

7th Türkiye-Azerbaijan-Georgia Business Forum

26 February 2026, Georgia-Tsinandali, XX.00

Minister of Trade, Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat,

**Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia
Mariam Kvrivishvili,**

**Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mikayıl
Cabbarov,**

Distinguished Representatives of Public and Business Sectors,

On behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board-DEİK, I greet you at this forum hosted by the GCCİ in this beautiful city, organized in cooperation with DEİK and AZPROMO.

As you know, there is a love story that connects Georgia and Azerbaijan: Ali and Nino... This story is regarded as a work of art that unites not only two cultures, but also the boundaries between East and West.

The book, translated into more than 30 languages and adapted into a film, tells the beautiful story of its main characters, Ali and Nino. Just as they became cultural ambassadors of their countries, we are here today as business ambassadors.

I believe that through today's forum and our panel, we will add new dimensions to our investment and trade cooperation and open up new opportunities for our business communities.

Let me continue about our DEİK family, Foreign Economic Relations Board, which is a business organization that has been continuing its activities for 41 years in order to enhance bilateral economic relations between Türkiye and other countries. We continue our efforts with an understanding of "Business Diplomacy", operated on a voluntary membership basis without using public funds. And we carry out our activities with our 153 country-based and sectoral business councils all over the world. DEİK/Türkiye-Azerbaijan Business Council and DEİK/Türkiye-Georgia Business Council are two of them, and they have been carrying out their activities since 1991–92.

Question 1: How do you see trade relations among these three countries and what should be the role of middle corridor to enhance economic relations among these countries?

Georgia and Azerbaijan have moderate trade relations with Türkiye. Azerbaijan has a trade volume of \$4,3 billion with Türkiye while Georgia has a trade volume of \$3,1 billion. So, in total these two countries have a trade volume of \$8,4 billion with Türkiye. However, trade between these two countries is relatively low and only a little higher than \$1 billion (in 2024). So these results say that total trade volume among these three countries is less than \$10 billion, which I believe is not sufficient. I believe that middle corridor may have pilot role in enhancing economic integration of the region. First, this route could transform the Azerbaijan-Georgia-Türkiye trio from merely transit countries into a regional production and

logistics platform. We should see the middle corridor not only as transportation but also a repositioning of the geography of production. If we consider energy market in Azerbaijan, FTA with Georgia and Türkiye's high industrial capacity and its integration with Europe, a well developed mechanism that connects these three countries will be beneficial for all these countries. Another point is the integration of energy markets. The role of TANAP (Transtlantik Anatolian Gas Pipeline) may increase when this route is enhanced with other investments in middle corridor.

Question 2: Energy sector is gaining importance everywhere in the World and in this region as well. How can energy market contribute to the integration of these economies and what are the investment opportunities?

Energy market integration among Türkiye, Azerbaijan, and Georgia can serve as a structural anchor for economic integration as well. Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP), Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline, and Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum Pipeline are already successful energy projects in the region. Expansion the capacity of TANAP, underground gas storage in Türkiye and digital pipeline monitoring systems may enhance the gas and infrastructure system in the region. In addition to middle corridor, we can also establish a renewable energy corridor in the region. Wind power in Caspian Sea in Azerbaijan, untapped hydropower potential of Georgia combined with solar and wind power potential and battery storage manufacturing capacity of Türkiye could anchor large scale renewable energy projects in the region. Lastly, countries can also cooperate on the energy technology production like Turbine and transformer manufacturing, energy storage systems and metering and digital trading platforms.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Our Trade Minister Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat and Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia Mariam Kvrivishvili, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mikayıl Cabbarov, and all those whose support has made this event possible.

Thank you.

Nail OLPAK

President of DEİK