

Czechia-Türkiye Business Forum

21 May 2024, Grandium Hotel Prague

Trade Minister Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat,

Minister of Industry and Trade of Czech Republic Jozef Síkela,

Deputy Minister of Trade Mustafa Tuzcu,

Ambassador Egemen Bağış,

Czech-Turkish Committee Chairperson Marek Gasparovič,

DEİK/Türkiye-Czechia Business Council Chairperson Ali Yüce,

Czech Chamber of Commerce Vice-President Radek Jakubský,

Turkish and Czech Private Sector Representatives,

I greet you all, on behalf of the Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK) and I'm happy to be with our Czech friends for business forum, in accordance with the 2nd term JETCO meeting in Prague.

I believe, this meeting is not just a meeting to discuss trade and investment but also, a celebration of existing mutual relations between us.

I'd like to express my sincere condolence for the loss of our Business Council Chairperson Nazmi Akıman, who passed away 2 years ago.

The friendship between Türkiye and Czechia dates back many years. This year, we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of our diplomatic relations. As in the past, friendship between Türkiye and Czechia will continue strongly to the future.

We're all aware of \$6 billion bilateral and also the target and we should work to increase this figure in a balanced way.

Let me underline few points which I believe will help to develop our cooperation;

- Modernization of custom union is a vital issue,
- Nitel only for us but also for EU. We kindly ask your support in modernizing custom union in line with new developments, like green and digital transformation, as well as agriculture and services sectors.
- We know that, business-to-business connections is the core component, for developing business and investment environment, for both sides' economic interests. On the other hand, this requires an enhanced mobility and liberation visa process for business people. Therefore, we look forward to your support.
- Turkish contractors and technical consultants have experience on global scale. We' like them to participate in infrastructure projects in Czechia.
- Furthermore, the implementation of the PPP model is also under consideration for these projects. In this regard, I propose the establishment of a working group between our PPP Committee and

relevant institutions in the Czechia. We're open for collaboration and knowledge transfer as well as for partnerships, of course.

- Both Türkiye and Czechia have diversified industry, and both countries have especially competitive advantage in automotive sector. The global trend is now, electrification of automobile sector, and we can cooperate more in production of electrical vehicles and their batteries as well.
- I know, Czech companies are interested in our renewable energy sector. Türkiye has huge potential in renewable energy production. Hence, energy, especially renewable, is another important area in which we can cooperate more.
- As green and digital transformation go hand in hand, we believe digital transformation is another specific area, in which we can cooperate more through DEİK's Digital Technologies Business Council.
- Another point is, cooperation between our companies in the third countries, especially in Middle East and Africa.

I would like to finish my speech with a Czech saying, “**Bez práce nejsou koláče**” (**Bez práce neyso kolaaçe**). It means, “**Without work, there are no cakes.**”

I believe, as Turkish and Czech business representatives, we will work more to enhance our economic relations and it will breed more achievements.

I'd like to extend my gratitude to esteemed Ministers, all participants as well as to all those who made this event possible.

Thank you.

Nail OLPAK

President of DEİK