

Türkiye-Chile Business Forum

10 April 2025, İstanbul, 14.30

Minister of Trade Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile Alberto Van Klaveren,

Deputy Minister of Trade Mustafa Tuzcu,

DEİK/Türkiye-Chile Business Co. Chair Ahmet Bilge Anbarlılar,

Ambassadors Rodrigo Arcos,

Distinguished Representatives of Public and Business Sectors,

I greet you all on behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board-DEİK and grateful to be together with our friends from Chile and hope this business forum will be fruitful to improve our economic relations with today's networking session.

I hope today's Business Forum and the MoU we've signed will lead to great results for both sides.

Foreign Economic Relations Board, DEİK, is an NGO that has been continuing its activities for 40 years in order to enhance bilateral economic relations between Türkiye and other countries. We continue our efforts with an understanding of "Business Diplomacy", operating on a voluntary membership basis without using public funds. And we carry out our

activities with our 152 country based and sectoral business councils all over the world.

DEİK/Türkiye-Chile Business Council is one of them, founded in 2012 and, carrying on its activities with SOFOFA under the chairmanship of Ahmet Bilge Anbarlılar.

Our relations have been developed based on mutual respect and sincere ties for years; even if we are geographically far from each other. Our cordial friendship has also positively affected our economic relations.

Our trade volume with Chile is close to \$500 million. We are all aware of the target to increase this figure in a balanced way. I believe we will not only improve the numbers but also increase bilateral investments.

Honorable Ministers,

After recently announced new tariffs of the United States we expect global trade and global growth suffer from new trade wars. The best strategy in these difficult and uncertain times is to increase our mutual collaboration and we believe Chile will be one of our best trade and investment partners.

So let me underline a few points, which I believe will help to develop our cooperation;

- First of all, Chile is the only country that we have a Free Trade Agreement among Latin American Countries. As business world of 2 countries, we need to take advantage of this more.

- Both countries provide significant support for the effectiveness of technology start-ups. Cooperation can be developed in this area.
- Additionally, there has been significant interest in Chile's defense industry in recent years. Most recently, Havelsan signed an agreement with Chile. Aselsan already has an office there. These are good examples, and we can build more on them.
- Now, let's move on Türkiye. Our country, which is the largest investment, manufacturing, and technology hub between Western Europe and China, has a foreign trade volume exceeding \$600 billion. We have significant investment opportunities in almost every sector, from energy to industry, agriculture to infrastructure and to information economics. I also and strongly invite Chilean business community to invest in our country and take advantage of our investment opportunities especially in high technology sectors.

I would like to finish my speech with a saying “**El que la sigue, la consigue**”. (*El ke la sige, la konsige*) which means, “**He who follows it, achieves it.**”

I believe, as patient Turkish and Chilean business representatives, we will achieve our goals.

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

Nail OLPAK

President of DEİK