

**AGREED MINUTES
OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF TURKEY-POLAND
REGULAR CONSULTATIONS**

The Fourth Session of the Regular Consultations between the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology of the Republic of Poland established with the Bilateral Cooperation Declaration, signed on May 14, 2009 in Warsaw, was held on March 7, 2019 in Warsaw, Poland.

The Turkish Delegation was headed by H.E. Ruhsar Pekcan, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Turkey and the Polish Delegation was headed by H.E. Jadwiga Emilewicz, Minister of Entrepreneurship and Technology of the Republic of Poland.

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

Legal Framework

Both Sides underlined the importance of a rules-based order for international trade, while acknowledging the necessity to support a reform of the WTO system, in particular its dispute settlement mechanism.

Accession Negotiations

Both Sides pointed out the positive economic and welfare impact that would be brought by the accession of Turkey to the EU for both Sides and, to this end, stressed that smooth continuation of accession negotiations to the EU is of crucial importance.

Updating of the Customs Union

Both Sides underlined the importance of Updating of the Customs Union.

Safeguard Measure On Steel Products

Both Sides expressed the mutual economic benefits of trade in steel products and the importance of maintaining a strong cooperation in the face of increasing protectionism of third countries on steel trade.

Both Sides, in this regard, emphasized that, within the context of safeguard measures applied on steel products by the EU and Turkey, preference should be given to the least disturbing measure, in line with the letter and spirit of the Turkey-EU FTA on coal and steel products (Turkey-ECSC FTA) and the Turkey-EU Customs Union.

Bilateral Trade and Reciprocal Investments

Both Sides reviewed the recent developments in the world economy, exchanged information about the economic situations of their respective countries and discussed the trends in the overall bilateral trade and investment relations.

The two Sides expressed their satisfaction with the current level of the volume of bilateral trade, which was realized as 6 billion Euros as of the year 2018 and reiterated their determination towards increasing the volume of bilateral trade to 10 billion Euros in the coming years.

Both Sides, emphasizing their determination to further enhance the economic cooperation between them, underlined the importance of supporting commerce and investments, in particular through the organisation of bilateral trade conferences, business seminars and reinforcing the business-to-business platforms of dialogue.

The two Sides, in this respect, agreed to;

- further support the activities of the Turkish – Polish Business Council and the Turkish - Polish Chamber of Commerce,
- support activities aimed at facilitating exchange of business information and subsequent cooperation between the companies of the two countries, in particular organization of seminars, development of e-platforms for searching commercial information and business partners in the other country,
- promote initiatives taken by the chambers of commerce towards the encouragement of business opportunities in both countries,
- further develop cooperation in bilateral projects financed by the EU.

The two Sides also decided to encourage;

- the participation of their companies in international trade fairs to be held in Turkey and Poland,
- Polish companies to participate in the Buyers' Missions programs to be organized in Turkey,
- Polish companies to make use of the opportunities offered by the Free Zones located in Turkey,
- Turkish companies to make use of the opportunities offered under newly introduced system of investment support of the Poland Investment Zone and start-up support system as well as by the Science & Technology Parks,
- their respective companies to engage in joint investment initiatives not only in Turkey and Poland, but also in third countries.

The Polish Side, in this respect, informed the Turkish Side about its new support mechanism for boosting investments under the Poland Investment Zone system that eliminates territorial restrictions in investment which up till now covered only 0,08% and creates the single investment zone covering the whole national territory.

The Polish Side also briefed the Turkish Side about significant changes in the Programme of support for investment of major importance to national economy which aims to facilitate the investment process for investors and stating its hope that, the new investment support system under The Poland Investment Zone and The Program of support for investments of major importance to national economy will respond to Turkish investors' expectations and requirements, invited Turkish business community to explore new investing opportunities in Poland where they will encounter an open and friendly business environment and enjoy stable growth of their businesses, which is highly welcomed by the Turkish Side.

The Polish Side also expressed the readiness of the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development and Polish Investment and Trade Agency, which are the parts of Polish Development Fund Group, for a variety of initiatives with Turkish partners aimed at promotion of the SME sector and internationalization of Turkish and Polish companies and growth of mutual turnover and investments as well and underlined its openness for Turkish entrepreneurs operating in the start-up sector, underscoring the eligibility of the Poland Prize support system for companies interested in Polish tech market.

