

**PROTOCOL OF THE EIGHTH SESSION
OF THE TURKISH-SLOVENIAN
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION**

The Eighth Session of the Turkish-Slovenian Joint Economic Commission between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia pursuant to the Article 9 of the Agreement of the Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Slovenia signed on 8 March 1996 in Ljubljana and within the context of Turkey/Slovenia Strategic Partnership signed on 3 March 2011 in Ankara, took place on 21-22 November 2019, in Ljubljana.

The Turkish Delegation was headed by H.E. Dr. Mehmet Muharrem KASAPOĞLU, Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Turkey and Slovenian Delegation was headed by H.E. Dr. Miroslav CERAR, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia.

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

The Eighth Session of the Joint Economic Commission, took place in a cordial atmosphere of mutual understanding, reflecting the friendly relations between the two countries.

The two delegations reviewed the economic developments and policies prevailing in their respective countries and noted the advances in bilateral economic and trade relations, since the last session of the Commission that was held in Ankara in May 2017.

During the Eighth Session of the Joint Economic Commission various issues of mutual interest were discussed and the results of these deliberations are summarized as follows:

1. REVIEW OF BILATERAL TRADE

Both Sides underlined that the enhancement of bilateral trade and economic ties and trade relations between Turkey and Slovenia are the shared objectives of the two countries.

Both Sides reviewed the developments in their bilateral trade and noted with content the increase in the volume of bilateral trade since the Seventh Session of the Joint Economic Commission. Both Sides also agreed that a large potential between the two countries exists towards the further increase of the bilateral trade.

Both Sides agreed to take measures to further increase the bilateral trade and achieve a higher level of diversification.

Both Sides also agreed to work on increasing the number of mutual visits of trade delegations and businesspersons while encouraging their respective companies to participate in fairs and exhibitions to be held in their respective fields.

The opportunities for increasing investment cooperation between the two countries are mainly in the fields of energy and construction (design), medical equipment, environmental technologies and equipment, information technology and telecommunications, e-government, agri-food industry, transport and logistics.

2. EU RELATED ISSUES

Both Sides stressed the importance of adequately addressing the priorities of both Sides, including Turkish Side's priority with regard to the problems related to Free Trade Agreement negotiations, within the process of updating the Turkey-EU Customs Union that would enable the start of the formal negotiations.

Both Sides pointed out the potential positive economic and welfare impact that would be brought by the accession of Turkey to the EU for both Sides.

3. CONSUMER PROTECTION AND MARKET SURVEILLANCE

Both Sides expressed their readiness in developing cooperation in the field of consumer protection and market surveillance through exchange of experience, knowledge and experts between relevant Turkish and Slovenian authorities.

4. ENERGY

Both Sides highlighted the importance of ensuring their energy security, which remains crucial in providing economic prosperity to their citizens.

Both Sides agreed to further improve cooperation and energy dialogue, as agreed by the Letter of Intent between the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Infrastructure of the Republic of Slovenia on Cooperation in the Field of Energy, signed on March 30, 2015. Within this context, both Sides expressed their willingness to cooperate especially in the field of renewable energy.

5. TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Transportation

Road Transport

Both Sides agreed that the mutual cooperation in the field of road transport is going well and they shall take all necessary steps to further develop and strengthen the cooperation in the future. Both Sides, in this framework, noted with satisfaction the

holding of "Slovenia – Turkey Joint Committee Meeting on Road Transport" on 24 and 25 September 2019 in Ljubljana which formed a solid ground to further discussion on road transport. Both Sides also agreed on holding the next Meeting on Road Transport in Turkey.

The Turkish Side stated that transport quotas/fees imposed on Turkish commercial vehicles by some EU member states have negative effects on international trade and breach free trade principles.

The two Sides expressed their satisfaction about current level of cooperation and agreed to continue to work closely in this area.

Taking into consideration the fact that the significant share of international transport between Turkey and Slovenia is based on a combination of road, maritime and rail transport, both Sides agreed to start the negotiations on Combined Freight Transport Agreement between Turkey and Slovenia which would further foster intermodality in international transport operations and increase the trade volume by the facilitation of international freight transport through intermodal/combined solutions.

