue that could cause a different impression.

# 4.6 INTERNAL CONTROL & RISK MANAGEMENT

Hürriyet has defined and implemented a risk management mechanism and an internal control system.

#### **Risk Management**

Hürriyet highlights the following financial risks in its annual report: (i) Interest rate risk: Hürriyet and its subsidiaries are subject to interest rate risk due to their interest-sensitive assets and liabilities. This risk is managed through balancing interest rate sensitive assets and liabilities. When deemed necessary, interest swaps are made to protect the interest rates from future increases; (ii) Funding risk: Existing and forward-looking borrowing requirements sufficient performed securing funding by commitments from lending companies with high funding capability and quality; (iii) Credit risk: Financial asset ownership comes with counterparty risk. This risk is managed by limiting credit exposure to each debtor. The Company's credit risk is mitigated to a large extent thanks to the large number of debtors and the fact that they operate in diverse business lines; and (iv) Exchange rate risk: Hürriyet and its subsidiaries are subject to exchange rate risk due to changes in the exchange rate used in converting their foreign currency-denominated debt to the Turkish lira. This risk is monitored through foreign currency position analysis. When necessary, protection from exchange rate risk deemed is ensured via options and/or derivative transactions. Financial institutions with high creditworthiness both in Turkey and abroad are chosen for these types of transactions.

#### **Internal Control**

Hürriyet conducted an audit of its operations in 2011 to ensure that the Company reached its performance targets. The review included in depth analyses of expense/cost factors and operational



efficiency; the Company implemented an action plan based on the results of the analyses. The review also encompassed compliance, stock monitoring and management and purchasing processes.

The objective was to minimize risks facing the Company and eliminate existing risks with minimum costs in coordination with the related departments.

In parallel with the goal to continue the COSO-based internal control and audit activities in 2012, the Company plans to conduct information sharing, training and model exercises to perform the audit processes pursuant to international standards

#### **4.7 REMUNERATION**

In line with the CMB Guidelines, the Company has provided shareholders the opportunity to vote on the Company's remuneration policy. Although the disclosure surrounding its policy remains limited when compared to western standards, ICS notes it is a positive step towards the right direction. It should also be noted that not much guidance has yet been provided on this issue as such the Turkish market is still trying to grasp the extent of the regulatory requirements and the expectations of its investors.

For board members, the fees are determined at the general shareholder meetings and are determined based on the time required for the board meetings, pre-meeting and post-meeting preparations and the performance of duties, as well as the salary paid to the executive committee president (CEO).

At the Company's 2011 AGM, shareholders approved a monthly fee of USD 5,000 for each independent board member. The board chairwoman receives a monthly fee of TL 10,000, the vice-chairman receives a monthly fee of TL 8,500, and the other board members a monthly fee of TL 5,000. It was decided at the 2011 AGM, that the Company shall not pay any salary or attendance fee to other board members or the statutory auditors. It was resolved that the Company not pay any salary or attendance fee to the other board members or the statutory auditors. Board members have not received any

financial benefits, cash or non-cash, other than their monthly salaries.

The Company's remuneration packages for its executive officers consist of the following: (i) basic salary; (ii) annual bonus; and (iii) benefits. The salary levels are regularly reviewed in order to be able to reflect market trends and the individual's performance. Through engagement, the Company stated that executives receive annual bonuses which are determined by the Company's CEO and Chairwoman in line with yearly targets.

A stock option plan for senior managers and other employees at every level is not available. Through engagement, the Company stated that it may consider implementing one in the future. Board members and executives do not own any securities of the Company.

To avoid conflicts of interest Hürriyet strictly adheres to the principle not to grant loans in any way to board members or executives. This restriction is still in place.

Total payments made to the board and the key executive personnel for the year ended 31 December 2011 was TL 8.7 million (2010: TL 7.9 million).

