

Sayı: 70430465-TİM.OAİB.GSK.İDARİ.2023/2648-9364
Konu: Türkiye-Bahreyn 8. Dönem KEK Toplantısı

Ankara, 14/09/2023

Sayın Üyemiz,

Türkiye İhracatçılar Meclisi (TİM)'den alınan bir yazıda, Ticaret Bakanlığından alınan bir yazıya atfen, Hazine ve Maliye Bakanı Sayın Mehmet Şimşek ve Finans ve Milli Ekonomi Bakanı Sayın Sheikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa tarafından yürütülen Türkiye-Bahreyn 8. Dönem Karma Ekonomik Komisyon (KEK) Toplantısı'nın 17-18 Ekim 2023 tarihinde İstanbul'da gerçekleştirilmesi planlandığı bildirilmektedir.

Bu kapsamda, 7. KEK Toplantısı'nın mutabakat zaptı iletilmekle birlikte firmaların Bahreyn pazarına girişte karşılaştığı sorunlar ile söz konusu KEK toplantısı marjında gündeme getirilmesinde fayda görülen hususlara dair değerlendirmelerine ihtiyaç duyulduğu belirtilmektedir.

Bilgilerini ve söz konusu katkıların 19 Eylül 2023 Çarşamba günü mesai bitimine kadar Türkiye İhracatçılar Meclisimize gönderilmek üzere yapicioglu@oaiib.org.tr adresine iletilmesi hususunda gereğini rica olunur.

Bilgilerine sunulur.

S. Tansel KÜNBE
Genel Sekreter A.
Şube Müdürü

Ek:

Agreed Minutes of the Seventh Session of the Joint Committee between Türkiye and Bahrain.



**AGREED MINUTES OF THE
SEVENTH SESSION OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE
BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE AND THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN**

The Turkish-Bahraini Joint Committee, established in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement on Economic, Industrial and Technical Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Türkiye and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain signed on January 8th, 1990, held its 7th session on the 31st of March 2022 in Manama.

The Turkish delegation to the Joint Committee was headed by H.E. Dr. Nureddin Nebati, Minister of Treasury and Finance of the Republic of Türkiye and the Bahrain delegation to the Joint Committee was headed by H.E. Sheikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The lists of the members of the two delegations are shown attached at Annexes I and II respectively.

During his visit to Bahrain, H.E. Dr. Nureddin Nebati, Minister of Treasury and Finance of the Republic of Türkiye was received by H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs and Fiscal Balance; and met with H.E. Sheikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

The deliberations of the Joint Committee took place in an atmosphere of utmost cordiality, mutual understanding, and cooperation, reflecting the historical and traditionally close, brotherly, and cordial relations between the two countries.

The Bahrain delegation presented Bahrain's Economic Recovery Plan to the Turkish delegation, which resulted in an exchange of views on how to further expand existing economic, commercial, and financial relations, as well as enhance cooperation in encouraging and promoting investment between the two countries.

The Turkish delegation informed the Bahraini Side regarding Türkiye's New Economy Model in order to boost economic and commercial relations with Bahrain.

Both Sides welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in the fields of standardization, conformity assessment, metrology, calibration, and other related activities between the Turkish Standards Institution (TSE) and Bahrain's Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Tourism (MOICT).

The results of the deliberations of the Joint Committee are summarized as follows:

I. TRADE

Both Sides agreed on the need to increase the volume of trade and seek a diversified portfolio of trade between the two countries by expediting relevant measures to increase the flow of investments between the two countries.

Both Sides appreciated the contribution of the Turkish-Bahrain Round Table Meeting on Business and Investment Relations, simultaneously held with the Joint Committee, and re-affirmed that such visits undoubtedly pave the way for the further development of bilateral commercial and economic cooperation.

As previously expressed in the last joint meeting Bahrain would be pleased to invite a delegation of Turkish investors to visit Bahrain to participate in the commercial and logistical business opportunities offered by the Kingdom.

Both Sides offered to strengthen bilateral trade ties by engaging in periodical exchanges of information on opportunities for trade in goods and services, and enhancing the participation of trade delegations and the role of the private sector.

