

**Agreed Minutes of the
13th Session of the Greek-Turkish Working Group on Trade and
Economic Cooperation
Athens, 26.10.2021**

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The 13th session of the Greek – Turkish Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held in Athens (via telco), on the 26th of October 2021. The Greek Delegation was headed by Ambassador Maria – Louisa Marinakis, Director General for International Economic Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Turkish Delegation was headed by Mr Hüsnü Dilemre, Director General for International Agreements and European Union Affairs at the Ministry of Trade. The members of both Delegations are listed, respectively, in Annexes I and II. The agenda of the session is listed in Annex III.

Both Heads of the delegations, noting the stimulus given to Greek – Turkish relations during the past few months (through the Positive Agenda initiative), underlined the importance of developing stronger economic and commercial ties between Greece and Turkey and promoting investments. Consequently, the two sides discussed ways for the further development of their economic and commercial relations and the overcoming of existing obstacles.

The deliberations took place in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

2. ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Economic and commercial cooperation between Greece and Turkey has been developed significantly over the last few years. Both sides stressed out that despite the toll that the pandemic has taken on the economy worldwide, bilateral trade could grow further, since many opportunities exist for the business communities in various sectors.

2.1. BILATERAL TRADE

Both sides exchanged information on bilateral trade statistics and developments and evaluated the overall picture of bilateral trade. They expressed their satisfaction with the increase and recovery of the first 9 months of 2021. Both sides declared their intention to further increase trade in a balanced way.

2.2. INVESTMENTS / INVESTMENTS PROMOTION

Both Sides stated that their relevant institutions, namely Enterprise Greece and the Investment Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey (the



Investment Office), are committed to consider the possibility of cooperation in investment attraction and to encourage cooperation for the sake of promoting common business opportunities, synergies and actions. In particular, in this context, the two sides will seek cooperation in supporting investment projects, in key areas of mutual interest, such as tourism, real estate, manufacturing, ICT, energy and food-beverages.

Both sides took note that the MOU between the aforementioned institutions has been concluded and is ready to be signed.

2.3. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SME's

The two sides recognized the importance of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) for economic development, job creation and social cohesion and reaffirmed the mutual benefit deriving from the enforcement of cooperation in this field. In this regard, the two sides agreed to explore fields of mutual interest, where cooperation in the area of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises could be promoted through the signing of a new bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), between the respective National Authorities.

3.COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION

Both sides expressed their satisfaction for the outcome of the 9th Meeting between the Heads of Customs Administrations of Greece and Turkey, which took place in Istanbul, on the 1st of October 2021.

Both sides decided to conduct a technical meeting to take place during the first trimester of 2022, aiming at the implementation of the Action Plan on the efficient cooperation and mutual assistance between the Customs Authorities of Greece and Turkey.

The Turkish side reiterated its request to the Greek authorities to reconsider the fuel limitation of 200 liters for Turkish vehicles. The Greek side informed that this measure applies to all non-EU vehicles entering its territory.

Furthermore, the Turkish side referred to infrastructure improvements at the Border Crossing Points (BCPs) of Kipoi-Ipsala and Kastanies-Pazarkule, with a view to facilitating international trade.

4.COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT

4.1. CONSTRUCTION OF THE 2ND BORDER BRIDGE OF KIPOI – IPSALA

Both sides welcomed the 5th Session of the Joint Planning and Monitoring Project Committee for the construction of a second border crossing road bridge in the area of Kipoi-Ipsala border crossing, which took place, in Thessaloniki on 29th of May 2021.

The Greek side informed that the announcement for an international tender has been made by the responsible company "Egnatia Odos SA", on the 28th of September 2021. The Turkish side welcomed this development.

4.2. COMBINED & RAIL TRANSPORT

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The Greek side underlined that main priority remains to be reaching a mutual agreement on the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on the development of cooperation in the field of combined transport of goods.

The Turkish side underlined the importance of signing a new "Framework Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Hellenic Republic on Railway Transportation", in order to promote the railway transportation between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Turkey. The Greek side stressed out that for the conclusion of this new Agreement, prior Agreements on customs, police and phytosanitary controls, between the two countries, are required.

In this context, both sides agreed to establish a working group composed by the experts from the Hellenic Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport and the Turkish Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure.

