

Moody's Upgrades Turkish Banks' Foreign Currency Deposit Ratings

Limassol, September 30, 2004 -- Moody's Investors Service has raised the long-term foreign currency deposit ratings of 13 Turkish banks to B2 from B3 following a similar upgrade in the foreign currency deposit ceiling for Turkey that was announced earlier today. The outlook on these ratings had been positive since October 2003 and is now stable following the upgrades. The banks affected by this action are: Akbank T.A.S., Finansbank A.S., Kocbank A.S., Turkiye Garanti Bankasi (Garanti Bank), T.C. Ziraat Bankasi (Ziraat Bank), Turk Dis Ticaret Bankasi A.S. (Disbank), Turk Ekonomi Bankasi A.S., Turkiye Is Bankasi A.S. (Isbank), Turkiye Vakiflar Bankasi A.S. (Vakifbank), Yapi ve Kredi Bankasi, HSBC Bank A.S., Oyak Bank A.S. and Denizbank A.S.

Moody's points out that, despite the upgrade, the long-term foreign currency deposit ratings of Turkish banks, including banks with weak financial strength ratings, are constrained by the B2 ceiling. Consequently, future movements in the outlooks and the country ratings are expected to be accompanied by similar changes in the banks' long-term foreign currency deposit ratings.

All other bank ratings and outlooks in Turkey remain unchanged.