Both Sides expressed their satisfaction in strengthening cooperation by granting Türkiye official Partner Status in Bahrain Global Sea-to-Air Hub, a regional multi-modal logistics hub with streamlined clearance procedures, optimized logistics, and full digitization. This will allow Turkish companies to become authorised Trusted Shipper to distribute their products and services globally from the Hub.

a. Multilateral Trade Relations

Both Sides emphasized the importance of intra-OIC trade and extended their full support to OIC and its subsidiary/affiliated/specialized organs, particularly COMCEC.

Both Sides reconfirmed the 1st July 2022 as the effectuation date of TPS-OIC and also indicated their willingness to deepen their cooperation in the area of trade including through extending the scope of TPS-OIC.

b. Customs Cooperation

Both Sides agreed to improve cooperation on followings:

- Promoting cooperation between the customs authorities of Türkiye and Bahrain regarding trainings of customs personnel and administrators,
- Promoting joint training programs and exchange of expertise for the customs personnel of the two countries.

II. INVESTMENTS

Both Sides agreed to further cooperate in the field of promoting investments through establishing enterprises in the two countries.

Both Sides agreed to exchange information on businesses legislation, including laws and regulations applicable to company registration and investment environment.

Both Sides agreed to organize investment seminars to inform investors of the investment opportunities and incentives in their respective countries and welcomed the visits of technical and investment delegations to explore public and private sector investment opportunities in both countries.

Both Sides agreed to support the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB) and Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry in order to organize a “Türkiye-Bahrain Business and Investment Forum” that will bring Turkish and Bahraini business people both physically and/or virtually together in the time and place that the Union and Bahrain Chamber specify in a separate agreement.

III. BANKING AND FINANCE

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Participation Banks Association of Türkiye (TKBB) and Bahrain Associations of Banks (BAB) on November 16, 2020, to encourage mutual investments and enable the two institutions to benefit from their knowledge and experience in the fields of finance and banking. According to the agreement, the institutions will support cooperation for sharing good practice examples, conducting joint projects, sharing information in strategic cooperation areas, and online training and AAOIFI (Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions) certificate programs. In addition, a webinar program was organized for the members of the Bahrain Banks Association on May 25, 2021 with the cooperation of Bahrain Associations of Banks (BAB), Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye (DEİK) and TKBB about Türkiye – Bahrain collaboration and mutual investment in banking and finance sector for providing market update about financial performance of banking system including both conventional and participation banks.

In order to share and exchange regulatory and supervisory information, so as to facilitate and promote the safe and sound functioning of banks in the two countries, Both Sides agreed to enhance cooperation between their banking regulators, the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) and the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency of Türkiye (BRSA) within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two Authorities on the 30th of July 2002.

Both Sides agreed to explore alternative mechanisms in order to promote trade with national currencies.

IV. WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMY / FINANCIAL SECTOR

Both Sides expressed interest to evaluate and propose potential cooperation opportunities with the relevant institutions in the field of women's participation in economic development.

The Bahrain Side referred to its expertise in the field of gender-responsive Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and expressed its willingness to share its institutional framework, strategies, and programs that support female entrepreneurship.

Both Sides agreed to consider and review possible cooperation and exchange of expertise on women advancement and empowerment in the field of financial technology (FinTech).

The Bahrain Side encouraged mutual invitations to workshops, conferences and forums related to women advancement in the financial sector, to further foster knowledge exchange between both countries.

V. INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Both Sides expressed their willingness to share knowledge and experience to enhance industrial, scientific and technological cooperation.

a. Industry

Both Sides expressed interest in developing possible cooperation opportunities in downstream aluminium and pharmaceutical industries with the adoption of the Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies (Industry 4.0).

Both Sides expressed their readiness to cooperate *inter alia* in such industries as textiles, clothing, leather, furniture, automotive and spare parts, electrical appliances, food, machinery, chemicals, medical instruments, manufacturing products and technologies related to Sustainable energy.

Both Sides expressed interest in developing possible cooperation in circular carbon economy and Environmental and Social Governance.

Bahrain Side expressed its willingness to share knowledge and experience in Industrial incubators and accelerators.

Both Sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the field of intellectual property through the exchange of expertise, training programmes and workshops between the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism and the Turkish Patent and Trademark Office (TURKPATENT).