Air Transport

Both Sides expressed their satisfaction with the established international scheduled air services and emphasized their readiness to further develop air services, which contribute significantly to the development of the economy and tourism.

Maritime Transport

The Slovenian Side is interested in increasing the transshipment of goods with the Republic of Turkey via the Port of Koper and proposed to establish new direct shipping lines between Port of Koper and Turkish ports as well as to sign an Agreement on Cooperation with one or more Turkish ports.

The Turkish Side expressed its commitment to initiate the negotiations on a bilateral Maritime Agreement and informed the Slovenian Side that the draft text of the said Agreement was already sent via diplomatic channels. The Slovenian Side agreed to assess the possibility to initiate the negotiations such an Agreement and to inform the Turkish Side about the results of its assessments at the earliest convenience.

Information Communication Technologies

Both Sides agreed on strengthening cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies and digitalization, especially the development of e-government and e-commerce in the form of exchanging experiences and best practices between public administrations of both countries and IT businesses.

Within the scope of the this Protocol, both Sides will make efforts to create conditions for sustainable development through cooperation to facilitate the building of a prosperous information society and digital economy and promote the partnership between the two countries.

6. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FOOD

Both Sides welcomed their very constructive cooperation in the field of agriculture and forestry. Within the framework of the "Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia" signed on November 27, 2007 in Ankara, the 2nd Meeting of Turkey-Slovenia Agricultural and Forestry Steering Committee was held on 22nd August 2019 in Slovenia.

At the 2nd Meeting of Turkey-Slovenia Agricultural and Forestry Steering Committee, both Sides agreed that the exchange of know-how and techniques between two countries should be enriched via scientific and technologic cooperation and participation in joint research projects. Both Sides discussed the key priorities for future bilateral cooperation, which are listed and summarized as follows: Animal Health (Veterinary) and Livestock, Plant Health (Phytosanitary) and Plant Production, Agriculture and Rural Development, Sustainable Forestry Management. Both Sides also agreed to ensure the mutual participation of the private sector of both countries in trade fairs in order to increase the trade of agricultural products and the possible investments in the food processing industry and cooperate on aquaculture and exchange of knowledge and experience.

Both Sides decided to cooperate on following points;

- Increasing cooperation in crop production issues,
- Technical cooperation and sharing of knowledge in the fields of field crops research, biotechnology, plant health research and soil-water resources research,
- Cooperation in aquaculture, exchange of knowledge and experience, exchange of research, publications and experts,
- Leading innovations in stamping and product tracking to protect forests from illegal interventions,
- Forest management and the impact on water resources,
- Combating forest pests,
- Adaptation of forests to climate change,
- Collaborating on rehabilitation and afforestation of degraded forest areas in Slovenia,
- Supporting afforestation with drought-resistant species to adapt to climate change,
- Leading technical cooperation in organizing fire and early notification,
- As an example of sustainable and multipurpose forest management, making ecosystem-based functional forest management plan,
- Cooperating on soil conservation, erosion control, combat on desertification,
- Cooperating on adaptation of forests to the climate change,
- Cooperating on protection of genetic resource of forests.

Both Sides expressed their appreciation with the signing of "Agriculture and Forestry Action Plan for Years 2019-2021 between the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia" on 22nd November 2019 in Slovenia.

Both Sides agreed to convene the 3rd Meeting of the Agricultural Steering Committee in 2020 in Turkey.

7. CULTURE

The Turkish Side proposed to organize reciprocal activities in the field of music and performing arts.

The Turkish Side proposed to exchange librarians from each country from the national libraries or other public libraries of the two countries with a view to obtain information about the system of the public libraries and to promote the collaboration and direct contacts between their public libraries.

The Slovenian Side agreed to convey the proposal to its relevant authorities and inform the Turkish Side as soon as possible.

8. TOURISM

Both Sides agreed on organizing tourism workshops aiming at development of tourism between the two countries; increasing number of announcements and participations of tourism fairs and exhibitions (except for those of historical heritage) organized in Turkey and Slovenia through relevant institutions.

