

United Arab Emirates-Türkiye Roundtable Meeting

7 April 2025, Abu Dhabi, 14.35

Minister of Trade Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat,

**UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade Thani Bin Ahmed Al
Zeyoudi,**

Deputy Minister of Trade Mustafa Tuzcu,

**DEİK/Türkiye-UAE Business Council Chairperson Mehmet Ali
Akarca,**

Ambassador Lütfullah Göktaş,

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.

Our relations with the UAE are progressing well in many areas. I'm pleased to be together XX Emirati and 18 Turkish business representatives and hope this roundtable meeting will be fruitful to improve our economic relations with today's networking session.

Foreign Economic Relations Board, DEİK, is an NGO 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 152 country based and sectoral business councils all over the world through membership fees and contributions.

DEİK/Türkiye-UAE Business Council is one of them. It was founded in 2000 and, carrying on its activities with UAE Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry under the leadership of Mehmet Ali Akarca.

Since the 2020 pandemic, our trade volume with the UAE has been increasing steadily and consistently. Last year our trade volume exceeded \$15 billion. In addition to rising mutual trade volumes, our economies are benefiting from increasing and diversifying mutual investments.

In this context, the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the two countries came into effect on September 1. Subsequently, the 1st Term Meeting of the Türkiye-United Arab Emirates (UAE) Economic and Trade Partnership Committee (JETCO) was signed, and in 2023, we held the Türkiye-UAE Business Forum in Istanbul with the participation of our ministers and nearly 300 businesspeople. As DEİK, we also signed a goodwill agreement with the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development and Dubai Chambers.

Honorable Ministers,

After recently announced new tariffs of the United States we expect global trade and global growth suffer from new trade wars. The best strategy in these difficult and uncertain times is to increase our mutual

collaboration and we believe UAE will be one of our best trade and investment partners.

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

- UAE wants to have differentiation in its economy with “Abu Dhabi Vision 2040”. There’re special opportunities in housing, transport and infrastructure.
- Finance, banking, fintech, e-commerce, renewable energy, agriculture, industry, hightech, innovation, tourism, logistic are also other possible areas to cooperate.
- Thanks to UAE originated companies acting in our country, we want to have them more.
- Since UAE is also an important re-export center, let’s also focus on having partnerships at third countries.
- We believe digital transformation is another specific area in which we can cooperate more through DEİK’s Digital Technologies Business Council.
- Now, let’s move on Türkiye. 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 the UAE. I invite the Emirati 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 an Emirati saying, (الصبر مفتاح الفرج), (*Al-Sabr Miftah Al-Faraj*) That means, “**Patience is the key to success.**”

I believe, as patient Turkish and Emirati business representatives, we will be successful by strengthening our trade and investment relations.

Now I’ll give the floor to our private sector representatives who wants to invest and do business in the UAE to share their views on bilateral relations and their sectors. I have 18 names here in my list, considering time limit, I’ll ask as the moderator not to exceed 2 minutes.

Private Sector Representatives

...

I’d like to extend my gratitude to our, esteemed ministers, also all participants as well as to all those who made this event possible.

Nail OLPAK

President of DEİK