Both Sides stated their willingness to develop mutual projects for sharing information and experience on establishment and management of industrial zones between the Ministry of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Türkiye and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Both Sides agreed to explore possible cooperation areas in accreditation, to develop a technical cooperation framework regarding these areas, and to cooperate in developing expertise and knowledge sharing on accreditation related issues.

- Tourism marketing and promotion.
- Training and development.
- Exchange of expertise and knowledge transfer.
- Participation in international exhibitions organized by either of the two Sides.
- Establishing joint tourism programs in media and film tourism.

VIII. CULTURE

Both Sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the cultural sector in relation to the following various fields:

- Exchange of expertise in organising and holding exhibitions and various cultural festivals, heritage and museums, and in the preservation and documentation of antiquities.
- Training of specialists and allowing participation in specialised workshops in culture, various arts and antiquities.
- Joint coordination in international conferences and organisations related to culture, antiquities and heritage.
- Participation in cultural activities and events in both countries, including plastic arts, sculpture, graphics and photography.

The Turkish Side expressed its willingness to cooperate in the field of conservation of tangible cultural heritage. To this end, Both Sides recognized the importance of experience sharing and publications. Both Sides also declared their openness on the mutual consultations between cultural heritage authorities of the two countries.

The Turkish expressed its interest to encourage the translation and publication of classical and contemporary literary works in their respective languages to the other.

Both Sides expressed their interest to sign a MoU on Cooperation in Television and Radio between Bahrain's Ministry of Information Affairs and Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT).

IX. EDUCATION

The Bahrain Side expressed its desire to enhance cooperation and develop library practices and activities, especially in the fields of indexing, classification and databases, also enabling academics and researchers to benefit from the Turkish historical archives in conducting their dissertations and research.

Both Sides expressed their satisfaction with the ongoing cooperation between the University of Bahrain (UOB) and Yunus Emre Institute, concerning teaching the Turkish language at the University of Bahrain UOB, under the MoU signed on August 2016. Based on the success of this partnership, Both Sides agreed to encourage more cooperation in this field.

The Bahrain Side encouraged cooperation in the field of quality assurance performance in educational and training institutions and in the field of the National Qualifications Framework.

The Turkish Side expressed its satisfaction with the continuation of the "2017-2019 Implementation Program on Cooperation in the Field of Education" signed between the two countries on February 13, 2017. To follow up the works within the context of this program, the Turkish Side stated its willingness to deepen cooperation with the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of education.

The Turkish Side informed the Bahraini Side on the activities of the Turkish Maarif Foundation, established in 2016 as a public institution which provides educational services abroad. The Bahraini Side welcomed the information by Türkiye. The Turkish Side also stated the willingness of the Turkish Maarif Foundation to begin a negotiation process for signing a Memorandum of Understanding in order to gain legal status in Bahrain.

a. Higher Education

The Turkish Side noted that it welcomes the acceleration of cooperation within the context of Memorandum of Understanding in the field of higher education between the Council of Higher Education of the Republic of Türkiye and the Ministry of Education of the Kingdom of Bahrain signed in 12 February 2017.

The Turkish Side emphasized the importance of recognition of all Turkish universities by Bahraini authorities. The Bahraini side welcomed the cooperation in this regard in light of the approved criteria of degrees validation by the Ministry of Education which will be shared with the Turkish authorities.

The Turkish Side underlined the importance of encouraging Bahraini students to study in Turkish universities under the framework of Memorandum of Understanding signed on February 12, 2017.

Both Sides emphasized the importance of reciprocal visits in promoting mutual cooperation of their universities and higher education systems.

The Turkish Side offered to grant scholarships by the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) to Bahraini Side in various fields of higher education and research as well as foreign languages. Both Sides agreed to determine the details on necessary application and selection requirements, and placements of scholarships in line with the domestic legislation.

The Turkish Side provided an overview on "The Turkish Language Programme for Public Officials and Academicians (KATİP)" organized by the YTB. In this context, the Turkish Side expressed its willingness to further cooperation with the Bahraini Side to benefit this programme.

The Turkish Side suggested to encourage the alumni associations to be established by the graduates of the universities of the parties in their respective countries and the social and cultural activities to be carried out by the graduates.

Both Sides agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Higher Education scholarships between YTB in Türkiye and the Ministry of Education of Bahrain.

