

## **Türkiye-Kosovo Roundtable Meeting**

**22 April 2026, Pristina, 11.30**

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

**Minister of Industry, Entrepreneurship, Trade, and Innovation  
of Kosovo Mimoza Kusari-Lila,**

**Ambassador Sabri Tunç Angılı,**

**Deputy Minister Mustafa Tuzcu, Deputy Ministers,**

**Business Council Chair Serdar Bacaksız,**

**Sayın MV Rifat Sait,**

**Representatives of Business Worlds,**

**Press Members,**

**Honorable Participants,**

I greet you all on behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board-DEİK  
I was here first at 2013 and grateful to be in this lovely country.

Let me continue with what Kosovan friends say, **“Gur, gur bëhet mur” (Gur gur behet mur)**. It means, **“Brick by brick makes the wall”**.  
This is exactly the spirit with which Türkiye and Kosovo built their

relationship – steadily, purposefully, and with a foundation strong enough to support far greater ambitions.

As DEİK we have 153 business council all over the world and Türkiye Kosova Business Council is one of them.

Türkiye was among the first countries to recognize Kosovo's independence in 2008. Since then, our relationship deepened across every dimension. Our contractors completed over 1,5 billion Euros worth of projects in Kosovo and Turkish companies employ nearly 10.000 people on Kosovan soil, and our cumulative FDI is nearly 459 million USD at the end of 2025, that makes Türkiye one of the top 6 foreign investors in the country. Turkish companies operate in energy, transportation, finance, food, textile, and health sectors. Türkiye's exports to Kosovo surged by an extraordinary 156 % in 2025, reaching 928.5 million USD, and our bilateral trade volume hit a historic high of 967,2 million USD. We are now Kosovo's second largest import partner, behind only Germany.

A significant portion (22,4%) of Türkiye's overseas investment stock, is concentrated in the "Other European Countries" group, which includes the Balkans. This ratio makes this region our second-largest investment area after European Union.

I want to draw particular attention to an opportunity that I believe represents a defining moment for our economic partnership. Kosovo has been awarded the honor of hosting the 2030 Mediterranean Games – a milestone that will require substantial investment in sports facilities, infrastructure, transportation, accommodation, and urban development. For Turkish companies, this is not simply an invitation – it is a call to action. Our construction and engineering firms have world-class expertise and a

proven track record across the Balkans and beyond. I strongly urge Turkish companies to closely monitor and actively pursue the tenders that will emerge from these preparations. The clock is ticking, and the opportunities are significant.

I'd like to highlight several other areas where we must deepen our cooperation.

- Kosovo's growing focus on solar and wind energy aligns perfectly with Türkiye's rapidly expanding clean energy capacity. Let us build projects together.
- Kosovo has one of Europe's youngest and most tech-savvy populations. Türkiye's digital sector offers a natural partner for joint ventures and talent development.
- Türkiye offers access to a market of over 1 billion people through our free trade agreements with around 30 countries and our Customs Union with the EU. Kosovan firms may treat Türkiye as their gateway to the world.
- The existing FTA may be extended to cover agricultural products. This remains a priority that our governments must address together.

Another matter I would like to address is, my sincere hope for the swift and successful conclusion of Kosovo's European Union accession process, which has been awaiting formal progression since 2022. As you are aware, Türkiye has also been engaged in this process for a considerable too long period. Currently, under the auspices of DEİK, we are driving an initiative on behalf of the business community, reflecting the great importance we attach to Türkiye's path toward full EU membership.

Let me say something about our beautiful Country Türkiye also. We are the biggest technology, industry center between West Europe and China. ...., ....., .....

I express my hope that longstanding friendship between Türkiye and Kosovo will continue to flourish, particularly within the context of our respective EU aspirations, and I attach great importance to the substantial economic contributions both our nations will bring to the Union.

Finally, I'd like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the National Day of Kosovo Turks and the 23 April National Sovereignty and Children's Day of Türkiye.

Brick by brick, we're building something real between our countries. Now is the time to build higher. I extend my sincere gratitude to Honorable Ministers, to all participants, and to everyone who made this meeting possible.

Thank you.

Now I'll give the floor to private sector representatives to share their views on bilateral relations and their sectors. I have 18 names here in my list, considering we should finish at 12.30, I'll ask each of them to use time preciously.

## **Private Sector Representatives**

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Thanks to everyone for their views.

Now, I'll give the floor to Kosovan side. They have 10 representatives.

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And finally we will give the floor to Excellency Ministers to deliver their closing remarks.

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Thanks to Excellency Ministers.

With those, I'd like to extend my gratitude to Esteemed Ministers, our sponsors also all participants as well as to all those who made this event possible.

**Nail OLPAK**

**President of DEİK**