

Türkiye- UK Roundtable Meeting

5 January 2024, DEİK-İstanbul

H.E. Trade Minister Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat,

**H.E. Secretary of State for Business and Trade of UK Mrs.
Kemi Badenoch (*Kemi Beydinok*),**

Ambassador H.E. Mrs. Jill Morris,

President of MÜSİAD Mahmut Asmalı,

**DEİK/Türkiye-UK Business Council Chairperson Osman
Okyay,**

**Consul General and Trade Commissioner for Eastern Europe
and Central Asia Mr. Kenan Poleo,**

Esteemed representatives of TİM, TOBB, TÜSİAD, ASKON

I welcome you all in the beginning of a new year in İstanbul in our premises on behalf of the Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK).

Today both countries' private sectors are being represented by leading business institutions where some are also DEİK's founding members. We also have participants from major companies doing business between Türkiye and the UK. In order to use the time effectively, in this roundtable we will give the floor to company representatives only.

We kindly ask understanding of the institutions to make their speeches in second section during JETCO meeting.

We have a long history and deep-rooted trade and investment relations. According to 2023 figures, UK is our third biggest trade partner in Europe with a bilateral trade of \$20 billion and UK ranked as the 9th country with 8 billion \$ FDI in Türkiye, focused in food, energy, infrastructure and tourism. Also Turkish companies have 4 billion \$ FDI in the UK. That's of course good but for business people never enough. Here to increase these figures main responsibility belongs to the business people where our ministers are here to help us.

Let me underline few points which will help to develop our cooperation;

- As a private sector, we are looking forward to completion of FTA revision as soon as possible.
- We should focus on collaboration on; clean technologies, renewable energy and green transformation. As green and digital transformation go hand in hand, we believe digital transformation is another specific area in which we can cooperate more through DEİK's Digital Technologies Business Council.
- Another point is cooperation between our companies in third countries, especially in Middle East and Africa.
- Start-ups and services sector are also other areas we can create more synergy and successful outcomes.

Dear Participants,

Now I'll like to give the floor to President of MÜSİAD Mahmut Asmalı, our esteemed co-organizer of today's meeting.

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Thank you Mr. Asmalı.

Now, we'll listen our Ministers. Now I'd like to invite Secretary of State for Business and Trade of the United Kingdom Kemi Badenoch.

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Thank you Madame Minister.

I invite Minister Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat for his opening remarks.

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Thank you Mr. Minister.

We'll continue with private sector representatives. Considering time limit, I'll ask as the moderator not to exceed 2 minutes and leave thanking section to Ministers and participants which I already made for all of us.

Private Sector Representatives

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Thank you for your speeches.

Now I'd like to give the floor to the Ministers for their closing remarks.

Secretary of State for Business and Trade of the United Kingdom
Mrs. Kemi Badenoch (Kemi Beydinok)

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Trade Minister of the Republic of Trkiye Prof. Dr. mer Bolat

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I'd like to extend my gratitude to esteemed Ministers, all participants and to our sponsors Kale Group, Kalyon Holding and Turkish Airlines as well as to all those who made this event possible.

Thank you.

Nail OLPAK

President of DEİK