X. HEALTH

Both Sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the following fields:

- Pharmaceutical and Medical devices Regulations.
- Pharmaceutical Procurement and Manufacturing.
- Health Providers Autonomy.
- Overseas Treatment.
- Visiting Doctor.
- Medical Training.
- Professional licensing.

Both Sides agreed to identify health and health tourism as areas of priority to further enhance bilateral cooperation.

Both Sides agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the fields of Health and Medical Sciences.

Both Sides encouraged participation in health fairs and the promotion of high-level visits and exchanges in the field of health and health tourism.

Both Sides agreed to facilitate cooperation on safe tourism opportunities in light of the ongoing pandemic.

XI. TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATION

The Turkish Side suggested initiating the first maritime consultation meeting between the relevant authorities of both countries in order to consider maritime related issues and to enhance bilateral maritime trade under the umbrella of the Agreement on Maritime Transport for Commercial Purposes between The Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the Republic of Türkiye signed in 2006.

Both Sides highlighted the opportunities for cooperation in the following areas;

- Creation and implementation of modern technologies for shipbuilding, yacht construction, ship repair and maintenance and ship recycling of a process-layout preparation and related capacity building for the engineers and technical personnel,
- Modernization/construction of shipyards (docks) in Türkiye and Bahrain.

The Turkish Side expressed its willingness that the Turkish State Railways (TCDD) is ready to cooperate and offer trainings and consultancy services to the Bahraini Side in technical fields such as establishing metro infrastructure, digitalization, capacity allocation and traffic management.

The Bahrain Side expressed its desire to strengthen cooperation in the field of postal services between the two countries through signing a bilateral agreement under the framework of the Universal Postal Union.

XII. YOUTH AND SPORTS

Both Sides emphasized that the "Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Youth Affairs and Sports Between the Government of the Republic of Türkiye and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain" signed on 25 August 2016 in Ankara is an important legal framework to strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

The Turkish Side expressed the importance to organize the 1st Meeting of the Joint Commission in the Field of Youth and Sports in order to consolidate the already existing good relations between the two countries.

Both Sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the youth sector in relation to the following various fields:

- Establishing a joint youth training programme.
- Exchange of visits between Bahrain youth delegations and their Turkish counterparts in various youth programmes (Camps – Conferences – Fora).
- Youth training.
- Exchange of experiences, information and systems in the administering and organising of youth centred entities.
- Exchange of experiences in initiatives and programmes designed for youth that are in line with the strategy for youth in both countries.

Both Sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the sports sector in relation to the following various fields:

- Exchange expertise in sports club management.
- Organizing tournaments and camps for teams from both countries.
- Strengthening cooperation in sports training.
- Strengthening cooperation regarding grants and scholarships for distinguished athletes.
- Discussing sports professionalism and exchanging experiences.
- Organising friendly matches and events.
- Exchange of bulletins, publications and research in sports generally.
- Preparing and implementing joint programmes to promote sports tourism in both countries.
- Exchange of expertise regarding medical sports and physical therapy.
- Exchange of expertise regarding the discovery and nurture of sporting talents.

XIII. GOVERNMENT TENDERS AND PROCUREMENT

The Bahrain Side encouraged Turkish enterprises to register in the E-tendering system, participate in public pre-qualification process published through Bahrain Tender Board's website, look at the procurement plans, which are available in the Tender Board's Website, to be ready to participate in the public tenders.

The Bahrain Side expressed its desire for Turkish enterprises to enter into joint ventures with their Bahrain counterparts to enhance their capabilities and resources, then participate in the tenders as one unit.

Both Sides agreed to exchange expertise in the government tenders and procurement field.

XIV. ENERGY

Both Sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Both Sides agreed to explore potential investment opportunities in the renewable energy sector, in particular wind and solar energy, waste-to-energy conversion and hydrogen.

Both Sides agreed to carry out joint studies in the field of renewable energy and clean technology through knowledge and experience sharing, seminars and trainings in order to combat climate change and limit its impact.

The Turkish Side invited Bahraini energy companies to participate in the Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) tenders.

The Turkish Side expressed its desire to evaluate comprehensive cooperation opportunities for Petroleum Pipeline Corporation (BOTAS) to transfer its expertise and technology in the field of pipeline security and SCADA to Bahrain.

