

**AGREED MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF  
THE NETHERLANDS-TÜRKİYE JOINT ECONOMIC  
AND TRADE COMMISSION (JETCO)**

The Netherlands - Türkiye Joint Economic and Trade Commission (hereinafter referred to as JETCO), which was established with "the Declaration on the Establishment of JETCO" signed in Ankara on June 3, 2014, held its fourth meeting in The Hague on February 22, 2023.

The Turkish Delegation was headed by H.E. Mehmet MUŞ, the Minister of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye and the Dutch Delegation was headed by H.E. Liesje SCHREINEMACHER, the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

During the meeting, both Sides reviewed the developments in the bilateral trade and investment relations during the recent period and stated that achieving further improvement on economic and commercial ties and reaching a greater volume of bilateral trade and investments is a shared objective. To this end, both Sides discussed potential areas in which bilateral economic cooperation could be improved.

The members of the two Delegations are listed in Annexes I and II, respectively.

The results of the discussions are summarized as follows:

**I. SUBJECTS OF GENERAL NATURE**

**1. Opening**

Both Sides underlined their strong economic linkages and stressed the importance of continued cooperation to enhance their trade relationship.

The two Sides, also recalling the successful Third Session of the JETCO on September 28, 2022 in a virtual environment, agreed to further develop bilateral trade and economic relations, in particular in sustainable supply chains, circular economy, smart and green mobility, green energy and women entrepreneurship. During the JETCO, EU-related and global trade issues were also discussed.

Both Sides expressed their satisfaction on the end of the Covid-19 pandemic and that it was possible to re-establish trade at global and regional level. However, the war in Ukraine disrupted global economic developments, with shortages on energy, high food prices and inflation. Both Sides discussed mechanisms for decreasing these negative effects in their respective countries and on the bilateral economic and commercial relations between the Netherlands and Türkiye.

Both Sides noted with satisfaction that a joint working group on Research and Innovation has been established as agreed on previous JETCO and had meetings to discuss the bilateral topics. Both Sides emphasized the significance of an effective and productive cooperation between their respective small and medium scaled establishments towards the consolidation of a solid economic and technical

collaboration between their two countries.

## **2. Economic Outlook in Türkiye and The Netherlands**

Both sides gave an overview of the current economic outlook for their respective countries and gave an explanation on the measures that were taken in order to fight inflation, maintain economic growth and to sustain low-income groups against the effects of the high prices.

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## **3. Ukraine**

Both Sides expressed the importance of ending the war in Ukraine and gave an overview of the measures that were taken in order to support the ending of the war.

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## **4. Investment Climate**

Both Sides emphasized the importance of creating a business environment in either country that welcomes foreign investments from the other country, including commitment to the Rule of Law, Transparency and Stability in the Legal and Regulatory Environment, Protection of Real and Intellectual Property Rights, respect for human rights, and ensuring Responsible Business Conduct.

Both Sides, emphasizing the importance of investments, joint projects and joint ventures towards the development of bilateral economic and commercial relations, and foreign investments, agreed to encourage more cooperation between Dutch and Turkish businesses through identifying specific joint commercial and investment opportunities in their respective countries, as well as in third markets, particularly Africa, Latin America, Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Middle East.

In this connection, the Turkish Side, in order to foster joint operations of Dutch and Turkish companies in third countries, expressed its willingness and desire to work on a comprehensive form of cooperation (reinsurance/ guarantee agreements).

Both Sides underlined the benefits of a transparent and public procurement market, designed in conformity with ambitious environmental and labor standards.

Both Sides agreed to encourage the cooperation between relevant Dutch and Turkish business circles and companies in order to identify specific joint opportunities in their respective countries and vitalize promotion activities between the two countries in the field of contracting and technical consultancy services.

## **5. Migration**

The Dutch Side explained that it recently has received a strong influx of migration from Türkiye, .....

## II. BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND TRADE COOPERATION

### 1. Trade promotion Activities and Investments

Both Sides underlined the importance of supporting cooperation among their private sectors and vitalizing promotion activities towards enhancing bilateral economic and commercial relations between the two countries.

The two Sides, in this framework, stated their satisfaction with the "Dutch-Turkish Business Round Table" taking place within the margin of the Fourth Session of JETCO at the premises of the Dutch Employers Organization VNO-NCW in The Hague, with the participation of leading companies and investors of both countries.

Both Sides also expressed their satisfaction with the Business Forum that was held on the same day in The Hague, where the private sector of both countries had the opportunity to have face to face contacts, with the wide participation of business circles and relevant firms of their respective countries.

Both Sides, in line with this, also expressed their willingness to encourage the participation of their private sectors to fairs and exhibitions to be organized in their respective countries and to arrange visits of business delegations in potential sectors with a view to achieving higher level of bilateral trade and investment.

Both Sides briefed each other about their investment environments and welcomed the efforts of their relevant institutions and organizations, mainly the Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency and the Investment Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey towards attracting more investments to the Dutch and Turkish markets.

The Dutch Side explained that it welcomes all kind of investments and that recently priorities have changed, so that the Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency focuses on assisting foreign companies that provides sustainable, innovative and digital solutions to global challenges.

Both Sides emphasized the importance of investments towards the development of bilateral economic and commercial relations as well as the importance of foreign investments for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The two Sides, stating their mutual understanding that the existing Agreement on Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments between the two countries which is in force since November 1989 should be modernized, decided to hold technical pre-negotiations between related institutions of the two countries at the earliest possible time towards conveying positions and preferences of both Sides to each other so that official negotiations on the revision of the said Agreement should be started as soon as possible if a consensus is reached during the said pre-negotiations.

