

Turkey-Denmark Virtual Business Forum on the Occasion of the Second Session of the JETCO Meeting

27 October 2020, 16.30

Minister of Trade of the Republic of Turkey Ms. Ruhsar Pekcan,

**Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark Mr. Jeppe
Kofod (*Yebe Kuful*),**

**Deputy Director General & COO of DI Mr. Thomas Bustrup
(*Tomis Bustğup*),**

**Chairman of DEİK/Turkey-Denmark Business Council Mr. Emrah
İnce,**

Dear Participants,

Thank you Mr. Bustrup,

I wish a healthy day to all of us. And I believe our Ministers had a fruitful meeting before this meeting. Yes we're having the meeting virtual but life is going on in spite of Covid-19.

Since we have very limited time, I'll try to touch on 3-4 points which I believe will help our business relations.

- First of all, we're always saying the modernization of Turkey-EU Customs Union is crucial for our bilateral trade. Blockage of tracks

and business people is not fair. It is hard to continue with the current outdated version of the agreement. Then, we expect the full support of Denmark in this regard.

- Sustainability will be one of the most important goal in the future. We believe that Turkey and Denmark can develop stronger cooperation particularly in sustainable food and agriculture through know-how and R&D sharing.
- By the way we are aware that the EU Green Deal Strategy will have an impact on our trade relations particularly for textile and automotive sectors, which also constitute a high volume in our bilateral trade. While we believe that sustainability goals are of utmost importance, we also believe those should not turn out to be trade barriers. As the business world and as the Turkish industry, we have the potential to meet that goals and contribute to this necessary transition for all.
- In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, I strongly believe top Danish officials understand the importance of market diversity. In this regard, Turkey is emerging as a key actor and a new hub in the global supply chain. I believe Turkish & Danish business industries will increase their cooperation in the new normal.

I would like to finish my speech with a Danish proverb: **“Ingen roser uden torne.”** (*İngin hose udin tone*) Means, **“No rose without thorns.”**

I believe that we'll work harder to bloom new roses in our economic relations.

Thank you.

Nail OLPAK
President of DEİK