

Türkiye-Slovenia Business Forum

14 January 2025, Ankara 14.30

**Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign and European
Affairs of Republic of Slovenia Tanja Fajon,**

Our Minister of Trade Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat,

Our Minister of Youth and Sport Dr. Osman Aşkın Bak,

**Chairperson of DEİK/Türkiye Slovenia Business Council
Adnan Sezgin,**

Director of Public Agency Spirit Rok Capl,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I greet you all on behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board-DEİK and grateful to host Honorable Slovenian Deputy Prime Minister for his visit.

I hope this business forum will be quite fruitful beginning to improve our economic relations with today's panel and B2B Meetings.

The bilateral trade volume between Türkiye and Slovenia is close to \$3 million. Our goal is to increase this figure 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:

- Our Turkish contractors and technical consultants have experience on a global scale. We would like them to participate in infrastructure renewal projects in Slovenia. For instance, we have Mr. Başar Arıoğlu among us, who has achieved significant success in the construction sector in Slovenia. I believe Yapı Merkezi has been a good example on showing Turkish-Slovenian cooperation in this field. Mr. Arıoğlu will have a presentation on their projects in Slovenia in the panel session as well.
- Defense, industry, textile, automobile furniture, tourism, services and energy are other areas of cooperation between the two countries.
- I also hope for a permanent resolution to the issue of transit passage quotas. This resolution depends on the modernization of the Customs Union between the EU and our country. In this regard, I find Slovenia's continued support meaningful.
- 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.
- As our Chairperson mentioned, health sector has been one of the promising sector for our bilateral cooperation. I would like to remind our friends from Slovenia that the investments Türkiye has made in the health sector for a long time have reached a level that is an example for many countries. This will be important in terms of our both support and investments in the health activities that can be done there, and I believe that our friends from Slovenia can also benefit from treatments through health tourism in Türkiye, if needed.
- Like health, Türkiye has made significant reforms and investments in high education sector. Currently there are more than 350 thousand foreign students enrolled in Turkish Universities. I also encourage Slovenian students to get their university degrees from one of our prestigious universities.
- We should also increase our bilateral investments and joint investments in the third countries.

I would like to finish my speech with a Slovenian saying, “**Brez dela ni jela**” (*Brehs dehlah nee yehlah*). It means, “**Without work, there is no food.**”

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

I'd like to extend my gratitude to Deputy Prime Minister of Slovenia, esteemed Ministers, all participants, our sponsors As Visa Solutions and Yapı Merkezi as well as to all who made this event possible.

Thank you.

Nail OLPAK

President of DEİK