

**EU-Türkiye High-Level Dialogue on Trade  
Business Roundtable  
8 July 2024, Brussels**

**Dear Executive Vice-President,  
Honorable Minister,  
Dear Deputy Minister,  
Distinguished Representatives of Businesses Organizations,**

I would like to thank all those who participated in the preparation of this timely event.

Recent geo-political developments such as the wars in Ukraine and in Gaza, supply chain disruptions, global slowdown in international trade and protectionist policies, financial depression and climate change emerge as risks to global growth, reminding us once again the strategic importance of cooperation between Türkiye and the EU as two important economic and trade partners.

In my capacity as the President of DEİK, I would like to contribute to this roundtable with three main messages:

First, to achieve an inclusive, sustainable, and equitable growth for Europe and Türkiye, we must increase economic integration in our broader region. In this context, we think that the EU decision makers should advise European companies which are winding down their

operations in the Far East or Russia to consider moving to Türkiye, which remains a reliable trade and economic partner of the EU.

Secondly, Türkiye, with its huge potential in the field of renewable energy, can support the green transformation of the EU, and financial institutions such as the EIB and EBRD could provide more funding to improve this strategic sector in Türkiye, as a potential green energy supplier of the EU.

Last but not least, from now on, in EU- Türkiye relations, we need concrete and positive steps (and not just dialogue or words) that will increase confidence among our respective people and business communities. By this I mean issues like the visa facilitation, the modernization of the Customs Union, collaboration in third countries, more cooperation on the green and digital transformation and the EU Global Gateway, but also energizing Türkiye's accession process, which has been blocked for years for some political reasons. These issues can easily be solved with a minimum of goodwill.

Thank you for your attention.

**Nail OLPAK**

**President of DEİK**