### 2. Circular and Zero Waste Economy

Both Sides took note with satisfaction the progress made in the bilateral cooperation supporting the transition towards a circular economy. More in particular they took note of the successful textile and food circularity collaborations between the respective Netherlands and Turkish businesses, knowledge institutes, NGOs and government bodies, and of the upcoming trade mission from the Netherlands to Türkiye on circular textile at the end of March 2023.

Both Sides agreed on the continuation of this cooperation and knowledge transfer in these areas with the aim to foster sustainable trade and investment relations between the Netherlands and Turkey. In that regard, both Sides expressed their commitments to get adjusted - if needed and without harming the environment - the legislative frameworks and/or trade restrictions for used garments and other commodities that are related to the above-mentioned co-operations.

Both Sides took note of the approval of by the European Parliament of the new Waste Shipment Regulation, and concluded that this Regulation will make it harder to export waste from the EU to third countries including Türkiye.

The Dutch Side explained that the aim of this regulation is to foster improved processes in the EU and in its exports markets for the treatment of waste, making it more responsible for dealing with its own waste.

The Turkish Side explained that in order to achieve the goals with regard to Circular Economy, it is necessary to cooperate with third countries. It also emphasized that with a special attention to the import of metal scrap from the EU, this new regulation should not yield any trade restrictive measures. Considering Türkiye's contribution to the circular economy objectives of the EU with its steel production, which is predominantly done with Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) production process using ferrous scrap as raw material, Türkiye should not be excluded from EU's circular economy goals.

### **3. Urban Mobility and Sustainable Transport**

Both Sides indicated that joint efforts to contribute to more livable cities and sustainable transport present significant opportunities for cooperation between cities (G2G), but also on the B2B and B2G levels.

Both sides, as the signatories to Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Zero-Emission Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles, agreed to work more in close cooperation to identify viable pathways and supportive implementation action to achieve the targets set in the MOU.

Both Sides, indicating that smart and green solutions for urban mobility and making their cities more resilient against climate change will remain to be focal areas for cooperation and co-design, acknowledged the mutually beneficial character of bringing together stakeholders from both countries, also in the framework of EU programs like the "EIT Kick Program for Urban Mobility" under which the focus will be on the transition to zero emission and multimodal mobility.

Both Sides, considering the impact of Covid-19 on urban life and mobility, welcomed more in particular the ongoing joint projects on cycling and related fields of cooperation like the Green Valleys and Green Corridors.

Both Sides therefore also welcomed the transfer of knowledge and experience in these fields including assignments in consultancy and advice in urban design, development and construction of cycling and public transports and/or the implementation of e- mobility innovations and products.

Both Sides also welcomed the suggestion to include in the above-mentioned cooperation exchange of expertise in the fields of Smart Cities, Urban Information

Systems Geospatial Technologies, upper-scaled spatial planning, urban development policies for sustainable cities, rural area planning, urban renewal projects and risk assessment, dissemination and technical capacity building.

The Turkish Side suggested to strengthen technical cooperation in the field of construction industry including project management, building safety, knowledge-sharing, engineering education, building inspection and damage assessment, debris removal and infrastructure coordination works in the scope of disaster management.

Both Sides welcomed in that regard the idea to add urban regeneration to the cooperation. This could include:

- Development of new urban regeneration models, taking into consideration housing for middle and low income groups;
- Development of new financial tools for urban regeneration.

Both Sides expressed their interest and intention towards initiating a cooperation in the fields of standardization and conformity assessment.

In this context, the Netherlands Standardization Institute (NEN) and the Turkish Standards Institution (TSE) will support each other at the international standardization organizations such as ISO, IEC, CEN and CENELEC.

#### **4. Green Energy**

Both Sides expressed the importance of building strong partnerships between governments and business in supporting to realize the Energy Transition towards Renewable Energy Resources, which includes policy reforms and measures to transform the Energy sector.

Offshore Wind Energy  
Solar Energy  
Geothermal  
Hydrogen

#### **5. Water**

Both Sides expressed their willingness to enhance bilateral dialogue and cooperation in the field of Water Management.

UN Water Conference in NY  
Influential Program  
AFAD  
Water Conference

#### **6. European Green deal**

Both Sides expressed the importance of building strong partnerships between governments and business in supporting to realize the European Green Deal which includes comprehensive policy reforms and measures to transform the industrial sector and all the value chains in a sustainable manner.

The sides also highlighted that the Green Deal shall concentrate on building partnerships that would create new trade and business opportunities for their

countries, while combating a global problem. In this vein, both sides welcomed the high cooperation potential across value chains and sectors of the Netherlands and Turkey.

Both sides also highlighted the importance to the provision of an inclusive finance mechanism and the mobilization of both EU and international funds fairly for supporting the Green Deal globally.

## **7. Visa and business**

The Turkish Side .....

## **8. Anti-dumping on Turkish Ceramics**

The Turkish Side ....

## **9. WTO Panel regarding safeguard measures on Turkish Iron and Steel**

The Turkish Side ....

## **10. Women Entrepreneurship**

Both Sides, attributing high importance to the contribution of women to economic and commercial life of the Netherlands and Turkey and to bilateral economic and trade cooperation between the two countries and welcoming all kinds of concrete initiatives within this framework, expressed their satisfaction with the active participation of women in business life and agreed on exerting every necessary effort towards promoting activities of women entrepreneurs.

The Netherlands reported on the event in Istanbul for Female Entrepreneurs with the participation of 5 Dutch and 5 Turkish female entrepreneurs in order to integrate innovative solutions and technology into their business, with a focus on Climate Change, organized by the Netherlands on January 23 and 23, 2023

Done and signed in The Hague on February 22, 2023, in two originals in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS**

**Mehmet MUŞ**  
**Minister of Trade**

**Liesje SCHREINEMACHER**  
**Minister for Foreign Trade and  
Development Cooperation**