The Turkish Side, briefing the Polish Side about the investment environment in Turkey and the investment plans of the Turkish Government by the year 2023, invited Polish firms to invest more in Turkey.

The Turkish Side also outlined its ambition and plans to support further investment from Turkey into Poland.

Both Sides also agreed to support direct investments and joint ventures of each other's companies in either territories and expressed their firm willingness to support, promote and inform about investment opportunities regulatory facilitation fostering investment in Turkey and Poland, as well as in third countries.

Construction and Technical Consultancy Services

Both Sides emphasized the significance of improving the existing cooperation in the field of contracting and consultancy services, acknowledging the successful participation of Turkish companies in the realization of Warsaw Metro Project and expressed their willingness to further the participation of Turkish and Polish construction companies in infrastructure and superstructure projects to be realized in Turkey and Poland and in third countries, respectively.

Both Sides also underlined the benefits of a transparent and open public procurement market, designed in conformity with ambitious environmental and labour standards.

Energy

I. Natural gas

The Polish Side stated that Poland supports all activities increasing the security of gas supplies to the European Union, positively assessing the construction of the Southern Gas Corridor, using the South Caucasus Pipeline (SCP), Trans Anatolian Pipeline (TANAP) and Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), which will enable a diversification of energy sources and routes, reducing Europe's dependency on a single supplier. Poland also supports all efforts to transfer gas from the Caspian Sea to Europe and recognises the importance of the project for the European energy market.

The Polish Side, taking into account the successful development of the Underground Gas Storage Projects in Turkey, underlined its willingness to share best practices and further to expand the cooperation projects between Turkey and Poland.

The Polish Side suggested to strengthen cooperation in the relevant fields such as development of gas infrastructure, financing and human resource development, which is noted by the Turkish Side with positive approach.

Both Sides expressed their readiness to share experiences mutually and support consultations between the entities involved.

The Polish Side expressed its interest in achieving information regarding further plans of Turkey related to development of underground storage infrastructure in salt deposits, which is welcomed by the Turkish Side and underlined its readiness to establish cooperation in this area.

II. Nuclear energy

Taking into account the successful development of the Nuclear Power Programme in Turkey, both Sides agreed to explore opportunities towards sharing best practices and further the nuclear cooperation between their countries.

The Polish Side, in this regard, suggested nuclear waste disposal, financing, human resource development, R&D activities and supply chain development as potential areas of cooperation.

The Polish Side expressed its particular interest in Turkish experiences in developing the Akkuyu NPP, especially regarding the functioning of the Nuclear Energy Program Implementing Organization (NEPIO), industrial involvement and localization, human resources development for the first NPP and nuclear waste management.

The Turkish Side stated its intention towards utilizing the experiences of Poland regarding legal and regulatory legislations as well as harmonization of the Turkish legislation with EU acquis in the field of nuclear infrastructure.

III. Coal

The Turkish Side underlined its interest in cooperation on clean coal technologies and exchanging scientific and technical information, which is welcomed by the Polish Side.

Science, Industry and Technology

Both Sides agreed to;

- develop industrial and technological relations between the two countries by creating a favourable environment for mutual investments,
- share know-how, knowledge and experience in the fields of technology, innovation, science and entrepreneurship,
- exchange experience between Technology Development Zones and universities located in both countries,
- exchange knowledge and experience with regard to research and development incentives, innovation programs and supports,
- share information on entrepreneurship education, exchange experts and organize reciprocal working visits,
- share knowledge and experience in the field of supporting development of innovative start-ups and digitalisation of industry.

Both Sides, stating that the cooperation of Turkish and Polish enterprises in the framework of research projects is an important element of building a knowledge-based economy, agreed that The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) and NCBIR will continue to work on competitions addressed to Turkish-Polish research teams and Turkish and Polish enterprises as partners in research programs will continue to cooperate in the field of research and development and will work on the implementation of new technologies arising as a result of their activities.

Both Sides agreed that the Turkish Standards Institution (TSE) and Polish Committee for Standardization (PKN), as members of international standardization organizations

such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) as well as at regional standardization organizations such as the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC), will cooperate in areas of mutual interest.

Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization of Turkey (KOSGEB) and Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PARP) on October 13, 2015, both Sides expressed their willingness to cooperate for developing SMEs in both countries and increasing their cooperation.

Agriculture

Both Sides stressed the significance of agricultural sector in the improvement of bilateral economic and commercial relations.

