



**May 13, 2003**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

As a regulatory and supervisory public authority, the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency (BRSA) has been very careful not to make any disclosure regarding the groundless news appearing in the media with a view to not being a party in such discussions. However, it is deemed appropriate to make the following announcement due to the recent news frequently appearing in the media about the sale of Demir-Halk Bank N.V.

As it is known, Demir-Halk Bank N.V. is a subsidiary of Demirbank T.A.Ş, all shares of which belong to the Savings Deposit Insurance Fund (SDIF) and operates in Holland. Upon the resolution dated July 25, 2001 of the Board of Directors of the SDIF Board, the shares of Demirbank T.A.Ş. in its subsidiaries abroad were decided to be sold and it was announced that the interested investors should offer their bids by August 27, 2001.

Investors interested with the share sales in subject have submitted their offers to the SDIF and upon assessment thereof; the offer amounting to USD 95 million (in cash) made by Halit Cingillioglu- Aydin Dogan for the Demirbank T.A.S.'s 70% shares in Demir Halk Bank N.V., 99.96% in Demir Kazakistan Bank, 60% in Demir Kyrgyz International Bank and 100% in Demir Bulgaria A.D. has been deemed appropriate by the SDIF Board Resolution as of October 2, 2001.

Accordingly, within the scope of the Sale Commitment Agreement signed on October 5, 2001 and upon approval of the regulation and supervision authorities of the related country, the shares were sold for the above-mentioned cash value.

It is deemed necessary to emphasize once more the sensitivity of our Agency on the issue that each one should show utmost care regarding the reputation and corporate identity of our Agency which is working both to safeguard public receivables and establish the reliance of national and international finance world. Turkey is currently undergoing a serious institutionalization process and the responsibility of safeguarding the institutions having a vital importance for the system belongs to each one, especially to our media.

Releases we have made should not be considered as answers given to any agency or institution. Being a public authority, our Agency will continue to inform the public within the existing legal framework, as in the past.