

**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 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting between the Heads of Customs Administrations of Greece and Turkey, which took place in Istanbul, on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Joint Economic Committee in Athens, at the earliest convenience in January 2022.

Athens, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021

For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Hellenic Republic

For the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of  
Turkey

Ambassador Maria Luisa Marinakis



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**

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**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. Vassileois A. Vrettos, HCAA – Deputy Governor for Aerodromes and Water Aerodromes Management

**ANNEX I**  
**Turkish Delegation**

1. Head of Delegation: Hüsnu 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 AYGEN, 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. Çağıl YAHŞI 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 ERDEMCİ, 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

Ref. 67935

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, 17<sup>th</sup> of December, 2021

THE EMBASSY OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
IN TOWN

*M. Katmoci*  
17/12/21

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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****5<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
Athens, 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022**

	<b>SUNDAY 23<sup>TH</sup> OF JANUARY 2022</b>
	Arrival at El. Venizelos International Airport of Athens
	<b>MONDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> OF JANUARY 2022 (HILTON HOTEL)</b>
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 <sup>TH</sup> 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 ( <i>Byzantino restaurant, Hilton Hotel</i> )

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## PROTOCOL OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE TURKISH-GREEK JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION

The Turkish–Greek Joint Economic Commission, established in accordance with Article V of the Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Turkey, signed on February 4, 2000, held its Fourth Session on October 25, 2010 in Ankara.

The Turkish Delegation was led by H.E. Ahmet Yakıcı, Undersecretary of Foreign Trade and the Greek Delegation was led by H.E. Spyros Kouvelis, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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

H.E. Egemen Bağış, Minister of State responsible for European Union Affairs and Chief Negotiator, attended the opening session of the Meeting and made a speech about Turkish economy, foreign trade, bilateral relations between Greece and Turkey and the accession negotiations of Turkey with the EU.

During the Session, the Heads of the two Delegations stated that the development of stronger commercial and economic ties, as well as the promotion of investments and trade relations between Turkey and Greece were the shared objectives of the two Governments.

Both Sides stated that the establishment of the High Level Cooperation Council between Turkey and Greece on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, headed by the Prime Ministers of the two countries, with the participation of the relevant Ministers from both Sides responsible for foreign affairs, the interior, economy, trade, European Union affairs, transport, education, tourism, energy and the environment, was the concrete indicator of the political will of the two Sides to enhance their relations in every field.

Both Sides welcomed the signing of 22 documents on the occasion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the High Level Cooperation Council held on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, in various fields, with the aim to strengthen the economic, commercial, and cultural relations between them.

Both Sides also discussed the ways and means for the enlargement and diversification of bilateral economic and trade relations, with special reference to the Joint Declaration on promoting economic and business co-operation, signed by the Minister of State responsible for Foreign Trade of the Republic of Turkey and the Minister of Economy, Competitiveness and Shipping of the Hellenic Republic, on May 14, 2010 in Athens.

Both sides noted their satisfaction concerning the works of the 12th session of the Working Group on trade and economic co-operation, held in Ankara, on September 28th, 2010, which contributed to the preparation of the 4th session of the Joint Economic Commission.

The results of the deliberations of the Fourth Session of the Joint Economic Commission are summarized as follows:

## **I. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRADE**

Both Sides exchanged views on economic developments in the world and Europe, including the global financial crisis and its influence on bilateral economic relations, as well as on their targets for the coming years.

Both Sides also reviewed the developments in their bilateral trade and noted the fact that commercial relations had achieved strong growth during the last decade. On the other hand, both Sides emphasized that the trade turnover between the two countries had decreased in 2009 compared to 2008, as a result of the adverse effect of the global financial crisis on national economies. Both Sides agreed to promote bilateral trade between the two countries, within the framework of the EU-Turkey Customs Union.

Both Sides agreed to explore and implement necessary measures to increase and diversify their bilateral trade and to exert every possible effort towards promoting economic relations in a mutually beneficial way and ensuring that bilateral trade is based on the principles of fair competition and equal opportunities.

Both Sides underlined the need for the continued encouragement of the business communities of both countries to intensify their contacts, with the aim of engaging in joint business and investment activities.