Both Sides underlined their shared objective of strengthening and expanding the cooperation in the field of agriculture with the mutual interests of their two countries.

Both Sides indicated and declared their willingness in:

- encouraging the participation of producers, producer organizations and companies in related international fairs to be held in both countries,
- sharing experiences and mutual cooperation between the two countries within the framework of the implementation of local development strategies, development of rural extension activities and establishment of rural network,
- sharing experiences and mutual cooperation between the two countries on state-funded agricultural insurance practices and conducting technical and expert trainings,
- sharing experiences, expertise and bilateral cooperation on the protection of agricultural environment and natural resources and on the prevention of pollution caused by agricultural activities in water resources.

The Polish Side underlined the importance of bilateral cooperation in the veterinary field. It was requested by the Polish Side to conclude negotiations upon veterinary health certificates models for the export of:

- casein and caseinates not intended for human consumption,
- chicken feet for human consumption,
- eggs and egg products,
- rendered fats not intended for human consumption, to be used as feed material or for technical purposes.

The Polish Side requested the possibility to approve beef establishments for export to Turkey on the basis of the Polish Side's guarantees (pre-listing).

The Polish Side proposed to continue the dialogue concerning the renegotiation of provisions concerning BSE testing in the health certificate for the export of meat of domestic bovine animals to Turkey in the view of Poland being granted in 2017 the best possible BSE status (negligible BSE risk country) by World Animal Health Organisation (OIE).

The Turkish Side, considering the requests and proposals of the Polish Side stated in above paragraphs, undertook to convey these issues to related Turkish authorities and respond the Polish Side at the earliest possible time.

Transportation

Both Sides noted with satisfaction the development of cooperation between Turkey and Poland in the field of road transportation.

Both Sides, in this regard, stating that this cooperation is carried out in the form of Joint Committee on international road transportation, emphasized that the next meeting of the said Joint Committee is foreseen to be held, at the invitation of the Polish Side, in April 2019 in Warsaw.

Both Sides highlighted the importance of Via Carpatia road corridor as an initiative aimed at ensuring efficient and seamless North-South axis connections. Both Sides, in this context and through expressing their support to this road corridor, underlined the benefits of the inclusion of the Via Carpatia to the TEN-T core network.

Both Sides, furthermore, expressed their satisfaction from a mutual understanding regarding the importance of the Via Carpatia project to economic development of participating states and stated that they are actively involved in its implementation.

The Polish Side thanked the Turkish Side for its positive response and amendments to the Polish-prepared proposal for the inclusion of the Via Carpatia into the TEN-T core network, which is planned to be signed by the project's all member states.

Both Sides also stated their openness to welcome potential new member states in the project.

The Polish Side gave further information to the Turkish Side regarding the conference of the project's member states, scheduled for in April 2019 in Łańcut, Poland.

Both Sides expressed their satisfaction with the strengthening of cooperation between Turkish Airlines (THY) and LOT Polish Airlines concerning the operation of scheduled air services between Turkey and Poland.

Both Sides also encouraged THY and LOT to explore further increase in routes and capacities between the two countries, as well as codeshare cooperation development.

Tourism

Both Sides expressed their satisfaction within the framework of the already existing friendly ties between their respective countries in the field of tourism.

Both Sides, within this framework, agreed to continue and encourage cooperation in the field of tourism.

Both Sides decided to give due consideration to further steps that would contribute to enhanced tourist cooperation and increased number of tourists visiting Turkey and Poland.

Environment and City Planning

Both Sides agreed to encourage bilateral cooperation in the field of environmental pollution and hazard mitigation by means of:

- bilateral cooperation (training, meetings, exchange of experts as well as knowledge and experience etc.) in the field of waste management, including the End of Waste concept
- transfer of new technologies,
- bilateral cooperation (training, meetings, exchange of experts etc.) in the field of integrated pollution prevention and control, cleaner production, and sustainable consumption and production as well as any other form of cooperation deemed necessary by the two Sides.

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, rural area planning, urban renewal projects and risk assessment.



Both Sides decided to hold the Fifth Session of the Regular Consultations in Ankara in 2020, at a date to be mutually determined through diplomatic channels.

Done and signed in two original copies in the English language on March 7, 2019 in Warsaw, both texts being equally authentic.

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

**Ruhsar PEKCAN
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REPUBLIC OF POLAND**

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