

**PROTOCOL
OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE TÜRKİYE-LITHUANIA JOINT
ECONOMIC AND TRADE COMMISSION (JETCO)**

12 May 2022

Ankara

The Second Session of the Joint Economic and Trade Commission (hereinafter referred as the JETCO) between the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye Ministry and the Ministry of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania was held in Ankara on 12 May 2022.

The Turkish Delegation was headed by H.E. Mehmet MUŞ, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye, and the Lithuanian Delegation was headed by H.E. Ausrine Armonaite, Minister of the Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania

The Agenda of the Second Session of the JETCO was confirmed and is presented in Annex I.

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

During the meeting, various issues of mutual interest were discussed and the results of these deliberations are summarized as follows:

I. BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS

Bilateral Trade

Both Sides reviewed the developments in their bilateral trade and confirmed that there is a great potential for further increasing the trade volume.

Both Sides appreciated the contribution of Lithuanian-Turkish Business Forum and B2B meetings held simultaneously with the Second Session of the JETCO on 10 February 2022 in Ankara and reaffirmed that such events undoubtedly paved the way for further development of bilateral commercial and economic cooperation.

Both Sides informed each other about economic developments and policies of their countries and emphasized their mutual interest in the further improvement of the Lithuanian-Turkish cooperation.

Both Sides expressed their common desire to seek opportunities to strengthen and diversify their bilateral economic and commercial relations in various areas within the framework of effective and mutually advantageous conditions.

II. ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

1. Investments

Both Sides underlined the importance of increasing and levelling up the investments between Lithuania and Türkiye.

Both Sides, underlining the importance of further developing and broadening the cooperation between the two countries in the field of investments, decided to encourage bilateral cooperation and investment projects between Lithuanian and Turkish businesses in order to identify specific joint commercial and investment opportunities in third countries, especially throughout the Balkans, Central Asia, North Africa and Middle East.

The Turkish Side emphasized the importance of the project based incentive system implemented in Türkiye, particularly with a view to attract investments on diverse areas such as: renewable energy production, integrated metallurgy, petrochemicals, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and nanotechnology, light rail systems and high-speed trains, air, naval and ground defense systems, aircraft and space, information and telecommunication technologies.

2. Transportation

Both Sides acknowledged that Lithuania and Türkiye have great potential for cooperation in transportation and logistics sectors and affirmed their intention to further accelerate the beneficial relations in railway, logistics, maritime, civil aviation sectors, giving a special attention to the combined transport train called “Viking Train”.

Both Sides also reiterated the importance of generating better conditions for the development of effective intermodal transports, enabling modal shift from road to rail and water transports while reinforcing the attractiveness of rail and maritime transports services.

The Turkish side proposed to hold a Türkiye-Lithuania Joint Land Transport Commission in 2022. Turkish side also demanded that the uniform pass quotes be increased mutually.

3.1. Railway Transportation

The Turkish side stated that cooperation could be made with the Lithuanian Railway Administration on the supply, maintenance and modernization of rolling stock and towed vehicles, as well as technical cooperation, training, consultancy services and experience sharing.

Both Sides agreed to cooperate to further develop the “Viking Train” project on freight transport to/from the Caspian, Black Sea and Baltic Sea regions.

3.2. Air Transportation

Both Sides stated their appreciation with the ongoing civil aviation connectivity between the two countries.

4. Tourism/Culture

Both Sides expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved in tourism sector and reaffirmed their desire to further intensify existing cooperation in this regard.

Both Sides expressed readiness to continue organization of the press and info tours for the representatives of media and travel industry and participation in tourism.

Both Sides agreed to promote cooperation in the field of Special Interest Tourism through the exchange of know-how in the field.

Both Sides agreed to have a joint-technical committee meeting on tourism cooperation in order to further develop tourism affairs between two countries and spread the tourism more evenly throughout the year.

The Turkish Side, underlined Türkiye's tourism potential apart from summer tourism such as winter tourism and health tourism and invited Lithuanian tourists and tourism sector to explore the said potential of Türkiye.

The Parties shall encourage the institutions or associations to organize scientific conferences or seminars etc. or invite other Party to existing events in order to exchange ideas and share best practices on revival of cultural sphere on a national or local scale in the post pandemic period.

The Parties shall enhance the existing interaction on creative industries and digital cultural production by organizing meetings and events among institutions and companies or inviting other party to the existing events through the official channels.

5. Agriculture

Both Sides specified the following areas of common interest for further cooperation where applicable:

- improving cooperation between agricultural manufacturer/producer organizations of both countries, especially on publicity and joint activities;
- animal husbandry and aquaculture research, project development, short-term exchange of technical personnel and trainings
- exchanging expertise and good practices between institutions, responsible for administration of agricultural and rural development support, thus ensuring proper implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union (EU) in both countries.

