

Address by Ömer Cihad Vardan, Chairman of DEİK
at 8th Annual Turkey Investment Conference
September 21, 2016 – New York City

Your Excellences; Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen;

On behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey - DEİK, I am delighted to welcome you all to the 8th Annual Turkey Investment Conference.

At beginning, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Citi Group and DEİK's Turkish American Business Council – TAİK, in bringing all of us here today.

In addition, I would like to especially express my deepest appreciation to Turkish Ministers, Mr. Zeybekci and Mr. Albayrak. Obviously, their participation to this event, reflects the Turkish government's commitment to further strengthen Turkish-American economic partnership.

Distinguished Guests;

A lot of changes happening at world economy; affecting almost all countries. American – Turkish economic relations also get its share out of it.

We are witnessing horrific incidents suffering millions of people: citizens being terrorized by bombings; people forced to migrate; even wars.

This city for instance; witnessed one of the worst tragedy of the mankind on September 11 attacks.

What about shootings at a night club in Orlando; or numerous school shootings in the US?

Unfortunately not only limited to this Continent... think of what happened in Paris; Brussels; Munich; Cannes?

And Turkey!

Striking similarities... but the result always the same:

World's deadliest terror attacks leaving thousands of killed and wounded behind.

And the question is; what for?

The answer is simple; for nothing... Just for some one's ego.

While some people's egos are being satisfied; the outcomes of all of these incidents limit the world we live in:

- The countries adding extra barriers limiting the free movement of people.
- People, themselves, unwilling to travel, getting into less contact with others.
- Companies trying to reduce the volume of the international investments and even avoiding them.
- And the result: less trade; less manufacturing and no need for new investments.

However we are a planet of 7 billion human beings!

And life goes on as usual.

People need to eat, drink;

They need to spend for their kids;

They need to carry on their lives.

As the needs never end; we have to keep going on working; no matter what happens...

From this view point, as you may follow closely, Turkey, home to almost 80 million young and dynamic population, do continue to grow, do continue to invest, do continue to receive investments under all circumstances.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Coming to US and Turkey economic and trade relations:

I have to admit that, we, as businessmen of Turkey, are not happy with the volume of trade and investments between our nations. We clearly see the current figures not reflecting the real potential among our economies.

And o this 8th Annual Conference this year, as usual, we are passionate about what Turkey can offer to American companies, in a time when the global competitive race has never been faster.

We have a lot to offer:

We have a time-zone where you can trade with Asia in the morning and America in the afternoon.

We have one of the easiest accesses to the European market with around 750 million consumers generating tremendous economic activity.

No need to say that we have a young, energetic, high-skilled human capital and a vibrant society to live in.

Therefore my message today is very simple:

Turkey is open for business and our country is committed to support global growth with open trade between our nations.

So invest in Turkey. Partner with Turkey.

In addition, use Turkey as the hub or as the step stone for your companies to expand their activities to many surrounding countries.

Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen;

In closing, I would like to thank you once again for being with us today and wish that the Conference would serve your goals.

Do enjoy the program.