

Luncheon Meeting of Pakistan Turkey Joint Business Council of FPCCI/DEIK

Mr. Amjad Rafi, Chairman Pakistan Turkey Joint Business Council held luncheon meeting with Mr. Ahmet Cengiz Özdemir, Chairperson, DEIK/ Türkiye – Pakistan Business Council at DEIK's New Building, in Istanbul Turkey. DEIK also invited Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Federal Minister of Board of Investment of Pakistan and Ms Fareena Mazhar, Secretary Board of Investment for meeting. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Bilal Khan Pasha, Consul General of Pakistan, Syed Atif Raza, Counsellor, Embassy of Pakistan, Ankara and Board Members of DEIK.



Several renowned Turkish Companies participated in the meeting.

- a) Siyahkalem Inc.
- b) Hayat Kimya, Turkey
- c) Bank Al Habib Limited Türkiye Temsilcilik Ofisi
- d) Coca Cola İçecek A.Ş.
- e) Habib Bank Limited İstanbul Türkiye Merkez Şubesi
- f) Analiz Group
- g) Zorlu Enerji Elektrik Üretim A.Ş
- h) Murahhas Aza

While welcoming the participants, **Mr. Ahmet Cengiz Özdemir, Chairperson, DEİK/ Türkiye – Pakistan Business Council** stated that Turkey wants continuous dialogue for enhancement of trade and investment. He indicated that the Preferential Trade Agreement will be signed in next month which will further facilitate bilateral trade between both countries. He also supported implementation of TIR and road transportation and emphasized on removal of trade impediments.

Mr. Amjad Rafi, Co-Chairman Pakistan Turkey Joint Business Council briefly informed the house joint activities held during the past many years including period of COVID. He also mentioned that Interconnected Business Series I and II were organized by Pakistan Turkiye Joint Business Council which were attended by 100 to 150 companies of Pakistan and Turkey and was also participated by Foreign Mission of both countries including both Ambassadors, Consul Generals and Trade/Commercial Counsellors. This meeting was first physical meeting after COVID-19. He also highlighted the transportation of goods by roads under TIR which unfortunately was stopped due to non-facilitation by commercial banks in Pakistan. He also mentioned the importance of saving of freight and time after smooth functioning of ROAD CONNECTIVITY, hoped that PTA agreement will be concluded between two Governments which he discussed during Prime Minister's Visit. He also appreciated Federal Minister, Board of Investment of Pakistan for participation in meeting and directly interacting with Turkish companies to and discuss future plan of activities and resolve impediments.

Chaudhary Salik Hussain, Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI) also appreciated activities of Pakistan Turkey Joint Business Council and also interacted with the Turkish business groups again despite the fact that he met them in Ankara, during visit of Prime Minister last month. He indicated their keen interest and recommendations and proposals to deepen trade and economic linkages between two brotherly countries. He assured the participants that Pakistan is ready to resolve issues related to investment raised by Turkish companies in Prime Minister Visit. He also welcomed any new investment in Pakistan from Turkish side.

Ms Fareena Mazhar, Secretary BOI Pakistan said Board of Investment have to facilitate foreign direct investment on directives of Prime Minister and particularly Turkish investment due to long standing relations. She advised Turkish investors/companies to freely communicate their issues faced by them in investment in Pakistan.

The meeting also discussed ways and means to achieve the target set by the both countries to take bilateral trade to USD 5 billion in next three years. Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI) meeting with DEİK also provided a useful opportunity to follow-up on actions and decisions taken during the visit of the Prime Minister to Turkey from 31st May – 2 June 2022. He assured the participants the Government's resolve and commitment to facilitate businesses and investors in Pakistan.

Representatives of Turkish Companies also talked about their issues which they also raised during Prime Minister Visit and informed that many of the issues have been resolved and they showed their satisfaction with regular interaction with PTJBC and BOI.

M/s Hayat Kimya, Turkey indicated that they want to make investment in tissue papers manufacturing in Pakistan which will be their new plant in Pakistan and they need permission to introduce their products in Pakistani market and allow some Quantity as sample introduction. Minister assured that Government of Pakistan will look into this genuine case and will decide favorably.

