



The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks
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April 26th, 2021

Dear Representative Meeks,

I would like to congratulate you for your re-election to the House of Representatives last November and for your appointment as Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Knowing your famed reputation as an important figure in Congress and U.S. foreign policy, I am very excited to work with you and other dynamic leaders in the Biden Administration to enhance the economic relationship between the United States and Turkey.

I am the Chairman of Turkey's oldest bilateral trade organization, the Turkey-United States Business Council (TAİK). Our members support billions of dollars in foreign direct investment into the U.S. and proudly employ thousands of Americans. In Turkey, our members generate more than 50% of Turkey's economy. As TAİK, our mission is to bolster trade and economic relations between Turkey and the United States. We work with American and Turkish companies to strengthen their strategic partnerships and promote Turkey's strengths as a destination for American investment. We encourage business development and cooperation between the U.S. and Turkey and strive to improve the conditions for bilateral trade, foreign direct investment, and joint investments in other countries.

On behalf of TAİK, we would like to invite you to be a guest speaker at our upcoming event on the U.S.-Turkey relationship and how it can be strengthened. Considering your expertise and position as Chair of the House Foreign Relations Committee, we could not think of anyone better to represent the U.S. side of the discussion other than yourself.

TAİK is proud of our work speaking up for Turkish businesses and we are excited about the economic opportunities for America and Turkey with the goal of increasing trade. Through this webinar, we want to show our support by taking the initiative and engaging with key U.S. stakeholders. You may be interested to know that since 2014, Turkish FDI in the US has increased 117% and is now \$2.36 billion. Additionally, Turkey is currently the 9th fastest growing source of FDI in the United States. However, we believe that we can strengthen our economic partnership much more.

As part of this effort, we have launched our "Better Trade" campaign to communicate the merits of strengthening business ties between Turkey and the United States to new leaders in Congress and in the administration. We want to demonstrate that Turkish companies can be trusted to be reliable partners that will honor agreements and protect the intellectual property rights of their American partners. We are also eager to stress that Turkish companies investing in the United States are employers who do not only create American jobs but ensure that their employees are guaranteed fair, steady wages and have

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good working conditions. Additionally, we want to show that Turkish companies are leading the way in the green energy revolution, already working alongside many American companies in doing so and with great potential for even closer cooperation. We hope to highlight these points and discuss avenues for further economic cooperation in the webinar.

Another area of future cooperation which we are eager to highlight is in Africa. Turkish and American firms have complementary skills to be more active in helping the construction and infrastructural upgrading of the African continent. Turkey is currently the second-biggest investor in Africa – surpassed only by China. Turkish companies have a wealth of experience across the continent and have also worked directly with the State Department, having helped construct six U.S. embassies in Africa (and 21 around the world.) Not only will such joint ventures be good for Turkish and American businesses, but synergized efforts will also go a long way in helping achieve food security in Africa, promote skill development, and work geostrategically to counter Chinese aggression and “debt-trap” policies on the continent.

Lastly, I would just like to stress how important your home state is to the U.S.-Turkey economic partnership. You will be interested to know that Turkey and New York have a trading relationship worth almost \$2 billion. New York imports more from Turkey than it does from any other country in the entire MENA region asides from Israel. Meanwhile, Turkey is the region’s third biggest importer of goods from New York. Additionally, New York companies such as PepsiCo and Pfizer have major investments and operations in Turkey, In turn, many Turkish companies have invested hundreds of millions of dollars into the state of New York, where they have created more than 1,000 jobs. Such companies include Turkish Airlines and TAV Airports Holding, both of which are located in your district.

Please let us know if you would be willing to attend the event. Of course, we are more than happy to work around your busy schedule and choose a time that is most convenient for you.

I very much look forward to working with you and meeting you in the near future.

Respectfully,

Mehmet Ali YALÇINDAĞ
Chairman
Turkey-U.S. Business Council (TAİK)



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