

9th Turkey Investment Conference

H.E Ruhsar Pekcan, Minister of Trade,
H.E Berat Albayrak, Minister of Treasury and Finance,
H.E Mustafa Varank, Minister of Industry and Technology,
H.E Hulusi Akar, Minister of National Defense,
H.E Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
H.E Fahrettin Koca, Minister of Health,
Turkish and US Business Leaders,
Members of the Press, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey – DEİK, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all, together with the Turkey Investment Office, at this historic venue, today.

I'm delighted that we're all together here today and I'd like to talk about why we're all here today.

The key word for everyone, but especially for business communities, is "sustainability". Sustaining important and valuable partnerships matters immensely.

There will be sunny days and there will also be rainy days in our life, as we've all been experiencing this week in New York.

But even on the rainy days, we never give up.

The relationship between Turkey and the US, can be viewed the same way.

And today, the business community is here to say that, we believe in the sustainability of that relationship.

In business, when there are challenges, we always focus on finding solutions and do what it takes to get there.

I am 57.

My earliest memories of America are still clear in my mind.

I remember the Marshall Plan.

I also remember American Military Aid terms.

I remember Turkish soldiers returning home from fighting with America in the Korean war, I remember they gained the nick name “the Koreans”.

I remember during the term of President George HW Bush, when Turkey’s President Özal said “We don’t want more aid, we want more trade”, which brought an end to the era of Turkey, relying on aid from the US, and our two nations became business partners instead. Following that, in 1985, in the presence of both presidents, TAİK, Turkish American Business Council was founded which was the first business council of DEİK.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those, who have made the effort to improve our bilateral relations and helped our business councils work effectively, both in the US and Turkey.

Although, there have been ups and downs, our relations have always improved, our trade and investments have always strengthened.

I deeply believe that, in spite of the recent disagreements, our vital indicators will keep going onwards and upwards.

I’m not going to speak about the statistical economic data.

But, I would like to highlight one important matter.

Despite everything, our bilateral trade grew by nearly 18%, a development which I find very important.

Honorable Ministers and Participants,

Today, DEİK has more than 1.200 businesses as members. I see the great passion and enthusiasm that Business community brings to it’s work every day, and I know that we will continue to serve as a bridge between our countries and will continue to enhance investment opportunities and trade relations.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone here for your participation, first of all our President Mr Erdogan, who will be arriving soon. Also, our honorable ministers, Chairmen of TOBB The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, TİM Turkish Exporters Assembly, business representatives of Turkey and US, members of the press and those whose support made this event possible.

Thank you.

Nail Olpak

The Chairman of DEİK