

**Türkiye-Qatar Joint Economic and Trade Commission (JETCO)
1st Meeting**

8 February 2024, Dolmabahçe Presidential Office

Minister of Trade of Türkiye Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat,

**Minister of Trade and Industry of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin
Hamad bin Qassim Al-Thani,**

**President of Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sheikh
Khalifa bin Jassim bin Mohammed Al-Thani,**

President of TOBB Mr. Rifat Hisarcıklıođlu,

Dear Guests,

On behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye - DEİK, I am delighted to be with you in this warm atmosphere, for 1st term JETCO meeting in İstanbul.

Today, business people from both countries had productive Business Forum B&B meetings in cooperation with TOBB at our DEİK headquarters.

I hope these meetings and meaningful visit will help us to get to know each other better and to develop our business as well as friendship.

Trade, mutual investments and other types of economic cooperation between two countries are important. But beyond that we also have strong ties where we tested the results of that during the earthquake we had last year. I once again thank Qatar for their support for the earthquake term.

Dear Ministers and Dear Guests,

We are not only increasing mutual trade but we are also aiming to increase mutual investments. The bilateral trade volume between Türkiye and Qatar exceed \$1 billion. We are all aware of the target to increase this figure first to \$5 billion. Here the main responsibility belongs 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 I believe will help to develop our cooperation;

- After the pandemic, Qatar carried out studies to develop and ensure food security. I believe, there are much more opportunities especially in terms of food and food technologies.
- We can have the benefit of each party's science, technology, know-how and experience where Türkiye's framework of the 2030 Vision is quite valuable.
- According to the Vision, Qatar aims to diversify its economy and to implement 200 investments projects in the infrastructure tourism, health, education sectors of approximately \$200 billion. So we should certainly focus on these sectors as partners.

- Both countries have targets for digital and green transformation, where I name those as Green Economy and Digital Economy, because only transformation is not enough expression. Here the aim is more than that. We also should certainly cooperate more on these two areas. DEİK's Digital Technologies Business Council always at our disposal.
- And, we see that Construction sector in Qatar is slowing down, but actually that does not mean that the demand for “digitalization of the buildings” will slow down. Let's add this section too, to our agenda.

I would like to finish my speech with a nice Qatari saying, **“I'm your cane that doesn't fail you”**. That means, your friend is always there for you.

As Turkish and Qatari representatives, we are always here for our friendship and will improve our economic relations together.

Thank you for your attention.

Nail OLPAK

President of DEİK