

**FOURTH MEETING OF THE TURKISH-RUSSIAN WORKING GROUP ON TRADE,
INVESTMENTS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION
PROTOCOL**

The 4th meeting of the Turkish-Russian Working Group on Trade, Investments and Regional Cooperation (hereinafter “the Working Group”) which was established under the Turkish-Russian Joint Economic Commission (JEC), took place by videoconference on July 2, 2021.

The Working Group was co-chaired by Mr. Mustafa TUZCU, Deputy Minister of Trade of the Republic of Turkey on the Turkish side and Mr. Vladimir ILICHEV, Deputy Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation on the Russian side.

In the framework of the Working Group, the Turkish and Russian sides (hereinafter referred as the “Parties”) overviewed the developments and achievements of the Protocol of the 3rd meeting of the Working Group. The Working Group meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere, and the Parties agreed to take joint steps to develop the bilateral trade volume in a balanced way.

In this regard, the Parties expressed their satisfaction for the completion of following items in the 3rd Term Protocol of the Working Group:

- Starting the Russian operations of travel and hotel accommodations in Turkey,
- Organizing virtual seminars, fairs and trade delegations,
- Organizing commercial and economic meetings,
- Holding expert consultations on additional custom duties,
- Holding expert consultations on duties on steel products,
- Acceptance of FORM A (Certificate of Origin) documents with an e-signature in Russian customs,
- Holding expert consultations on custom valuation implementation,
- Holding the Technical Regulations, Conformity Assessment, Standardization and Metrology Sub-Working Group.

Parties also noted the importance of the progress and encouraged the relevant institutions of both sides to complete the process in following items specified in the 3rd Term Protocol of the Working Group:

- Signing a “Medium-Term Program of Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Investment Cooperation”,
- Conducting joint events for raising economic operators’ awareness of using local currencies,
- Signing a Memorandum of Understanding between KOSGEB and its Russian counterpart,
- Completing Negotiations of the Mutual Recognition Agreement,
- Extending Simplified Customs Corridor project for exports from Russia to Turkey,
- Preparing a joint action plan by Turkey-Russia Business Council and Russia-Turkey Business Council,
- Finalizing the launch of the fund operations by signing mutually agreed fund establishment documentation,
- Encouraging the exploratory talks between relevant organizations of both sides with an aim to establish of Turkish Logistics Center(s) in Russia,
- Discussing the tomato quota issue and come up with the following steps for a possible solution within the framework of the Agricultural Steering Committee to be held in July 2020,
- Accelerating the export approval of veterinary certificates for the export of duck and goose meat from Russia to Turkey.
- Accelerating the export approval process of 119 Turkish companies which are currently waiting to be included in allowance list in animal product importation.

The Parties reaffirmed the importance of the completion of items of the 3rd Term Protocol of the Working Group, and noted that any achievement or progress has not been recorded in following items:

- Initiating the exploratory talks aimed at signing a Regional Trade Agreement between Turkey and the EAEU,
- Developing solutions for facilitating and accelerating customs procedures in cross border B2B and B2C e-commerce within the framework of the Russian-Turkish Joint Customs Committee and its Working Groups,
- Organizing joint virtual or face-to-face seminars on e-commerce by the two countries' Business Circles to encourage SMEs of the two countries,
- Information sharing between Parties about their regional economic and investment potential and organizing contracting and investment delegation to Sverdlovsk Region and Novosibirsk region.

The Parties stressed the important role of the Working Group in the development of trade and economic cooperation between Turkey and Russia, including determining ways of developing mutual investment, as well as the diversification of bilateral trade.

The Parties noted that interregional cooperation plays a significant role in the development of trade and economic ties, and contributes to the socio-economic development of the regions.

The Parties agreed to promote mutual acquaintance with the economic and investment potential of the Republic of Turkey and the regions of the Russian Federation, to establish and develop cooperation between them in trade, economic, scientific, technical, humanitarian and other spheres.

The Parties agreed to develop the regulatory framework for interregional cooperation in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Turkey and the Russian Federation.

The Parties had preliminary talks regarding the Turkish-Russian 17th Term Joint Economic Commission Meeting (JEC) which will be held in Moscow on 28-30 July

2021 and decided to submit the outcomes of the Working Groups established under JEC Mechanism to the Secretariat of the JEC.

The Parties reaffirmed their intentions to fully implement the decisions and recommendations adopted by the 4th meeting of the Working Group.

The Parties agreed to hold the next meeting of the Turkish-Russian Trade, Investments and Regional Cooperation Working Group in the 3rd quarter of 2022 in Turkey.

This Protocol has been signed in English in two copies with the same validity on 2 July 2021.

Co-chair

Turkish part of Turkish-Russian Working
Group on Trade, Investment
and Regional Cooperation,

Deputy Minister of Trade
of the Republic of Turkey

Mustafa TUZCU

Co-chair

Russian part of Russian-Turkish Working
Group on Trade, Investment
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Deputy Minister of Economic
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Vladimir ILICHEV