

## **Qatar Press Visit to Türkiye**

**13 September 2022, İstanbul**

**Chair of Türkiye-Qatar Business Council Mr. Başar Arıoğlu,**

**Country Advisor of Presidency of Türkiye Investment Office Mr.  
Abdullah Deniz,**

**Dear Guests,**

On behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye - DEİK, I am delighted to be with you in this warm atmosphere in İstanbul.

It is an honor for me to be here between distinguish journalists from Qatar today. I hope this visit will help us to get to know each other better and to develop our friendships.

Let me start with a brief introduction of DEİK.

Foreign Economic Relations Board, DEİK, is a business platform that has been continuing its activities for 37 years in order to enhance all economic relations, between Türkiye and the other countries. We continue our activities with an understanding of "business diplomacy".

There are 151 Business Councils in DEİK, 143 of those are country based Business Councils. We have a strong structure of Business Councils in the world; 47 in Africa, 37 in Europe, 19 in Asia-Pacific, 13 in the Middle East, 13 in Eurasia and 14 in the Americas.

I mean, it is a unique business platform with such a large network. I have no doubt that the Qatari side is benefiting from this worldwide network.

Our Türkiye-Qatar Business Council is one of our important business councils in the Middle-East. It has been founded in 2006 and carrying on its activities with the Counterpart Organization of Qatari Businessmen Association Qatari-Turkish Business Cooperation Council with the leadership of Başar Arıoğlu.

Türkiye enjoys deep-rooted ties of friendship and fraternity with Qatar and relations between the two countries have been rapidly improving in all fields. While bilateral visits add a major impetus to relations between Türkiye and Qatar, both countries also closely coordinate and cooperate on regional issues.

Our deep friendship shows itself in economic terms as well.

During the embargo of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt on Turkish exports to Qatar in 2017, we never stopped supporting Qatar and the following year, Türkiye's exports to Qatar increased by 57% compared to the previous year.

The exports, which experienced a decrease only during the pandemic period, increased after that every year. In this context, our annual exports, which were \$1.1 billion in 2021, increased to \$1.4 billion as of July 2022, and the trade volume increased from \$1.7 billion to \$2.1 billion.

The sector with the highest potential for foreign investors in the country is the contracting sector. As a matter of fact, the country foresees to realize approximately 200 investment projects in the infrastructure, tourism, health and education sectors of approximately \$200 billion within the scope of Qatar National Vision 2030.

In addition, within the scope of the vision, various sectors in the country are reviving with the domestic and national industry movement. The number of SMEs has grown and the policy of diversifying the economy, which is based on the energy sector, has begun to spread over time.

After the pandemic, Qatar also carries out studies to develop and ensure food security. For this reason, many opportunities started to appear in the country, especially in terms of food and food technologies.

In addition, Qatar wants to benefit from Türkiye's science, technology, know-how and experience within the framework of the 2030 Vision.

I would like to finish my speech with a Qatari saying, **“I’m your cane that doesn’t fail you”**.

It is said to your friend who is always there for you. As Turkish and Qatari representatives, we are always here for our friendship and improve our economic relations.

Thank you for your attention.

**Nail OLPAK**

**President of DEİK**