



Turkey-EU High Level Economic Dialogue Joint Press Communiqué

February 28, 2019, Istanbul

The High-Level Economic Dialogue (HLED) between Turkey and European Union convened on February 28, 2019 in Istanbul for its third meeting. The meeting was co-chaired by the Treasury and Finance Minister, Dr. Berat Albayrak and Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Jobs, Growth and Investment, Jyrki Katainen.

The EU delegation included Commissioner for Transport, Violeta Bulc and representatives from Directorates-General for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations and for Trade. The Turkish delegation included Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Mehmet Cahit Turhan and Minister for Trade, Ruhsar Pekcan.

The meeting aimed at invigorating economic relations between Turkey and the EU by strengthening cooperation against the backdrop of moderating global economic growth, slowing global trade and geopolitical uncertainty.

The Turkey-EU Business Dialogue – complementary business pillar of the HLED - brought together the Turkish Ministers in charge of economic policy-making and their counterparts from the European Commission with leading Turkish and European business community representatives and International Financial Institutions, including the European Investment Bank, the Council of Europe Development Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to discuss areas where Turkish and EU governments and business can join forces to contribute to increased joint welfare.

In the government-to-government session, Ministers and Commissioners discussed the global and regional economic developments and evolution of the economic policy stance since the last meeting. Building on the feedback provided by the business community and international financial institutions, and in particular having acknowledged growing challenges to free trade and looming challenges of digitalisation, Ministers and Commissioners emphasised the importance of strengthening trade and investment relations, as well as pursuing structural reforms to maintain strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. Ministers and Commissioners also pointed to the crucial role of international financial institutions, in actively contributing to reach this overarching goal.

Ministers and Commissioners both reiterated their commitment to maintaining an open and frank dialogue, to addressing common challenges and to cooperating including in the essential areas of economy and trade. In this regard, they agreed to meet next year in Brussels.