4.3. ROAD TRANSPORT

Both sides noted that the two countries cooperate smoothly in the field of road freight transport. In recent years, due to increasing transport flows from Turkey, Turkish hauliers hold a significantly greater market share, compared to the Greek hauliers. The setting of road freight quotas in accordance with the principle of reciprocity is agreed in the Joint Road Transport Committee.

The Turkish side reiterated its desire to liberalize the transit transport operations and highlighted the exhaustion of bilateral transport permits, which has emerged as a recurrent problem in the recent years affecting bilateral trade.

The Greek side announced that in order to accommodate the needs of the Turkish hauliers, an additional 2.000 bilateral transport permits will be provided. The Turkish side welcomed this announcement.

The meeting of the Joint Road Transport Committee is expected to take place by the end of 2021.

4.4. AIR TRANSPORT

Both sides noted that the Aeronautical Authority of the Hellenic Republic positively responded to the recent proposal of the General Directorate of Civil Aviation of the Republic of Turkey to discuss air transport issues, in the framework of the Positive Agenda.

The two competent authorities agreed to arrange a consultations meeting, in order to update the constitutional aviation framework and upgrade existing rights, thus creating new opportunities for air carriers of both sides to compete on fair and equal basis.

In this respect, the draft Air Services Agreement proposed by the Hellenic side, is currently under consideration and review by the Turkish side. The bilateral air services consultations meeting is expected to be arranged soon.

4.5 MARITIME COOPERATION

Both sides stated that further development of economic and maritime relations between the two countries is a declared and shared political objective, in the context of the "Positive Agenda", which will promote both countries' aspirations to pursue economic growth by maritime activities.

Both sides noted that the 5th meeting of the Joint Greek-Turkish Maritime Cooperation Group, which took place, online, on 31st of August 2021, was conducted in a very constructive atmosphere. The issues of a mutual interest of the two countries in the field of shipping were discussed, focusing on bilateral cooperation, marine education and sea tourism. Both sides reaffirmed the added value of a structured dialogue and the intention to further strengthen their bilateral maritime cooperation. At the current stage, the initial draft text of an "MoU on Mutual Recognition of Seafarers' Certificates" is expected from the Turkish side.

The Turkish side conveyed its demand for the resumption of passenger transport from the Turkish mainland to the Greek islands. The Greek side underlined the fact that such a decision depends on the evolution of the pandemic.

5. INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY/ INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the first preparatory teleconference for the Bilateral Cooperation between Greece and Turkey in the field of Research and Innovation, that was successfully concluded on the 14th of October 2021.

Both sides noted that there was a broad mutual understanding on most of the issues discussed and a sincere effort to converge on the rest. It remains for the next preparatory meeting to record the technical details, to prepare a draft joint call for tenders and to agree on how projects will be selected for funding on the basis of two parallel compatible National evaluations procedures.

Both sides agreed to organize the next preparatory meeting towards the end of the year, with the aim of launching TÜBİTAK and GSRI joint call at the end of the 2nd quarter of 2022 in accordance with the NSRF (Greece National Strategic Reference Frameworks) 2021-2027 and both Sides' priorities and legal procedures.

6. TOURISM

Both sides reiterated that they aim the promotion of the Positive Agenda in the tourism sector and stated that within the framework of the upcoming organization of the 4th Joint Tourism Commission and the 9th Tourism Forum Greece-Turkey (Izmir 16-19/11/2021), the increase of tourist flows, the enhancement of cooperation between the public and private tourism sectors of Greece and Turkey and an active dialogue, containing the exchange of know-how and best practices in areas of mutual interest, with a focus on travel protocols,

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certification labels for tourism accommodation establishments during the pandemic and the digital future of the tourism industry, will be ensured.

7. EDUCATION

The two sides took note that the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic responding to the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey expressed a great interest in the agreement on cooperation (a commented copy of the agreement text has already been submitted by the Greek side) in the field of vocational education and training and seeks an exchange of views in the related actions.

The Greek side stated that the General Secretariat for Vocational Education, Training, Lifelong Learning & Youth shall contribute greatly and encourage an active participation in this approach and would appreciate to receive feedback concerning the conclusion of this common agreement. The Turkish side expressed its appreciation for the positive approach of the Greek side.

8. SOCIAL SECURITY

Both Sides underlined that the signing of a Bilateral Agreement on Social Security will be of mutual benefit of their citizens and agreed to start negotiations in the first quarter of 2022.

9. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY

The two sides reaffirmed their interest in energy supply security and confirmed their willingness to continue collaborating on this subject, especially in the gas and electricity sectors.

9.1 ELECTRICITY INTERCONNECTION

The two sides emphasized the importance of additional interconnection projects to enable the expansion of transmission capacity in the region.

10. ENVIRONMENT

Both sides underlined the importance of cooperation between the competent authorities of the two countries within the scope of green economy transformation. Turkey underlined that it is ready to cooperate with EU Member States on EU Green Deal policies on the basis of mutual benefits.

11. STRENGTHENING BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

Both Sides noted that the business communities of the two countries have been engaging constructively through SEV and DEIK, which hold a longstanding relationship and they are looking towards continuing working together in order to identify trade and investment opportunities in the post-covid era.

12.ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Turkish side stressed out the need of modernization of the Customs Union Agreement between EU and Turkey. The Greek side underlined that this issue lies under the exclusive competence of the EU.

Both Sides agreed to hold the 5th Session of the Joint Economic Committee in Athens, at the earliest convenience in January 2022.

Athens, 26th October 2021

For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Hellenic Republic

Ambassador Maria Luisa Marinakis

For the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of
Turkey



Director General Hüsni Dilemre

**13th Session of the Greek-Turkish Working Group on Trade and
Economic Cooperation (26.10.2021)**

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2.ECONOMIC RELATIONS

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2.1.BILATERAL TRADE

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2.2.INVESTMENTS/ INVESTMENTS PROMOTION

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2.3. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SME's

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3.COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION

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4. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORTS

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4.1. CONSTRUCTION OF THE 2ND BORDER BRIDGE OF KIPOI – YPSALA

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4.2. COMBINED & RAIL TRANSPORTS

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4.3. ROAD TRANSPORTS

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4.4.AIR TRANSPORTS

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4.5 MARITIME COOPERATION

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5. INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY /INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

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6. TOURISM

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7. EDUCATION

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8. SOCIAL SECURITY

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9. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY

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9.1 ELECTRICITY INTERCONNECTION

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10. ENVIRONMENT

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11. STRENGTHENING BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

-

12.ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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ANNEX I

Greek Delegation

1. Head of Delegation: Ambassador Maria – Louisa MARINAKI, Director General for International Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. Ambassador Constantinos ORPHANIDES, Head of B4 Directorate for Economic Relations with Balkan countries, Russia, Caucasian & Black Sea countries and BSEC issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3. Ms. Eirini LIKOU, First Counsellor for Economic and Commercial Affairs, Directorate General for International Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
4. Ms. Vassiliki KOUSKOUTI, First Secretary for Economic and Commercial Affairs, Desk Officer for Turkey, B4 Directorate for Economic Relations with Balkan countries, Russia, Caucasian & Black Sea countries and BSEC issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
5. Ms. Maria MANTELOU, Third Secretary for Economic and Commercial Affairs, B4 Directorate for Economic Relations with Balkan countries, Russia, Caucasian & Black Sea countries and BSEC issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
6. Ms. Evaggelia SOLOMOU, Head of Unit for Industrial Policy & International Industrial Relations, General Directorate of Industrial and Business Policy, General Secretariat of Industry
7. Ms. Olga NIKOLOPOULOU, Desk Officer, Unit for Industrial Policy & International Industrial Relations, General Directorate of Industrial and Business Policy, General Secretariat of Industry
8. Ms. Maria CHRISTOULA, PhD, acting Director, International Cooperation Directorate, General Secretariat for Research and Innovation, Ministry for Development and Investments
9. Mr. Georgios MOUSTAKAS, PhD, acting Head of Unit of Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation, International Cooperation Directorate, General Secretariat for Research and Innovation, Ministry for Development and Investments
10. Captain HCG Christos KONTOROUCHAS, Head of Shipping Directorate, Hellenic Coast Guard, Ministry of Shipping and Maritime Policy
11. Captain of second class Athanassios SPANOS, Head of Shipping Policy Department, Hellenic Coast Guard, Ministry of Shipping and Maritime Policy
12. Ms. Katerina KONTOUDAKI, Head of International Relations & EU Department, General Directorate of Touristic Policy, General Secretariat of Touristic Policy and Development, Ministry of Tourism