6. Urban Development and Planning

Both Sides agreed to encourage and develop cooperation on environmental management, sustainable and smart cities, urban development policies for sustainable cities including innovative solutions for air pollution exposure, land management, sewage management, wastewater treatment, and to strengthen technical cooperation on energy efficiency and waste treatment in building and construction works.

Both Sides also decided to encourage actions in order to develop cooperation between their related organizations and exchange of expertise in the abovementioned domains.

8. Science, Technology, Innovation and Education

8.1. Innovations and R&D Activities

Recognising the importance of science, technology and innovation in the development of their national economies, both Sides decided to enhance scientific and technological cooperation.

Both Sides briefly introduced their innovation and R&D policies. Both Sides highlighted the opportunities for cooperation in this field and specified the following methods:

- encouraging participation in joint research and development projects between research entities, universities and institutions of Lithuania and Türkiye;
- Exchange of knowledge and experience on industry and organized industrial zones.

8.2. Innovative Business

Both Sides decided to enhance cooperation in the field of innovative business (startups) by encouraging collaboration between the main startup ecosystem players in both countries.

Parties agreed to cooperate for strengthening relationships and capacity building of SMEs through joint activities. KOSGEB is ready to cooperate with Enterprise Lithuania for sharing knowledge and experience on SME support models, and increasing technical and commercial cooperation between the SMEs of both countries.

8.3 Accreditation

Both sides expressed their readiness to develop the existing cooperation in the fields of standardization, conformity assesment and metrology.

Turkish Standards Institution (TSE) and Lithuanian Standards Board (LST) will support each other at international and regional platforms such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and at regional standardization organizations such as the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC).

The Halal Accreditation Agency declares its willingness to share information with and to conduct trainings for the relevant institutions of Lithuania in the field of halal accreditation and halal quality infrastructure upon request.

8.4 Contracting and Consultancy Services

Both Sides decided to share their know-how and best-practices in the field of contracting and consultancy services and to encourage their private sectors to establish regular contacts with a view to exploiting the opportunities existing in these fields in global markets.

8.5 Defence Industry

Both Sides reiterated the importance of further strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of industry for the development of their economic relations and expressed their interest particularly in the defence industry towards this end.

III. TRADE RELATED ISSUES FALLING UNDER THE EU COMPETENCES

1. Updating of the Customs Union

Both Sides recognized that Türkiye and EU Member States will substantially benefit in economic terms from the extension of the scope of the bilateral preferential trade relationship and the modernization and updating of the Customs Union between Türkiye and the EU.

Both Sides stressed the importance of adequately addressing the priorities of both Parties within this process and the start of the formal negotiations, once both sides are ready to engage in this process.

2. Visa Issues

Both Sides underlined the importance of reciprocal visits for the purpose of the development of bilateral trade and investment relations between the two countries.

Both Sides recognized the importance of access for business travellers as a means to restart the economy while respecting the current travel restrictions and national health measures following COVID-19.

The Turkish Side, in this regard, emphasized the importance attached by the Turkish Side to the removal of visa requirements for Turkish citizens by the EU.

3. Sustainable Supply Chains and European Green Deal

Both sides expressed their willingness to enhance bilateral dialogue and cooperation in the field of sustainable supply chains including due diligence, responsible business conduct, anti-corruption and the implementation of international labor and environmental standards. Both sides, in this regard, affirmed the importance of building partnerships in supporting the objectives of Agenda 2030, international climate agreements and the European Green Deal (EGD), the latter which includes comprehensive policy reforms and measures to transform the industrial sector and all value chains in a sustainable manner.

Both Sides stressed that Türkiye's ratification of the Paris Agreement and announcement of the net zero emissions target by 2053 will provide additional impetus to the implementation of Türkiye's Green Deal Action Plan.

The Turkish Side further highlighted that for reaching the goals of the EGD, strong partnerships with the European Commission, governments and business are of crucial importance. In this regard, Turkish side, as a candidate country and a Customs Union partner, stressed the importance of accessing equitable financial mechanisms and funds provided by the EU for supporting the green transformation.

4. Safeguard Measures on Steel Products

Both sides underlined the importance of prompt and positive conclusion of the review process of the EU's safeguards on steel products with the view of facilitating smooth and uninterrupted flow of trade in context of Türkiye-EU Customs Union and Türkiye-ECSC Free Trade Agreement. Both sides also emphasized the importance of enhancing cooperation in sustainable steel production and green transformation of iron and steel sector.

IV. THE NEXT SESSION OF THE JETCO

Both Sides agreed on holding the Second Session of the JETCO in Lithuania in 2023, on a date to be mutually determined through diplomatic channels.

Done and signed on 10 February 2022, in Ankara in two originals in English language, both texts being equally authentic.

Aušrinė ARMONAITĖ

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