

**Türkiye-Ethiopia Business and Investment Roundtable
Meeting**

30 May 2022, 09.00

Minister of Trade of Türkiye Mr. Mehmet Muş,

**Minister of Mines and Petroleum of Ethiopia Mr. Takele Uma
Banti,**

Investment Commissioner Mrs. Lelise Neme,

Ethiopian Ambassador to Ankara Mr. Adem Mohammed,

**Chair of Türkiye-Ethiopia Business Council Mr. Fatih Volkan
Kazova,**

Dear Guests,

On behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye - DEİK, I am delighted to be with you in this meaningful meeting in our new headquarters.

It is an honor for me to be with one of our key trading and investment partners in Ethiopia. And I hope we are going to take important steps for our economic relations today.

Let me continue with a brief introduction of DEİK to get more familiar.

Foreign Economic Relations Board, DEİK, is a business platform that has been continuing its activities for 37 years in order to enhance all economic relations, between Türkiye and the other countries. We continue our activities with an understanding of “business diplomacy”.

As part of this “business diplomacy” perspective, I firmly believe that today is a good chance to consider our bilateral economic relations of the two friend countries.

There are 148 Business Councils in DEİK, 140 of those are country based Business Councils. We have a strong structure of Business Councils in the world; 45 in Africa, 37 in Europe, 19 in Asia-Pacific, 13 in the Middle East, 13 in Eurasia and 14 in the Americas. Also, we just set up a business council called “Digital Technologies” under Sectoral Business Councils.

I mean, it is a unique business platform with such a large network. I hope that the Ethiopian business world will also benefit from this network.

During the past 20 years, political trust between Türkiye and African countries has been continuously strengthened, and Türkiye has established a powerful partnership in the continent of Africa, which was upgraded to a Strategic Partnership for mutual-benefit and common development.

Ethiopia has representations of the African Union-AU and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, UNECA, and more than 50 international organizations. I would like to express that we are aware of the strategic importance of Ethiopia in the African continent and that we

believe that our economic and commercial activities between the two countries will increase even more.

The trade volume between the two countries is close to 400 \$ million. However, we should reach 1 \$ billion trade volume target in a balanced way. Here the main part of the responsibility belongs to business representatives. We should increase mutual investments and further develop our cooperation with Ethiopia. Also Ambassadors, the General Consuls, Ministers and Commercial Counsellors are here together with us for support. With this motivation, we should work harder.

There are some points, we should mention here.

- We should increase, our cooperation in the field of construction, defense and information technologies, Ethiopia has a big potential in these fields.
- Also, in recent months, the Ethiopian energy, food and media sector has accelerated and demand has been increased.
- It is necessary to establish a Turkish state bank in Ethiopia, where it is possible to act more quickly through state banks.

I would like to finish my speech with an Ethiopian saying, “**By persevering the egg walks on legs**”.

As persevering business representatives of the two countries, we'll exceed our potential to increase our economic relations.

Thank you for your attention.

Nail OLPAK

President of DEİK