Both Sides emphasized that the Business Forum held on May 14-15, 2010 in Athens, in the framework of the first session of the High Level Co-operation Council and the ongoing contacts between the business communities, as well as the reciprocal meetings of Chambers' Delegations are tangible indications of the intensification of such contacts.

In this context, both Sides underlined the importance of exchanging trade delegations for market research and analysis of each other's comparative advantages. Both Sides also agreed to encourage reciprocal visits and meetings between Greek and Turkish business communities.

Both Sides noted their satisfaction concerning the Memorandum of Understanding, signed on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 between the Turkish Standards Institution (TSE) and Hellenic Organization for Standardization (ELOT), which envisages enhanced collaboration in the field of standardization and conformity assessment and expressed their common will to promote further co-operation in this field.

The Turkish Side expressed the readiness of the Turkish National Metrology Institute (UME) to cooperate with the Hellenic Institute of Metrology (EIN), in the fields of metrology, calibration, survey systems and quality control.

## **II. CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INVESTMENT**

Both Sides, noting the potential of their respective economies, agreed to:

-encourage companies to engage in joint investment initiatives, not only in Turkey and Greece, but also in third countries.



-ensure the smooth operation of existing investments in all sectors in both countries and call for further enhancement of investment within the framework of the Agreement on the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments in sectors of common interest, such as manufacturing, textile, retail business, construction, communication, energy, marine aquaculture, banking and tourism.

-encourage their respective authorities to work closely and explore new opportunities for co-operation in the context of EU funding schemes. Cross-border co-operation is particularly encouraged. Towards this aim, the two countries shall explore the possibility of establishing a special Task Force to elaborate and support programs of common interest.

-encourage collaboration between sectoral institutions and professional bodies of the private sector in engineering, consulting and contracting services. Moreover encourage representatives of the private sector in both Sides to explore opportunities of undertaking joint ventures in third countries.

Both Sides, in this context, welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (ISPAT) and Invest in Greece on promoting collaboration on investment issues within the framework of the First Session of the High Level Cooperation Council, which was held in Athens, on May 14, 2010, and agreed to encourage reciprocal "Investment Assessment Delegations" with a view to identifying potential sectors and developing business links between the two countries.

Both Sides underlined the fruitful cooperation between Invest in Greece and ISPAT, noting the common initiatives undertaken by the two Agencies.

In this context, the Greek side informed that Invest in Greece suggests organizing, in cooperation with ISPAT, an event called "Investing in Greece" in İstanbul, in spring 2011.

Both Sides agreed to exchange regular information regarding upcoming tenders on privatization projects in both countries.

The Turkish Side, underlining the importance of reciprocal visits and investments for establishing long term relations between the two countries, requested the Greek Side to facilitate the visa procedures and reduce the amount of the visa fees.

The Greek Side stated that the visa procedure for Turkish travelers to Greece has already significantly improved and stressed that the visa fee is regulated for all Schengen Member States by Regulation (EC) 810/2010 (Visa Code).

The Turkish Side stated that any facilitation on issuance of residence permits to Turkish businessmen would encourage the Turkish medium and large scaled investments in Greece, taking into consideration that there were only few Turkish companies operating in Greece.

The Greek Side stated that within a forthcoming general amendment of the Greek legislation on migration policy and taking into consideration the current acquis of the European Union, as well as its possible developments in the future, it will examine

the adoption of a simplified procedure on the issuing of residence permits in all cases of medium and large scale investments in Greece. In this framework and in order to encourage Turkish businessmen, Greece intends to give priority to the possibility for an efficient fast track procedure especially for facilitating investment opportunities on a bilateral basis.

### **III. BILATERAL TRADE RELATED ISSUES**

Both Sides reaffirmed the importance of promoting trade for the development of their bilateral economic relations and agreed to intensify their efforts in order to remove remaining barriers.

In this context, the Greek side informed the Turkish Side about certain market access issues that limit the accessibility of certain Greek products to the Turkish market. The Greek Side requested information on the memo concerning particular cases, handed over to the Turkish Side, at the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group on trade and economic co-operation (Ankara, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010). The Greek Side underlined the importance of continuing the efforts in order to resolve these issues in accordance with the obligations arising from the EU-Turkey Customs Union.

The Turkish Side expressed that its trade policy measures were in line with its international obligations and stated that it would provide its written response to the aforementioned issues in due time.

