

Netherlands-Turkey Roundtable Meeting

28 September 2020, 16.30

Minister of Trade of the Republic of Turkey Ms. Ruhsar Pekcan,

**Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of
Holland Ms. Sigrid Kaag,**

Ambassador of Turkey to Netherlands Şaban Dişli,

**Ambassador of Netherlands to Turkey Marjanne de Kwaasteneit,
(*Maryan de Kvastenit*)**

**Chairman of DEİK/Turkey-Netherlands Business Council and our
moderator Mr. Murat Özyeğin,**

Vice President of VNO-NCW Mr. Maxime Verhagen,

Dear Participants,

Thank you Mr. Maxime.

I wish a healthy day to all of us.

After our meeting at Ankara last September with 2 lady ministers, I'm glad to meet again even if it's virtual, after signing the 3rd term JETCO Agreement between our countries, hoping to reach our \$10 billion trade volume target together.

We have limited time, so let me touch on 2 points which may help to increase the economic relations between our countries.

- First of all, modernization of Turkey-EU Customs Union is crucial for that. It is hard to continue with the current outdated version of the Customs Union. So, we always expect full support of the Netherland in this regard.
- As second, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, as well as the whole world, I believe Dutch officials and business people also understood the importance of market diversity and importance of availability, rather than compatibility although it is still important. And especially in this period, Turkey is filling very important fields that may affect the supply chain positively. Our Dutch counterparts, having important investment in Turkey, by the way thanks for that, will find new alternatives together with us, to increase our cooperation to a better level.

I would like to finish my speech with a Dutch proverb: “**Aan de vruchten kent men den boom.**” (*An de frühti kend menden boom*). “**A tree is known by its fruit.**”

Today, we’re here to bear new fruits in our economic relations.

Thank you.

Nail OLPAK

President of DEİK