

## **Türkiye – Hungary Business Roundtable Meeting**

**15 February 2024, Ankara**

**Minister of Trade of Türkiye Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat,**

**Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary Peter Szijjarto  
(Pitir Siyarto),**

**My Dear Friend Ambassador Viktor Matis,**

**Member of Parliament Attila Tilki,**

**Deputy Minister Mustafa Tuzcu,**

**DEİK/Türkiye-Hungary Business Council Chairperson Suat  
Gökhan Karakuş,**

**Dear Participants,**

On behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye-DEİK, I am delighted to be with you for the round table meeting in accordance with the 1st term JETCO meeting in Ankara.

I believe this meeting is not just a meeting to discuss trade and investment but also, a celebration of the existing mutual relations between our countries. Both Hungary and Türkiye are members of NATO, EU, and Organization of Turkic States which strengthens our mutual relations in

not only trade and investments but also in all areas. I believe we'll take important steps today and later.

The bilateral trade volume between Türkiye and Hungary is close to \$4 billion. We are all aware of the target to increase this figure first to \$6 billion. Here the main responsibility belongs all of us where business representatives will more act on the site while our ministers will continue to pave the way for us.

We all know the 100th anniversary of signing of Türkiye-Hungary friendship agreement, which established diplomatic relations. With the last visit of our President Erdoğan at 18th December 2023, we moved our relations from "strategic partnership level" to "enhanced strategic partnership level".

So, I would like to celebrate Turkish-Hungarian Cultural Year with the theme of "Hundred Years of Friendship and Cooperation" on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the entry into force of the Turkish-Hungarian Friendship Agreement of 1923.

We, as business community, should work more to do more of what this new partnership level necessitates.

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

- Thanks to Excellency Minister Siyarto he underlined an important point during JETCO meeting just before this, where they want to help our investors more but our companies should inform them on time or even in advance for their inquires not to suffer later on. We should take care of that very much.

- I believe defense industry will play a vital role in increasing our trade volume form 4 billion to 6 billion.
- We have ties in energy sector. We should enhance our cooperation more to industry, services and agriculture sectors as well.
- We should also focus collaboration on; clean technologies, renewable energy and green transformation. As green and digital transformation go hand in hand, where I name them as Green Economy and Digital Economy rather than only a tranformation, we believe digital transformation is another specific area we can cooperate more through DEİK's Digital Technologies Business Council.
- Another point is cooperation in third countries, especially in Middle East and Africa. Thanks to Hungary for "Go Africa" project. I believe with the leadership of the two states, business environment will come together and create a strong synergy, contributing to a fruitful collaboration.
- Start-ups are also is an area we should have more synergy and successful outcomes.
- I also kindly ask Hungarian friends to continue to support us in modernizing Custom Union Agreement in line with green and digital transformation.

I would like to finish my speech with a Hungarian saying, "**Ki korán kel, aranyat lel**". That means, "**The early bird catches the worm.**"

I believe, as business representatives, we will be faster to enhance our economic relations and catch the worm.

### **Esteemed Ministers,**

Now I'll give the floor to DEİK/Türkiye-Hungary Business Council Chairperson Mr. Suat Gökhan Karakuş.

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Thank you Gökhan Bey.

We'll continue with private sector representatives. I have 22 names here in my list, considering time limit, I'll ask as the moderator not to exceed 2 minutes and leave thanking section to Ministers and participants one by one which I already made it for all of us.

### **Private Sector Representatives**

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Thanks to everyone.

Now I'd like to give the floor to the Ministers for their remarks.

First, we'll listen Minister of Trade of Türkiye Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat,

Thank you Excellency Minister.

And let me give the floor to Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary Mr. Peter Szijjarto (Pitir Siyarto)

Thank you Excellency Minister.

I'd like to extend my gratitude to esteemed Ministers, all participants and to our sponsors AS Visa Solutions, HEPA Türkiye and Çelebi Ground Handling as well as to all those who made this event possible.

Thank you.

**Nail OLPAK**

**President of DEİK**