13. Mr. Fotis LIAKEAS, Deputy Head of Railway and Combined Transports Department, Directorate of Road Freight Transport, General Secretariat for Transport, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
14. Mr. Andreas POLAKIS, Head of the General Directorate for Transport, General Secretariat for Transport, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
15. Ms. Vassiliki KOLOVOU, Head of the International Road Freight Transport Unit, General Secretariat for Transport, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
16. Ms. Chryssa PSYCHOGIOU, Expert at the International Road Freight Transport Unit, General Secretariat for Transport, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
17. Mr. VASILIOS LADIAS, Senior Customs Officer, B' Customs Issues Department, International Economic Relations Directorate, Independent Authority for Public Revenue
18. Ms. Vivi VLACHOU, Head of Bilateral Airway Agreements Department, Civil Aviation Authority
19. Mr. Christos SKOURAS, Head of International Relations and Institutional Networking Directorate, Enterprise Greece
20. Mr. Konstantinos KOUTSOUKOS, CEO, EGNATIA S.A.
21. Ms. Vicky MAKRIGIANNI, Senior Advisor Export Ready - Industry, Development, Networks and Regional Policy Sector, Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV)
22. Ms. Anna RIZOU, Head of Directorate of Specific Issues in Social Security and Benefits, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
23. Ms. Panagiota GKOVA, Head of Department of Bilateral Agreements and Relations with International Organizations in the Social Security Sector, Directorate of Specific Issues in Social Security and Benefits, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
24. Mr. George VAGENAS, Administrative Officer at the Department of Bilateral Agreements and Relations with International Organizations in the Social Security Sector. Directorate of Specific Issues in Social Security and Benefits, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
25. Ms. Panagiwta ALEXOPOULOU, Head of Strategy & System Planning Development, Independent Power Transmission Operator (IPTO/ADMHE)
26. Mr. Michalis KARYSTIANOS, Head of Technical Studies & System Development Sector, Independent Power Transmission Operator (IPTO/ADMHE)
27. Ms. Evangelia PANTA, Head of Unit for European and International Affairs, Directorate for Planning and Development of VET and LLL, General Secretariat for VET, LLL & Youth, Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs
28. Dr. Vassileoīs A. Vrettos, HCAA – Deputy Governor for Aerodromes and Water Aerodromes Management

ANNEX I
Turkish Delegation

1. Head of Delegation: Hüsni DİLEMRE, Director General for International Agreements and EU, Ministry of Trade
2. Mr. Atakan ÖZDEMİR, Deputy Director General for International Agreements and EU, Ministry of Trade
3. Mr. Berk BARAN, Ambassador, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4. Ms. Mehtap ATAKAN ÖZKAN, Head of Department, Ministry of Trade
5. Ms. Gülşah KOÇAK, Head of Department, Ministry of Trade
6. Ms. Gülay TANRIYAPISI, Head of Department, Ministry of Trade
7. Mr. Önder DUMAN, Head of Department, Ministry of Trade
8. Mr. Bülent Orhan TÜREL, Head of Department, Minister of Trade
9. Ms. Cansu Şaziye TANRIVERDİ, Trade Expert, Ministry of Trade
10. Mr. Elfesiya SEVEN, Trade Assistant Expert, Ministry of Trade
11. Ms. Esra SOYLU, Trade Assistant Expert, Ministry of Trade
12. Mr. Tunay Cansın Erkol, Third Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
13. Ms. Gözde ŞAHİN, Deputy Head of Department, Ministry of Culture and Tourism
14. Mr. Mehmet KİRAZ, Head of Department, Ministry of National Education
15. Mr. Dr. Cengiz T. BAYKARA, Head of Department, Ministry of Environment and Urbanization
16. Ms. Hande MERÇAN AYGİN, Head of Department, Ministry of Industry and Technology
17. Mr. Sadık ÇİÇEKLİ, EU Expert, Ministry of Industry and Technology
18. Mr. Selim Serkan ERCAN, Head of Department, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization
19. Ms. Şule BEKTAŞ, Head of Department, Ministry of Environment and Urbanization
20. Ms Mine KASAP, Expert, Ministry of Culture and Tourism
21. Ms. Burcu KAPTAN AKBULUT, Expert, Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey
22. Mr. Cem DOĞAN, Coordinator and Energy and Natural Resources Expert, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources



