

## **“Memory” The July 15**

**10 July 2023, Memory 15 July, Istanbul**

**Honorable Ambassador, Consul Generals,**

**Members of Diplomatic Missions,**

**Chair of July 15 Association,**

**Chairpersons of DEİK Business Councils,**

**Dear Guests,**

On behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye - DEİK, I am delighted to be with you all here for the event of Memory 15 July.

We, as a business platform, organized this reception hoping that this event will be worthwhile for a better understanding the 15th of July. And meanwhile I believe that the better understanding and related trust between us, is an important concept to improve our bilateral economic relations.

I am sure, all the diplomatic mission members who joined this event are aware of the 15th July fact. But, important things, even though we don't have good memories about them, should be reminded to each other, so that, we do not experience them again and never pay a painful bill again.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all, who sacrificed themselves for Turkish democracy and sovereignty. And I would like to extend my condolences to the families of those, who lost their lives on that night.

Let's not forget that FETÖ, the Gülenist organization led by the cult leader Fethullah Gülen have long plagued our country's institutions deliberately with deception, and July 15 was the climax of their undeniable coup attempt to capture the Republic of Türkiye at its fullest extent.

As Turkish community, civil people, soldiers and police, once again, showed our resilience by opposing the treacherous coup attempt.

We will not forget the countries who empathize with us, and those who cooperate with us in these challenging times and as the representative of the Turkish private sector, DEİK will try to strengthen economic relations with friends of Türkiye.

This is why we call the July 15 events as “trust-based cooperation.” As business community, we're not political figures. But, this is a “to be or not to be” case, so we'll try more to increase the trust between us who demonstrated their empathy to us after the coup attempt. I believe, strengthened trust between us will open more doors to increase economic activity among our friends.

Just to remember, as DEİK, we're continuously organizing commemoration events on the anniversaries of July 15.

Just days after the coup attempt, we travelled tens of countries to explain what happened really and what it meant for the Turkish private sector.

Three years ago, we gathered honorable diplomatic representatives and organized a documentary screening to help them better understanding of what happened in our country.

Two years ago, Turkish enterprises thanked the countries who have cooperated with us in our efforts against FETÖ.

Last year we organized a photography exhibition in our new headquarter.

And this year we're all here.

### **Dear Guests,**

I believe the July 15 coup attempt fortunately or unfortunately provided many nations a great experience to realize the threat in their countries as well.

FETÖ was hiding behind universal values, such as interfaith dialogue, democratization, charity, philanthropy and education. Nevertheless, these were only the masks they wore to disguise. But at the end, they made their purpose clear with the July 15 coup attempt.

Thus, we learned lessons – as well as the lessons to prevent similar threats from infiltrating our institutions. We also would like to remind you that similar FETÖ activities should not threaten your institutions. FETÖ affiliated firms and organizations may deceive you under a variety of disguises.

As Einstein said, **“Every kind of peaceful cooperation among men, is primarily based on mutual trust.”**

Economic activity, trade and investment are all based on mutual trust too. As the trusted business partners, we believe it is our core mandate to help to understand each other in difficult times.

Today, we will visit the museum in which coups and colonies in Türkiye and in world are told. The museum also offers a narrative on the history of military tutelage and colonialism. We can also use the time as a good networking opportunity while visiting the museum.

I would like to thank to July 15 Organization, Chairperson Mr. Ismail Hakkı Turunç, Deputy Chair Mr. Tarık Şebik, Ms. Tuba Daniş Ketancı and of course our Ambassador to Jakarta and President of the Advisory Board of July 15 Association Prof. Talip Küçükcan, for co-organizing this event with DEİK and for their hospitality

Thank you again for being with us today. We appreciate your presence.

**Nail OLPAK**

**President of DEİK**

