

**Business Roundtables at the 5th Session of Türkiye-Portugal
JETCO Meeting**

8 April 2026, Portugal, 15.00

Minister of Trade, Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal Paulo Rangel,

Honorable Participants,

I greet you all on behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board-DEİK and grateful to be with you in this lovely city.

I hope today's JETCO and roundtable meetings will lead to great results for both sides.

DEİK, is a business organization active for 41 years with an understanding of "Business Diplomacy", operating on voluntary based membership, without using any public funds. We have 153 business councils all over the world, with elected board members and chairpersons. DEİK/Türkiye-Portugal Business Council is one of them and working since 1991, special thanks to our counterparts Associação Industrial Portuguesa (AIP) and Forum for Business Administrators and Managers for their cooperation.

Turkish and Portuguese economies are integrated through various channels including trade, mutual investments, finance and tourism and as a result bilateral trade increased to \$3.7 billion.

So let me underline a few points, which I believe will help to develop our cooperation;

- First and foremost, the modernization of the EU-Türkiye Customs Union Agreement, encompassing the green and digital transformation fields, has become far more critical. We expect stronger support from our Portuguese friends in this regard.
- As the Turkish business community, we must strengthen our political, economic, commercial, and defense industry relations with Portugal, which offers significant opportunities for our companies, particularly through major European investment projects. Renewable energy, digital sectors, maritime and port cooperation, tourism and technology start-ups seem to be the new areas for cooperation between the two countries.
- It is important for Turkish companies to take an active role in the Portuguese government's infrastructure, transportation, airport, high-speed train, housing, and communication investments, which are projected to reach approximately \$75 billion in the coming years.
- I believe we have opportunities and potential for cooperation between the two countries, particularly in Latin America, the Balkans, the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia, where Portugal maintains strong ties.

With strong industrial capacity, competitive cost structure and proven execution capability, Türkiye plays an important role in ensuring resilient, secure and diversified supply chains.

With those, I would like to extend my gratitude to Esteemed Ministers, Business Leaders, all participants and all those whose support made this event possible.

Thank you.

Mustafa Gültepe

Vice President of DEİK