23. Ms. Çağır YAHŞİ KARACAÖREN, Energy and Natural Resources Expert, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
24. Mr. Ümit ÇALIKOĞLU, Expert, Turkish Electricity Transmission Company
25. Mr. H.Mehmet KARA, Chief of External Relations, Turkish Electricity Transmission Company
26. Mr. Mehmet Merih TÜRKMEN, Expert, Turkish Electricity Transmission Company
27. Mr. Onur Seçkin, Chief, Turkish Standards Institute
28. Mr. Civan Mert DEMİRCİGİL, Expert, Turkish Standards Institute
29. Mr. Salih ERDEMCI, EU Expert, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
30. Ms. Damla TUFAN, Deputy Manager, The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey
31. Mr. Can ÖZKAYMAK, Deputy Manager, The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey
32. Ms. Sıla KOZANLI, Assistant Expert, The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey
33. Mr. Gökay ÇELİKLİ, Chief of Agricultural Associations, Aegean Exporters' Associations
34. Mr. Abdullah AKTEPE, Expert, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization
35. Ms. Neriman Pınar IŞIN, Chief of EU Coordination, , Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization
36. Büşra ŞENER, Business Council Coordinator Foreign Economic Relation Board
37. Başak DOYUM, Business Council Coordinator Foreign Economic Relation Board
38. Ms. Ayşe ÖZCAN ERBİLGİN, Trade Counsellor
39. Mr. Ahmet ERDOĞAN, Trade Attaché
40. Mr. Hüseyin KOÇ, Trade Expert, Ministry of Trade





HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
B4 Directorate for Economic Relations
with SE European countries, Russia,
Caucasian & Black Sea countries
and BSEC issues

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VERBAL NOTE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic/B4 Directorate present their compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Athens and, in reply to the Embassy's Verbal Note Z-2021/63922846/33610615/07-12-2021, have the honor to convey, herewith attached, the proposed by the Greek side draft Agenda and draft program for the 5th Session of the Joint Economic Committee between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Turkey, as well as a draft Program for the said Session (Athens, 24 January 2022).

The Greek side will cover the expenses for the accommodation at Hilton Hotel for:

- the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Mr Mehmet Nuri Ersoy plus one colleague and for
- the Deputy Minister of Trade, Mr Mustafa Tuzcu plus one colleague.

The Ministry would like also to inform the Esteemed Embassy that the draft for the Protocol of the aforementioned 5th Session of the Joint Economic Committee and the list of the Greek delegation will be sent in due time. The Ministry kindly requests the Turkish side to send a list with the participants as soon as possible.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, B4 Directorate, avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey the assurances of their highest consideration.



Athens, 17th of December, 2021

THE EMBASSY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
IN TOWN

Dr. Katmanci
17/12

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**Draft Agenda of the
5th Session of the Greek-Turkish Joint Economic Committee
Athens, 24.01.2022**

1.BILATERAL TRADE

2. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INVESTMENT

3. ECONOMIC RELATIONS

3.1 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- ELECTRICITY INTERCONNECTION

3.2TRANSPORT

-RAILWAY TRANSPORT

-ROAD TRANSPORT

-MARITIME COOPERATION

-AIR TRANSPORT

3.3 SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

3.4 AGRICULTURE

3.5CUSTOMS

3.6TOURISM

4. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

5. SOCIAL SECURITY

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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PROGRAMME**5TH SESSION OF JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
Athens, 24TH JANUARY 2022**

	SUNDAY 23TH OF JANUARY 2022
	Arrival at El. Venizelos International Airport of Athens
	MONDAY 24TH OF JANUARY 2022 (HILTON HOTEL)
09:30- 10:00	ARRIVAL OF DELEGATIONS
10:00-10:30	<i>BILATERAL MEETING of H.E the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic REPUBLIC, Mr. Fragkogiannis and H.E Mehmet Nuri Ersoy, Minister of Culture and Tourism and H.E Mustafa Tuzcu, Deputy Minister of Trade of the Republic of Turkey tbc</i>
10:30-13:00	5 TH PLENARY SESSION OF JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
13:00-13:30	SINGATURE OF THE PROTOCOL (EXCHANGE GIFTS, FAMILY PHOTO, PRESS STATEMENTS)
14:00- 15:30	LUNCH (Byzantino restaurant, Hilton Hotel)

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