

Türkiye-Morocco Business Forum

28 November 2025, İstanbul, Conrad Bosphorus Hotel, 10.00

Our Trade Minister Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat,

Secretary of State in charge of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco H.E. Omar Hejira,

President of the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises (CGEM) Chakib Alj,

DEİK/Türkiye-Morocco Business Council Chair Zeynep Bodur Okyay,

CGEM/Morocco-Türkiye Business Council Chair Najib Chraibi,

Distinguished Representatives of Public and Business Sectors,

I greet you all on behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board-DEİK and grateful to welcome you in İstanbul.

Let me start with a Moroccan saying, if I can pronounce well:

من جد وجد ومن زرع حصد (*Men jeddin vujida ve men zeraa hasada*) That means, **“Whoever strives, finds.”**

It emphasizes hard work and resilience. And I believe, as business people, we are steadily moving forward to enhance our trade and investment relations.

Let me continue about our DEİK family, Foreign Economic Relations Board, which is a business organization that has been continuing its activities for 40 years in order to enhance bilateral economic relations between Türkiye and other countries. We continue our efforts with an understanding of “Business Diplomacy”, operated on a voluntary membership basis without using public funds. And we carry out our activities with our 153 country-based and sectoral business councils all over the world.

DEİK/Türkiye-Morocco Business Council is one of them. It was founded in 1990 and, carrying on its activities with CGEM under the chair of Zeynep Bodur Okyay and Najib Chraibi.

Bilateral trade volume between us is close to \$5 billion and I believe we will exceed this threshold at the end of this year. The existence of a free trade agreement between two countries provides an important basis for the development of our bilateral trade relations. Investment relations between Türkiye and Morocco represent another strong area of cooperation. Turkish companies are actively involved in contracting projects in Morocco and have completed approximately \$4.3 billion worth of projects to date. Our target is to increase trade volume and mutual investments in a balanced way and exceed \$5 billion trade volume.

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

- The Moroccan market is becoming increasingly important for Turkish companies, both in terms of final product exports and as a gateway to the African market through local production. Considering Morocco’s existing free trade agreements with third parties—both at

the continental and bilateral levels—this point becomes even more critical.

- There is significant partnership potential in manufacturing and export activities to third countries. In particular, I consider it important to jointly leverage Morocco's and Türkiye's expertise in the automotive industry—including spare parts manufacturing—along with their experience in textiles, to expand into third markets.
- We should take steps to ensure greater preferential access for Moroccan agricultural products in the Turkish market.
- Türkiye's extensive experience in transportation and infrastructure is highly aligned with Morocco's needs. We can work together particularly in hotel and residential construction and infrastructure development.
- When it comes to our country, which is the largest investment, manufacturing, and technology hub between Western Europe and China, has a foreign trade volume exceeding \$600 billion. We have significant investment opportunities in almost every sector, from energy to industry, agriculture to infrastructure and to information economics. I invite the Moroccan business community to invest in our country and take advantage of our investment opportunities especially in high technology sectors.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Our Trade Minister Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat and Secretary of State in charge of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco H.E. Omar Hejira and all those whose support has made this event possible.

Thank you.

Nail OLPAK

President of DEİK