

Turkey-Malta Investors' Round-Table Meeting

H.E. Christian Cardona, Minister for Economy, Investment and Small Business of Malta

H.E. Nihat Zeybekci, Minister of Economy of Turkey,

Presidents of Business Councils, Mr. Mario Galeo and Halis Cakmak,

Representatives of Turkish and Maltese Business Environments

First of all, I would like to greet you all behalf of myself and DEİK, Foreign Economic Relations Board.

Now we are appreciated to attend to the Turkey – Malta 1st Term JETCO Meeting and Turkey-Malta Investors' Round-Table Meeting in Malta with official participation of honorable Ministers.

I hope this and coming up meetings will be an excellent opportunity for the representatives of Malta and Turkey's business environments.

Dear Participants,

For 32 years, being a main platform for "Turkey's Private Sector's Gate to the world", DEİK, has been working on developing foreign economic relations of Turkey's private sector, seeking both foreign and domestic investment opportunities and enhancing the reciprocal trade between Turkey and potential partners. In 2014, DEİK was re-regulated to be more focused on "business diplomacy". Currently we continue our operations under the leadership of our president, the guidance of our prime minister and with the support and cooperation of our minister of economy.

Today, we have 144 business councils and 144 business councils where 137 of them are country and region based, while 7 of them are sectoral based. Turkey-Malta Business Council, which had been established in 2007, is one of the country based business councils. Since then, our business council has been working for the purpose of enhancing the trade and industrial collaboration and the co-investment chances between the 2 countries, also utilizing the opportunities of Turkey and Malta cooperation in the third countries.

I'm glad that, bilateral trade between the 2 countries has been increased by 127% over a year.

It shows that, our ties will get stronger as long as the businesspeople of our countries collaborate and trade with each other. As the business representatives, we should take more joint actions, especially in some sectors such as tourism, banking and port management. In addition to these, we should be open to the new opportunities of other sectors as well.

It's a pity I don't have a direct business my self now, but I used export some of my company's Electrical Installation Materials in the past, although the trade volume was not so high.

Besides all, as a quite attractive country in the IT field, Malta is ranked 11th among EU with its 28 member countries according to the Digital Economy and Society Index issued by the European Commission. With its Increasing number of start-ups, business incubation and innovation centers, Malta should always be noticed and monitored by the Turkish investors and entrepreneurs, operating and interested in these fields.

I am sure that today Turkish and Maltese businesspeople will have a chance to know each other better then yesterday and take the initiative for getting into brand new partnerships. I believe our countries will be able to seize the opportunities for being within the top 5 exporter countries of each other. Our economies will grow together and create job opportunities for future generations together.

Honorable Ministers and Participants,

As we see that even our diplomatic relations have reached to a new level by high-profile visits for business purposing. Turkey has worked and collaborated with Malta regarding on the international migration, protective trade policies and modernization of the Customs Union during the 1st half of 2017 while the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Proceeding the negotiations of upgrading Customs Union between Turkey – EU has a great importance for both sides for more than 20 years.

As the representatives of Turkish business world, we highly anticipate that the negotiations of the Customs Union restart immediately and finalize in a way which is resolving and overcoming the problems of both sides.

I would like to thank sincerely to all, firstly to our honorable ministers and of course businesspeople of Turkey and Malta, for participating to the meeting. Wishing, the meeting is to create great opportunities for improving our bilateral and mutual relations in business and trade.

Nail Olpak

President of DEİK