

## **Türkiye-France Business Meeting**

**30 November 2022, Paris**

**Minister of Trade of Türkiye Mr. Mehmet Muş,**

**Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade, Economic Attractiveness  
and French Nationals Abroad Mr. Oliver Becht (*Olivir Beşt*),**

**MEDEF International France-Türkiye Business Council  
President Mr. Jean Lemierre (*Jan Lemier*),**

**Dear Participants,**

On behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board - DEİK, it's nice to be in Paris again.

Türkiye and France are two allied countries and nearly balanced trade between our countries exceeded \$17 billion in 2021. We're here to increase this figure in a balanced way too where the main responsibility belongs to business representatives while our ministers will broaden our way and we will work harder.

I want to point out few things which I believe will help us, as;

- Very well-known point which had been spoken all the times without an improvement is, Updating Customs Union. As business people we really do not find it logic where we have; freedom of goods, but

limited visas for the owner of the goods and also limited quotas for the carrier trucks of the goods.

- Covid-19 and Russian-Ukraine war taught all of us importance of supply chain and Türkiye showed a very positive action in that term. I believe this is a good asset to improve on.
- Cooperation in 3rd countries especially in Africa which we'd first started to speak with France some 4 years ago but couldn't move on, is another point.
- Collaboration in renewable energy and hydrogen should be spoken.
- Agenda of "France 2030" plan has; green energy, climate change, digital transformation, economic recovery and ecological transformation.
- I have two points here to add;
  - It's not only a digitalization but we should speak "Digital Economy" with all aspects.
  - Also Green Deal seems as not only an action related with climate and nature but a full system of "Green Economy".
  - Relatedly, there were actions decided to close down nuclear power stations and kicking out coal etc., but suddenly it has been discovered that nuclear was a green source and coal was not too bad.
  - So, while taking actions, we should take care each other's benefits too and should not put new barriers.

I'd like to finish my words with a French proverb, "**Quand on veut, on peut.**" (*Kant on vö, on pö*) which means, "**When one wants, one can**".

That's true. Where there's a will, there's a way. I believe, we all want to improve our economic relations, so we can.

I would like to extend my gratitude to esteemed Ministers, participants, our sponsors Esas Holding, TAV Airports (group of ADP) and DFDS Shipping and all those whose support has made this event possible.

Thank you.

**Nail OLPAK**

**President of DEİK**