

## **Interview with Sjoerd Doornbos**

Internship at Rynart Transport

20 Feb – 31 Aug 2005

Sjoerd is twenty-four years old, born from Dutch parents, in the United States. However, he grew up in Brielle, near Rotterdam. He explains that Brielle is where the revolution started against the Spanish. He is studying logistics at the National Transports Academy in Venlo.

During his traineeship he is working at Rynart Transport in Istanbul. He explains his hosting company with lots of interest: *“This is an agency of Rynart in the Netherlands. They are getting a subsidy from the Dutch Government to bring the service of the agency to the European standards. Therefore, at the moment ISO 9002 standards are being introduced within the company. And that is exactly what I am working at!”*

He openly admits that he did not choose in particular to come to Turkey. All he wanted was to write his final thesis somewhere abroad: *“I have applied for jobs in China, US, Germany, France. However, they didn’t even reply! Then I read the news about a traineeship opportunity in Rynart Istanbul, on our school’s website. And I thought to myself ‘why not Turkey?’”*

Sjoerd has been abroad many times as a student. For two years he was a student in a high school in Philadelphia. And he has also been to Lyon with the Erasmus Program. However, in Turkey he is experiencing his first steps into professional life.

He considers coming to Turkey for a traineeship an interesting opportunity: *“Turkey is a growing market. It has a lot of potential. And Dutch people know so little about Turkey. They have a lot of misconceptions concerning life here. Dutch people’s understanding of the Turkish people and their culture is limited to what they see in their own country: Turkish people who are working and living in the Netherlands. However, here in their home country, Turks are different.”*

Apparently, what surprised Sjoerd in Istanbul most, is the way Turkish people are driving, regardless of the holes in the streets, which are never covered. Other than that he seems to be enjoying being in Turkey: *“it is nice to be a foreigner in this country. Wherever you go you feel welcomed. Then, after all this cheering, of course you have to keep up with the expectations, which is not always easy.”*

When asked about his plans concerning the near future, just like his companions, he replies with ease: *“I am done with studying. I would like to begin working in Holland at least for the first one or two years. And I would like to have a girlfriend.”*

***Interview by Elif Yarsuvat***

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