Besides the Turkish Side handed over to the Greek Side a memo on certain cases of concern.

Both Sides underlined the importance of protecting Industrial Property Rights for a well-functioning market.

Both Sides agreed that coastal trade should be developed to the extent possible, on the basis of the national and international obligations of the two countries, especially those arising from the relevant EU acquis in the case of Greece.

### **IV. ECONOMIC RELATIONS**

#### **Energy**

Both Sides pointed out that co-operation in the field of energy could considerably contribute to further enhancing bilateral economic relations.

In this context, both Sides welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation in the field of energy, within the framework of the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the High Level Co-operation Council, held in Athens, on May 14, 2010, stated their common will to accelerate the ratification process and underlined that the High Level Energy Group, provided for by the Memorandum of Understanding, mentioned above, will significantly contribute to promoting bilateral co-operation in the field of energy.

Both Sides reiterated their commitment to further promoting bilateral energy cooperation, as well as to implementing the Turkey – Greece – Italy gas pipeline

(TGI-Interconnector). Both Sides underlined the importance of timely realization of the Project. Upon request of the Greek Side, the Turkish Side provided information about the ratification process of the Trilateral Intergovernmental Agreement between Turkey, Greece and Italy by Turkey.

Both Sides expressed their common desire to enhance co-operation in the field of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency in line with the Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation in the field of energy, mentioned above.

## **Transports and Information/Communication**

### **-Road and Railway Transport**

Both Sides, underlining the importance of transport for bilateral economic and trade relations, welcomed the signing of a Joint Declaration on developing cooperation in the field of road transport, within the framework of the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the High Level Cooperation Council, held in Athens, on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and reiterated their common will to promote co-operation in this field, in a mutually beneficial way.

Both Sides welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Intent on the development of rail and intermodal traffic between Turkey and Greece, within the framework of the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the High Level Cooperation Council, held in Athens, on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and reiterated their interest to promote co-operation in these fields of transport in a mutually beneficial way.

Both Sides took note that freight and passenger transport is currently regulated by the Protocol of the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the Turkish - Greek Joint Road Transport Committee (Istanbul, 1-2 July 2010), according to which Turkey and Greece agreed to exchange annually 35.000 permits for transit freight transport operations with charge and 20.000 permits for bilateral transport operations, 10.000 of which are free of charge.

The Turkish Side expressed its desire on the liberalization of bilateral and transit transport operations.

The Greek Side replied that road transport between the two countries is regulated by the bilateral agreement on road transport and the relevant Joint Road Transport Committee.

The Turkish Side proposed the re-opening of the Eskiköy-Mikro Hasi land border crossing.

The Greek Side reiterated its interest in the implementation of the joint initiative for the construction of a second bridge at the Kipi-Ipsala border crossing, undertaken by the two countries in 2006, requested information on the status of the ratification process of the relevant bilateral agreement by Turkey and stressed that the implementation of this project would significantly contribute to the facilitation of bilateral trade.

## **-Maritime Transport**

Both Sides, recognizing the importance of maritime transport in strengthening and promoting bilateral economic and trade relations , expressed their willingness to establish further maritime links within the framework of the Agreement on Maritime Transport, signed on February 4, 2000.

The Greek Side reiterated its interest in exchanging information, on a regular basis, about the fees charged at Greek and Turkish ports. Moreover, the Greek Side informed that all necessary data concerning the fees applied in the ports of the Greek Eastern Aegean islands have been already forwarded to the Turkish Side and requested information on a list of dues and taxes charged at the Turkish ports.

The Turkish Side expressed its readiness to encourage cooperation and information exchange between the port operators of the two countries.

Both Sides agreed to encourage their relevant institutions and private sector companies to explore and implement the intermodal transport as well as establishment of new maritime links such as Thessaloniki-İzmir and Alexandroupolis-İzmir.

The Greek side reiterated its interest in the establishment of a seasonal ferry line between: Alexandroupolis-Çanakkale-Gökçeada-Çanakkale-Alexandroupolis. The Turkish Side requested further information about the potential of the proposed ferry line.

## **-Air Transport**

Both sides, welcomed the agreed increase in the number of flight frequencies to a total of 31 and the establishment of new destination points, in accordance with the MoU signed between the Turkish and the Greek Civil Aviation Authorities on 12 July 2009 in Ankara and stated that this development will further promote bilateral economic relations and encourage people-to-people contact between the two countries.