Both Sides decided to develop cooperation and exchange information in the field of vocational tourism training by benefiting from the experts' experience.

9. ENVIRONMENT AND URBANISATION

Both Sides decided to take necessary actions in order to develop cooperation between the related organizations and exchange of expertise in the fields of upper-scaled spatial planning, urban development policies for sustainable cities, integrated coastal zone planning, rural area planning, urban renewal projects and risk assessment.

Both Sides agreed to cooperate in the field of construction works including project management, building safety, knowledge-sharing, engineering education, building inspection and damage assessment, debris removal and infrastructure coordination works within the scope of disaster and environment.

10. SCIENCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

Both Sides agreed to continue to support exchanges between researchers and research institutions from both countries within bilateral cooperation between the Turkish Ministry of Industry and Technology and Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) and the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Slovenian Research Agency.

Both Sides agreed to promote cooperation of research institutions within the framework of EU programs.

The Slovenian Side invited the Turkish Side to cooperate within the International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence in Slovenia under the auspices of Unesco that will be established in 2020.

Both Sides agreed to cooperate for strengthening relationships and capacity building of Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs) through joint activities. Small and Medium Industry Development Organization (KOSGEB) of Turkey is ready to cooperate with the KOSGEB's counterpart organization for sharing knowledge and experience on SME support models, and increasing technical and commercial cooperation between the SMEs of both countries.

Both Sides agreed to continue and further develop cooperation in the fields of standardization, conformity assessment and metrology.

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

Both Sides expressed their readiness to establish a working group in potential industrial sectors where cooperation could be made.

Both Sides decided to foster the mutual participation in trade fairs, conferences and similar organizations.

The Turkish Side stated that Turkish industrial inventory http://lonca.gov.tr/Default_Eng.aspx website, which includes information on companies and industrial products, is open to domestic and foreign users and raised the issue of awareness of the Slovenian Side about Turkish industry.

Both Sides agreed to cooperate on promotional activities of EUREKA and/or Eurostars projects.

Both Sides also decided to cooperate on the following metrology fields;

- joint research activities within the European Metrology Programme for Innovation and Research (EMPIR).
- activities aiming at increasing the capacity of newly developing metrology institutions in Southeastern Europe.

11. HEALTH

The Turkish Side proposed the following areas;

- Exchange of information and experience on strengthening health systems,
- Cooperation in know-how transfer related to medical sciences and in research, development, innovation, and encouragement of the participation of scientists in the congresses,
- Through separate contracts/protocols to be concluded with the International Health Services Inc. (USHAŞ); developing alternative trade methods between the Turkish industry, which has made great progress in the fields of vaccines, medicines and medical devices in recent years, and its Slovenian counterparts in order to increase cooperation in health tourism, medicine, pharmacy, cosmetic and bio-equivalence as well as medicines, medical devices, health IT, health investments, service purchases, and undergraduate and specialization training in medicine and other health professions.
- Establishment of a Joint Working Group for increasing effectiveness of the "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on Cooperation in the fields of Health and Medicine" signed in 2007.

The Slovenian Side took note of those proposals and reiterated that it needs more information from the Turkish Side to evaluate the proposals and to respond.

12. SPORTS AND YOUTH

Both Sides agreed to strive and to encourage implementation of the signed Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Sports and Youth between the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Turkey and Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Slovenia.

Both Sides agreed to encourage cooperation between governmental institutions, associations and multilateral cooperation in the field of youth, including exchanges and joint initiatives for young people and youth workers.

