

## **Türkiye-Netherlands Roundtable Meeting**

**15 January 2025, DEİK, 15.15**

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

**Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Reinette Klever  
(*Rayinete Kleyver*),**

**Deputy Minister of Trade Mustafa Tuzcu,**

**Chairperson of DEİK/Türkiye Netherlands Business Council  
Stefano Kaslowski,**

**President of VNO-NCW Ingrid Thijssen (*Ingrid Tayşın*),**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I greet you all on behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board-DEİK and grateful to host Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Reinette Klever (*Rayinete Kleyver*) and valuable business representatives from the Netherlands.

Last year, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Türkiye-Netherlands Friendship Agreement. Our relations are progressing strongly in every field. I hope this roundtable meeting will be fruitful to improve our economic relations with today's panels and discussions.

Foreign Economic Relations Board, DEİK, is a business platform that has been continuing its activities for 40 years in order to enhance bilateral economic relations between Türkiye and other countries. We continue our works with an understanding of “Business Diplomacy” together with our 152 country based and sectoral business councils all over the world.

Our Türkiye-Netherlands Business Council is one of these. Founded in 1993, it carries out its activities in collaboration with the Dutch Employers’s Federations (VNO) of the Netherlands, under the chairmanship of Stefano Kaslowski.

The bilateral trade volume between Türkiye and the Netherlands is close to \$12.5 billion. The Netherlands, with \$21 billion and a 42% share, ranks first in Türkiye’s total outward foreign direct investment stock. Similarly, in terms of direct investment stock that comes to Türkiye, the Netherlands ranks first with \$29 billion and with 15% share. Our goal is to increase these figures and mutual investments in both countries in a balanced way. Here the main responsibility belongs to all of us where business representatives will more act on the site while our ministers will continue to pave the way for us.

Let me underline few points, which will help to develop our cooperation:

- First of all, we believe that there is an urgent need for the modernization of the Customs Union; the modernization should focus of integrating agriculture, services sector, public procurement and twin transformation.

- We hope that the issues related to the visas will be also resolved as soon as possible.
- The transfer of knowledge and technology from the Netherlands, where it stands out globally in sectors such as logistics and infrastructure, livestock and agriculture, smart cities, to Türkiye is significant.
- Health tourism is also an important agenda for us, and the Netherlands is one of our main target countries.
- Also, construction, defense, industry, automobile, tourism, services and energy are other areas of cooperation between the two countries.
- We believe that collaboration and joint efforts between Türkiye and the Netherlands can be established within the framework of climate change and the European Green Deal.
- The Green Transformation is again an important agenda item for both countries. Cooperation can be established in the transition to a green economy between the two countries. We can especially enhance our collaboration in renewable energy.
- As green and digital transformation go hand in hand, we believe digital transformation is another specific area in which we can cooperate more through DEİK's Digital Technologies Business Council
- 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 field, from energy and industry to agriculture and infrastructure investments. I invite the business community of the Netherlands to invest in our country to take better advantage of these opportunities. For instance, we have Stefano Bey among us, who has achieved significant success in the construction sector in the Netherlands. I believe his works have been a good example on showing Turkish-Netherlands cooperation in this field.

- We should also increase our bilateral investments and joint investments in the third countries.

I would like to finish my speech with a Dutch saying, “**Wie niet waagt, die niet wint**” (*Vi niht vaagt, di niht vint*). It means, “**Those who do not dare, do not win.**”

I believe, as Turkish and Dutch business representatives, we will work more to enhance our economic and investment relations with our brave and courage.

I'd like to extend my gratitude to esteemed Ministers, all participants, our sponsor Organik Kimya and Barsan Global Logistic, as well as to all who made this event possible.

Thank you.

**Discussion – moderated by DEİK and VNO, 15.45**

- **(Circular) Economy (Moderated by VNO)**
- **Sustainability & Energy Efficiency (*Moderated by VNO*)**
- **Industrial Clusters**

Thank you Mr. Thijssen (*Tayşın*) for your moderation.

Now, we'll continue with discussion part of Industrial Clusters.

I would like to give the floor to our private sector representatives who wants to share their views on bilateral relations and their sectors on industrial clusters. Considering time limit, I'll ask as the moderator not to exceed 2 minutes.

## **Private Sector Representatives**

1. ...

- **Health, Education & Tourism**

Now we'll continue our discuss on health, education and tourism with valuable business representatives.

I would like to give the floor to our private sector representatives who wants to share their views on bilateral relations and their sectors on health, education and tourism. Again considering time limit, I'll ask as the moderator not to exceed 2 minutes.

## Private Sector Representatives

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Thank you for your remarks.

Now, I'd like to give the floor to Minister of Foreign Trade and Development (*Rayinete Kleyver*) for closing remarks.

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Thank you so much Minister.

Now, I'd like to give the floor to Our Minister of Trade Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat.

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Thank you our Minister.

I'd like to extend my gratitude to esteemed Ministers, all participants, as well as to all who made this event possible.

**Nail OLPAK**

**President of DEİK**