

Türkiye-Lithuania JETCO Meeting

04 May 2026, DEİK Premises, 09.45

Minister of Trade Prof. Ömer Bolat,

Minister of Economy and Innovation of Lithuania Edvinas Grikšas (*Edvinas Grikšas*),

Deputy Minister of Trade Mustafa Tuzcu,

Ambassador Marius Janukonis (*Mariyus Yanukonis*),

Chair of DEİK/Türkiye-Lithuania Business Council Mehmet Küçük,

ALCCIC President Sigitas Gailiunas,

Honorable Participants,

On behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board – DEİK, I warmly welcome our Lithuanian friends and extend my sincere greetings to all participants.

My first visit to Lithuania was at 03 April 2013 during Turkish Business World during H.E President Abdullah Gül's official visit. And now, after so many visits it's a true pleasure to host you all at this Second JETCO Meeting today.

The last JETCO meeting between Türkiye and Lithuania took place in Vilnius in January 2020, accompanied by a Business Forum. Reconvening in Ankara, six years on, is a strong signal from both sides that we are ready to deepen our partnership with renewed ambition.

In this context, DEİK and ALCCIC will sign a Memorandum of Understanding. This is not a ceremonial gesture. It is a working commitment to organize bilateral business missions, facilitate B2B meetings, and systematically develop the cooperation areas identified at today's JETCO.

The figures are encouraging. Our bilateral trade stands at approximately \$1.1 billion. The composition of this trade; steel, electrical equipment, machinery, automotive reflects a mature industrial relationship. Yet the breadth of our potential far exceeds the current numbers.

Lithuania's strategic position in the Baltics, anchored by the Klaipėda Port and its rail network, is a natural entry point for Türkiye's contracting and logistics companies. The Rail Baltica project, connecting Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to the European rail network via Poland, represents a major opportunity for Turkish engineering and construction firms, and Turkish State Railways' presence in today's delegation is a concrete sign of our interest.

Lithuania's National Energy Independence Strategy targets a fully climate-neutral economy by 2050. Türkiye's capacity in renewable energy, smart grids, battery storage and EV charging infrastructure is a strong complement to this vision, and there is real business to be done here.

With fintech companies and professionals, Lithuania established itself as one of Europe's leading innovation hubs. Türkiye's banking infrastructure, payment technologies and startup ecosystem make for a natural partnership in the digital economy.

Finally, the security environment in our region placed new demands on both countries. Lithuanian firms attending SAHA EXPO signal a clear interest in cooperation with Türkiye's defense industry. And Türkiye's experience in mobile health systems and crisis-response medical infrastructure is directly relevant to Lithuania's evolving needs in this area.

Lithuania is the largest of the Baltic states by both population and territory, and we see it as Türkiye's key partner and gateway to the wider Baltic and Northern European market. Today's JETCO meeting is an opportunity to build the framework that makes this vision a reality.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Honorable Ministers, to all participants, and to everyone who made this meeting possible.

Nail OLPAK

President of DEİK