Both Sides agreed on the following areas for the potential cooperation in the future

- Encouraging the exchanges of youth and experts; to share the experiences in the fields of youth and sports, to reinforce the intercultural learning, to strengthen friendship between youngsters of both countries, to develop relations between two countries and to enable youth of both countries to know each other closely,
- Encouraging bilateral participation to international youth organizations like youth festivals, youth camps, and youth forums and youth summits,
- Supporting joint academic works educations and researches in the field of sports physical therapy between the institutions of both countries. The Turkish Side may provide aid and support to Slovenian athletes in its laboratories on health and performance tests,

- Encouraging sports tourism activities between teams, federations, clubs and all beneficiaries to develop bilateral sports opportunities and potential of both countries,
- Encouraging sharing of information and experiences to provide development of coaches in their branches primarily in ski and its sub disciplines as well as in other branches due to the need,
- Encouraging the organization of joint sports events to instill Olympic spirit and develop friendship and brotherhood among athletes and youth, cooperation between sports bodies and participation to sports events organized in respective countries,
- Supporting joint sports camps, trainings and sports organizations via sports clubs through all sports federations especially for disabled athletes sports federations to mutually share information and experiences,
- Encouraging countries cooperating in projecting, constructing, modifications and use of sports facilities,
- Providing help and ease needed in country visits of youth and sports delegations of each country,
- Encouraging the mutual development of relations between research institutions and centers dealing with athlete problems and deepen the cooperation in the fields of sports science and technology.

Both Sides agreed on holding the Ninth Session of the Joint Economic Commission in Ankara in 2020, on a date to be mutually determined through the diplomatic channels.

* * *

Done on 21 November 2019 and signed on 22 November 2019 in Brdo pri Kranju in two originals in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**

**Dr. Mehmet Muharrem KASAPOĞLU
Minister of Youth and Sports**

**Dr. Miroslav CERAR
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Foreign Affairs**

ANNEX I

8th SESSION OF THE TURKISH-SLOVENIAN JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION

THE COMPOSITION OF THE TURKISH DELEGATION

1. H.E. Mehmet Muharrem Kasapođlu, Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Turkey, Head of Delegation
2. Mrs. Esen Altuđ, Ambassador of Turkey in Slovenia
3. Mr. Ahmet Ali Temurci, Director General of International Organizations, Ministry of Youth and Sports
4. Mr. Osman Nuri Beyhan, Deputy Director General of International Agreements and EU, Ministry of Trade, Head of Technical Delegation
5. Mr. Orhan akirođlu, Head of Department at Directorate General of International Agreements and EU, Ministry of Trade
6. Mr. Ahmet Dođan Gneş, Counsellor, Turkish Embassy in Slovenia
7. Mrs. Gamze Dođan, Commercial Consular of Turkey in Slovenia
8. Mr. Emre Şahin, Advisor, Ministry of Youth and Sports
9. Mr. İlker Eralp, Trade Expert, Ministry of Trade
10. Mrs. Sibel yken, Expert, Ministry of Youth and Sports
11. Mrs. Merve Tzer Kaya, Assistant Trade Expert, Ministry of Trade

8th SESSION OF THE SLOVENIAN – TURKISH JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION

THE COMPOSITION OF THE SLOVENIAN DELEGATION

1. H.E. Mr Miroslav Cerar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, Head of delegation
2. Mr Primož Šeligo, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to the Republic of Turkey
3. Mr Iztok Grmek, Acting Director General, Directorate for Economic and Public Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4. Mr Robert Krmelj, Ministers' cabinet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
5. Mr Igor Jukič, Head of Department for Bilateral Economic Cooperation, Directorate for Economic and Public Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
6. Mrs Alma Židanek, Minister Plenipotentiary, Department for Bilateral Economic Cooperation, Directorate for Economic and Public Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Secretary of Joint Economic Commission
7. Mrs Andrejka Grlič, Chief Market Inspector, Market Inspectorate of Republic of Slovenia, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology
8. Mr Jan Sitar, Senior Advisor, Directorate for Internationalisation, Entrepreneurship and Technology, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology
9. Mr Darko Repenšek, Head of Department for sports and sport infrastructure, Directorate for Sports, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
10. Mr Bogdan Potokar, Head of Road Transport and Logistic Division, Land transport Directorate, Ministry of Infrastructure
11. Mrs Tanja Kocjančič, Road Transport and Logistic Division, Land transport Directorate, Ministry of Infrastructure
12. Mrs Nina Baloh, EU Coordination and International Affairs Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food