

**HIGH-LEVEL ECONOMIC DIALOGUE
EU-TURKEY
7-8 December 2017, Brussels**

Dear Vice-President, Dear Ministers and Representatives of Businesses Organizations,

- I would like to thank all who contributed the organization of this important event for the second time.
- I'll briefly talk about my institution and continue with the topics.
- DEİK is established 31 ago as a civil platform to assist the organization of foreign economic relations of Turkish private sector, at home and abroad where we work with Ministry of Economy.
- We're active in 136 countries and regions, through Business Councils.
- Considering the time and subject limit, I'll not dwell again on the urgent need to update the existing Customs Union regime, visa problem of Turkish businessmen and other difficulties, but, we, Turkish business community are extremely suffering about.
- From the establishment of Customs Union until now, there had been diligent efforts to improve Turkish business environment to the level of EU standards.
- Thanks to those measures, Turkey has been successful so far.
- Meanwhile, despite of the July 15th coup attempt, major EU firms stuck to their investment plans in Turkey.
- We believe that existing business environment will further improve through increasing clarity and stability, transparency, rule of law, and fair competition.
- On the other hand;
- EU accession process is important for us. We trade with all over the world where the rules are produced in Brussels are important.
- EU has it's own remarkable economic potential within the EU geography. But, remembering the last global financial crisis which later turned to a global one, we all realized that, having internal potential is not sufficient to overcome problems especially during those kind of situations.
- Also remembering that period, Turkey was one of the least effected countries from global economic crisis, thanks to its multi market and multi product strategy, although international strategists, credit rating agencies and medias were claiming just the opposite.
- I personally believe that, with its geographical position, its role in common global challenges and its huge potential, Turkey has much to contribute to the EU. By the way, the positive developments in Turkish economy can be seen as a substantial advantage for Europe and the benefits are twofold.
- I would like to end saying that the only way to overcome today's problems such as populism, extremism & isolationism in a more unstable world is, to ensure mutual respect and understanding, while enhancing our trade, politics and economic relations.

Thank you all for your attention.

Nail Olpak
President of DEİK