

Türkiye-Spain 3rd JETCO Meeting

29 May 2025, DEİK HQ, 16.45

Minister of Trade Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat,

**Minister of Economy, Trade and Enterprises of Spain Carlos
Cuerpo (*Karlos Kuerpo*),**

Deputy Minister Mustafa Tuzcu,

DEİK/Türkiye-Spain Business Council Chairp Ebru Özdemir,

**Vicepresident of CEOE Iñigo Fernández de Mesa (*İnyigo
Fernandez de Mase*)**

**International Director of Spanish Chamber of Commerce Jaime
Montalvo (*Hayme Montelvo*),**

Distinguished Representatives of Public and Business Sectors,

I greet you all on behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board-DEİK
and grateful to be together with our friends.

Foreign Economic Relations Board, DEİK, 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 through membership fees and contributions.

DEİK/Türkiye-Spain Business Council is one of them. It was founded in 1989 and, carrying on its activities with Confederación Española de Organizaciones Empresariales (CEOE) with leadership of Ebru Özdemir and Carlos Torres Vila (*Torres Mila*).

Last year our trade volume approached \$20 billion where we nearly have a balanced trade. The world economy has been suffering from trade policy uncertainties. And the best strategy in these difficult times is to increase our trade volume and mutual collaboration.

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

- First of all, modernization of EU-Türkiye Customs Union Agreement, including the scope of the green and digital transformation, has become even more important. We expect greater support from our Spanish friends.
- It is very important to enhance our collaborations in the fields of technology and innovation and to establish strategic partnerships. Last year, at Spain-Türkiye Business Forum, our Digital Technologies Business Council signed an MoU with Amadeus. I hope we can get positive and concrete results from that.

- As both countries significantly increase renewable energy sources, we, as representatives of the business world, have a greater responsibility at this point.
- Defense is another emerging industry in which both countries can collaborate more. In recent weeks, an agreement was signed between TUSAŞ, Airbus, and the Spanish Ministry of Defense that paves the way for the export of Hürjet to NATO members and other countries. We hope to see more of such collaborations.
- 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. There has been an increase in the involvement of Turkish companies in the construction of facilities and service buildings such as roads, dams, water projects, and hospitals in Spain. I invite the Spanish business community to invest in our country and take advantage of our investment opportunities especially in high technology sectors.

I would like to finish my speech with a Spanish saying, **“No hay atajo sin trabajo” (No ay ataho sin travaho)** That means, **“There is no shortcut without work.”**

True success requires effort. I believe, as Turkish and Spanish business representatives, we will be successful by strengthening our trade and investment relations.

Now I'll give the floor to our private sector representatives to share their views on bilateral relations and their sectors. I have XX names here in my list, considering time limit, I'll ask as the moderator not to exceed 2 minutes.

Private Sector Representatives

1. ...

Thanks a lot for private sector representatives.

Now, I'll give the floor to Esteemed Ministers for their closing remarks.

First of all we'll listen Minister Cuerpo.

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Thank you Excellency.

And finally we'll listen Minister Prof. Bolat.

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Thank you Excellency Minister.

With those, I'd like to extend my gratitude to our, esteemed ministers, our sponsors Garanti BBVA, Limak Holding, Ilport Holding, also all participants as well as to all those who made this event possible.

Nail OLPAK

President of DEİK