In this context, the Greek side reiterated its interest in the operation of the Thessaloniki – İstanbul route and informed about a pending request for convenient slots by a designated Greek airline interested in this route.

The Turkish Side stated that the organization of scheduled flights between İzmir and Thessaloniki would further enhance bilateral cooperation on civil aviation.

## **-Information/Communication**

Both Sides welcomed the signing of the Joint Declaration on cooperation in the fields of information and communication technologies and postal services, within the framework of the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the High Level Co-operation Council, held in Athens, on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and stressed that this Joint Declaration provides the opportunity to extend bilateral cooperation in new fields of mutual interest.



The Greek Side stressed the need for closer cooperation with respect to the remaining unresolved issues concerning the harmful interference in FM, UHF and VHF bands in analogue and digital broadcasting, noting that the appropriate legal and technical framework is provided by the ITU regulations and the relevant international Agreements (e.g GE-06, Geneva 2006).

### **Small and Medium Size Enterprises**

Both Sides stressed the importance of further developing co-operation between the small and medium size enterprises of the two countries for their respective economies and agreed to promote co-operation between the SMEs of the two countries.

In this context, both Sides underlined the importance of the Business Forum to be held on October 26, 2010 in İstanbul on the subject of co-operation between SMEs.

Both Sides, in this respect, reiterated their willingness to further cooperation between KOSGEB and EOMMEX through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations on October 26, 2010.

### **Agriculture and Fisheries**

Both Sides noted with satisfaction the ongoing co-operation achieved so far in the field of agriculture and stressed the importance of further promoting co-operation on a technical level.

Recent developments such as the convening of the 3rd Session of the Agricultural Steering Committee (Athens, February 26th, 2009), of the Working Group of experts on aquaculture and fisheries (Ankara, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009) and of the meeting of experts on sanitary, phyto-sanitary, food safety issues and olive fly (*dacus olae*) control program (Athens, October 7th-10<sup>th</sup>, 2010) were considered by both Sides to be essential steps towards boosting further the cooperation of the relevant Authorities.

Both Sides agreed that these meetings enabled experts to exchange views and expertise on the EU legislation applicable on the importing of agricultural products and foodstuffs from third countries to the EU market, aiming to protect plant and animal health, food safety and consumer health.

The two Sides exchanged information concerning "*tuta absoluta*", a tomato moth species that has been detected in Greece and Turkey, as well as in the Mediterranean countries and the threat it poses on the greenhouse areas.

Both sides, also, expressed their assurance that the forthcoming meeting of experts from Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria on "*tuta absoluta*" pest will strengthen the direct co-operation of the interested parties on plant health issues.

The Turkish Side stated its readiness to cooperate on;

- Research and development projects in the field of animal husbandry, fisheries and aquaculture,

- Agricultural biotechnology, biological diversification, conservation of plant genetic resources in its natural habitat
- Production of olive and olive oil processing between the İzmir Bornova Olive Growing Institution and the relevant authorities in Greece.

The Turkish Side welcomed the Greek proposal to hold in Athens an experts meeting on Geographical Indications, which would give the opportunity to discuss extensively the EU agricultural products quality policy and the importance of Protected Designation of Origin and Protected Geographical Indication agricultural products and foodstuffs in delivering value-added benefits to the farmers and consumers.

The Greek Side expressed its satisfaction for Turkey's intention to lift the ban on imports of bovine, bovine meat and small ruminants from regions of Greece free from BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) and TSE (Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy). The Greek Side also expressed its confidence that the relevant Turkish Authorities will work effectively to address, as soon as possible, the procedures required, given the mutual interest of both countries' farmers and entrepreneurs.

Moreover, the Greek side underlined that Greek companies, which have invested in the field of marine aquaculture, in Turkey, face significant problems. The Greek Side referred to the relevant memo, handed over to the Turkish Side, at the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group on trade and economic co-operation (Ankara, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010) and requested information. The Turkish Side stressed that its relevant rules and applications are in line with its international obligations and do not constitute any discrimination against Greek companies.

The Greek side underlined the need to protect fish stocks in the Aegean following the requirements of international organizations and to enforce the relevant legislation.

