

## **Meeting with H.E. Jürgen Schulz, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Turkey**

**1 December 2020, 16.00**

**Your Excellency Mr. Ambassador Jürgen Schulz,**

**Dear colleagues and partners,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all, I want to welcome you all to today's meeting.

Mr. Ambassador, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to talk about the economic relations between Turkey and Germany and exchange views on the current state of affairs as well as the outlook into the future.

We do this kind of virtual meetings and webinars daily with our 146 business councils together with our counterparts with the participation of Ambassadors at both countries as well as with trade counsellors.

Let me start with a look back on how this year began. It was sometime in January when we first became aware of reports of some sort of coronavirus in China. Only a few weeks later, that obscure coronavirus had turned into a global pandemic that affected all of us, both in our personal and professional lives as well as the global economies.

We didn't only change the looking of our faces covering with masks but it seems pandemic will affect our habits and especially our business life where we should concentrate on that.

Way of doing business will be effect more. The pacts or cooperations will be much more important such as the big Regional Agreement signed recently at fareast.

Yes, the pandemic presents us with enormous challenges. But it presents us with opportunities, too – at the very least, it points to the issues we need to tackle together.

1. We see a tremendously increased demand for digital solutions,
2. Sustainability and availability has become an even more important topic for the communities and businesses around the globe,
3. And the question of how we maintain reliable global supply chains remains vital.

At the same time, it becomes clear what economies, companies and individuals are capable of achieving in order to finding solutions for the challenges of our times.

Let me draw your attention to a very recent example, the BioNTech case, which is an extraordinary example of scientific excellence but also a good example of a success story for renowned personalities of Turkish descent.

We know that these times are not easy. However, what is most important is to engage in dialogue.

The Turkey-Germany Business Council – as part of DEİK – is strongly committed to promote economic cooperation to the benefit of the economies and all parties involved.

And we are very much looking forward to engage in dialogue with you today, Mr. Ambassador, and to fruitfully working with you in the future.

I would like to finish my speech with a German saying, “**Anfangen ist leicht, Beharren eine Kunst.**” (*Afangın ist layth, bahağınayne kunst*). It means: “Starting is easy, persistence is an art.”.

Today, we’re here to persist to improve our economic relations together.

Thank you.

**Nail OLPAK**

**President of DEİK**