XV. MUNICIPALITIES AFFAIRS

Both Sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the municipal work sector in relation to exchange of expertise and best practices in afforestation and landscape (gardens, parks, streets and major intersections), and in management and development of Central Markets.

XVI. WORKS AFFAIRS, CONSTRUCTION AND CONTRACTING SERVICES

Both Sides agreed to enhance the cooperation in the works affairs sector by establishing a joint committee between Works Affairs of Bahrain's Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, and Türkiye's Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to exchange the experiences in the fields of Roads, Sanitary Engineering, construction and maintenance in both countries to overview and develop the following issues:

- The possibility of Turkish companies participating in large projects in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Exchanging experiences in green buildings and energy saving in construction projects and construction specifications and standards.
- Exchanging experiences in the type of materials used in asphaltting roads and modern economical methods for road maintenance using environmentally friendly materials.
- Exchanging experiences related to modern technologies used for stormwater drainage and sewage treatment.
- Exchanging experiences in road, bridge and tunnel design, construction, testing and maintenance.
- Exchanging approved road traffic safety specifications.

Both Sides, considering the importance of cooperation on construction and technical consultancy services sectors, agreed to encourage their companies as well as their related institutions for further collaboration.

The Turkish Side underlined that the increasing number of prestigious construction projects, including in the field of airports and energy undertaken by Turkish companies in Bahrain recently, would be a sign for further cooperation and expressed its readiness to undertake more infrastructure and superstructure projects in order to support the economic development of Bahrain.

Both Sides expressed their desire in inviting a delegation of the leading Turkish and Bahraini construction companies to explore the opportunities for superstructure, infrastructure, and housing projects available in both territories.

XVII. ENVIRONMENT & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Both Sides agreed to develop cooperation between the related organizations and to exchange expertise in the fields of upper-scaled spatial planning initiatives for urban development policies and for sustainable cities, strategic plan framework and land use classifications, zoning regulations, urban renewal projects, and risk management. Including traffic, hydrodynamic, and environmental planning studies. In agreement to share knowledge in urban design (street design, public space, urban realm, etc.) through detailed masterplan, waterfront development planning standards, standards for public facilities and community services, and transit-oriented development opportunities, as well as stakeholder and agency consultations.

The Turkish Side suggested to develop Smart Cities as a potential cooperation area.

The Turkish Side expressed its interest to support town-twinning projects between local administrations for the purpose of knowledge and experience-sharing.

The Turkish Side expressed its readiness on exchanging technical experience in the field of social housing and urban renewal including transferring know-how on improving the institutional infrastructure for mass housing and social facility production for the low and middle income groups.

Both Sides agreed to share experience in management, operation and maintenance of wastewater system and design of treatment plants, sludge management and reuse of treated sewage effluent.

XVIII. SOCIAL SECURITY AND LABOR

Both Sides declared common intention to initiate the negotiations to sign a “*Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between Social Security Institution of Republic of Türkiye and Social Insurance Organization of the Kingdom of Bahrain*”.

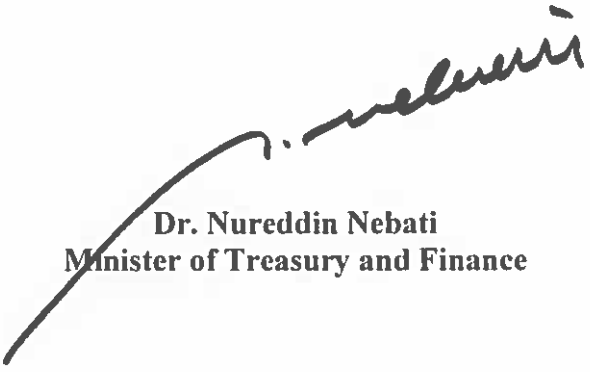
XIX. TIME AND VENUE OF THE NEXT SESSION

Both Sides agreed to hold the Eighth Session of the Turkish-Bahraini Joint Committee in Ankara, on a date to be mutually agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

Done and signed in Manama on the 31st of March 2022, in two originals in the English language.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN**



**Dr. Nureddin Nebati
Minister of Treasury and Finance**



**Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa
Minister of Finance and National Economy**

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