The Turkish Side suggested that establishment of a logistic center in Chios Island that facilitates the operations of storage, customs clearance, laboratory certification, packaging and loading, delivery and separation in accordance with Greek regulations would be useful in increasing trade activities between the coastal regions of the two countries.

In this respect, the Greek Side reiterated the current obligations under the relevant EU acquis and underlined that such suggestion should be met in the framework of the EU legislation concerning sanitary, phyto-sanitary, pesticide residues and food safety controls.

## **Customs**

Both Sides noted with satisfaction the meeting of the Customs Authorities of the two countries held in Istanbul on February 12, 2010 and stated their common will to further enhance the existing level of co-operation in the field of customs.

The Greek Side stated that bilateral customs co-operation is promoted by the procedure of mutual assistance of the Customs Authorities and prompt reply to requests for administrative assistance.

## **Tourism**

Both Sides underlined the importance of fostering cooperation in the field of tourism, which carries great potential for the further development of Turkish–Greek relations.

Both Sides noted with satisfaction that a Joint Declaration on cooperation in the field of tourism had been signed on May 14, 2010, within the framework of the First Session of the High Level Cooperation Council.

Both Sides also stated that the Third Session of the Joint Committee on Tourism and the 8th Turkish–Greek Forum on Tourism which will be held at mutually agreed dates shall greatly contribute to the bilateral relations between the two countries in the field of tourism.

Both Sides noted the successful organization of the joint familiarization trip to Greece and Turkey of tourism professionals from PRC, which took place from June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010, and stressed that there is enough space for other similar common initiatives.

Both Sides welcomed that the Greek and Turkish delegations which are to participate in the Turkish–Greek Tourism Working Group, have been determined and expressed their common will to proceed to its first meeting at mutually agreed dates.

## **Co-operation on flood prevention in the Evros/ Meric river basin**

Both Sides welcomed the signing of a Joint Declaration between the Minister for Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey and the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic, within the framework of the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the High Level Cooperation Council, held in Athens, on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, which provides for the establishment of an ad hoc Joint Committee, in order to exchange relevant information aiming at establishing, if possible, a single management plan, or at least, a single flood risk management plan for the Evros/ Meriç river.

Both Sides stressed that the aforementioned ad hoc Joint Committee provides a good opportunity to coordinate their efforts in order to address the problem of floods in the Evros/ Meriç river.

The Greek Side, mindful of the provisions of the relevant EU acquis wherever and whenever applicable for Both Sides, stressed that the ad hoc Joint Committee provides the appropriate framework for a productive co-operation on flood prevention in the Evros/Meric river and suggested the convening of the meeting for the establishment of this ad hoc Joint Committee on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010, as well as a specific agenda for this meeting.

## **V. OTHER ISSUES**

### **Contracting and Consultancy Services**

Both Sides agreed to promote co-operation in contracting and consultancy services and agreed to encourage their business communities to enhance co-operation in

these fields, with a view to exploring the opportunities for undertaking joint investment projects in their respective countries, as well as in third markets.

### **Science and Technology**

Both Sides stated their appreciation for the ongoing cooperation between the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) and the General Secretariat for Research and Technology of the Ministry of Education, Life Long Learning and Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic.

Both Sides welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the Technological Research Council of Turkey - TUBITAK and the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, within the framework of the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the High Level Cooperation Council, held in Athens, on May 14, 2010 and expressed their desire to promote the realization of actions, contained in this Memorandum of Understanding, upon ratification by both sides.

Both Sides reaffirmed their will to continue their cooperation in Science and Technology, through the 28 joint projects selected for the years 2010-2012 and to provide appropriate opportunities for contacts between scientific institutions and organizations, research institutes, universities and other institutions of higher education in both countries.

Both Sides stated their desire to further promote their cooperation in Science and Technology by encouraging joint activities in specialized areas and topics of common interest.

The Greek Side informed on the readiness of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology to activate the Working Group on research infrastructure cooperation.

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Done and signed in Ankara on October 25, 2010 in two originals in English.

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



**Ahmet YAKICI**  
Undersecretary of Foreign Trade

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
HELLENIC REPUBLIC**



**Spyros KOUVELIS**  
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

29.12.2021 / 8397



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