

TAIK Board Meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Turkey

8 January 2021

Excellency Ambassador Mr. David Satterfield,

Dear Board Members,

Good morning everyone and I wish all of us a healthy and prosperous new year.

On behalf of DEIK, thanks to Ambassador Satterfield for this virtual meeting hoping to serve to business diplomacy between Turkey and the United States.

I also want to express my wish for a peaceful transition on January 20 following the shocking scenes at the US Capitol this week.

TAIK is Turkey's oldest business council and we greatly value the relationship between Turkey and the United States. That's as true today as it was in 1985 when TAIK was founded.

For centuries, Turkey has been at the center of world commerce. Business is ingrained within our culture.

This, in many ways, is why the US and Turkey make such strong trading partners. Our business cultures are aligned, and we have worked side-by-side together for more than 70 years.

That relationship must remain strong and it cannot be a victim to the whims of politics. We must keep business and politics separate.

This is not just in the interests of both countries. A strong partnership between Turkey and the world's number one economy benefits the global economy as well.

Today, the Turkey-US trade relationship supports tens of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of investment in both countries.

Growing that trade relationship will allow global corporations to diversify their supply chains, gain access to new markets on three continents and be more economically resilient.

We are extraordinarily proud of TAIK's members – thousands of them running businesses, supporting jobs in both countries and fueling economic growth – and we will continue to speak up for their work and on their behalf.

Let's open our discussion about how we can further facilitate collaboration with our trade partners in the United States.

As we remember Dr. Martin Luther King says; "Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase."

By leaving a historical year behind, I hope, today, we will take a step to increase trade and investment relations between Turkey and the U.S in the first days of the new year.

I would like to express our hope that the U.S.-Turkey relations will improve during the coming new administration. We support the consolidation of institutional ties between our great countries. As a business organization conducting the Turkish private sector's foreign

economic relations, we are ready to do our best as part of business diplomacy.

Unfortunately, being together approximately for an hour, I should leave this meeting before it finishes because, right now another board meeting has been running since 2 hours where I'm also the Chairperson of Audit Committee, but I interrupted for a while for TAİK meeting, sorry for this excuse.

Thank you all again for taking part in today's session.

Nail OLPAK

President of DEİK