

**Honourable Ambassadors  
Distinguished guests from Slovenia and Turkey  
Eminent experts of Seminar  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is my great pleasure to welcome and address to you, here, in a first seminar for improvement of Turkish-Slovenian Business Relations, as idea-father as well as honorary consul of Slovenia in Istanbul. Also it is our privilege and honour as Yapi Merkezi to host and sponsor this modest but very unique scientific meeting.

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

I would like to begin my short speech by saying **Dobro jutro** and **Günaydin**, **Dobro-do'li** and **Ho'geldiniz**.

As Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia, today, I would like to express my happiness because of the improvements of the relation between our two beautiful countries, which were initiated by President Kucan and President Demirel in June 1995. Today, we have Mr. Benjamin Lukman in charge in Ankara as Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia and Ambassador Halil Akinci in Slovenia. At the same time, the Slovenian Business Council has been established in DEIK and Mr. Aykar has been elected as Chairman of the Turkish side; Mr. Polenc is the counterpart of Mr. Aykar on the Slovenian side. Also, parties have already signed agreements **on Trade and Economical Cooperation; on Creation of the Turkish-Slovenian Business Council**, and a detailed agreement **on Free Trade Area**. I think, today, all set-ups for strong sub - structure as foundation are ready. Now, we should begin to build super-structure, which includes improvements in scientific, cultural, trade, joint-operations, joint investments and touristic relations for the benefit of our lovely countries.

With this nice opportunity, I should specially mention some individuals' names, who have contributed and put significant concrete with strong cohesion to this foundation. **Mr. Josip Skoberne** as chairman first Slovenian business delegation, **Mr. Roman Veras**, **Mr. Vinlo Zpancic**, **Mr. Matevz Bambic** as eminent representatives of the Slovenian Chamber of Economy. **Mrs. Vojka Ravbar** - **Mr. Marjan Siffar** - **Mr. Tomaz Vetrih** as state high level officers. **Mr. İlhan Yigitbasioglu** - as former Ambassador of Turkey. **Mr. Pavel Gantar** - **Mr. Metod Dragonjo** - **Mr. Zoran Thaler** as State Ministers. Of Course **Demirel** and **Kucan** as Presidents.

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

I would like to emphasize briefly, the existing commitment of the countries as follows:

1. They both intend to develop within the conditions of free market economy and in the democratic and parliamentary system.
2. Their sincere desire to maintain **peace at home and peace in the world**.
3. They are both eager and have committed themselves to become a full member of the European Economic Community in the coming years.
4. They are always ready, supportive and willing to enhance international collaboration for the global preservation of cultural richness, freedom of mankind and peace.

Furthermore, I have strong confidence in the capabilities of Slovenian and Turkish economies; the current situation in the global world economy presents challenging trade and work opportunities for both sides. I further believe that Slovenia's deep-rooted design and manufacturing tradition, coupled with Turkey's dynamic management and free-market experience would create a winning synergy. Slovenia is an important gate for entering Europe. Turkey is a huge potential market for Slovenia.

***Distinguished Guests,***

Therefore, this is the time. Today's meetings are well designed and represent a wonderful start for contributing to a growth of prosperity of both respectful nations. We have learned that the most important capital is knowledge and information. For this reason, our experts must eliminate lack of information and knowledge as well as creating ideas towards a strong collaboration for prosperity and for peace of the world.

We have to find answers for the following questions especially in this meeting:

1. How can we improve the existing relations?
2. How can we establish the super structure of our future relations?
3. What will be our action plan?

***Ladies and Gentlemen;***

Before I conclude my words, I would like to extend my esteemed thanks to **Ambassador Lukman**, who has put so much effort in the organization and layout of our meeting; to **Ambassador Halil Akinci**, who has been kind enough to participate and who has always supported the activities of the two countries and to **Mrs. Vodka Raubar**, who has proved her special interest for the Turkish-Slovenian relations by participating in this meeting during her very busy business schedule. If **Mr. Emre Aykar**, Chairman of DEIK Turkish - Slovenian Business Council, had not put his strong and continuous contribution, this program wouldn't have been prepared in such a short time. Thanks to **Mr. Aykar** for his meaningful efforts as well.

***Distinguished Guests,***

With these thoughts and feelings, I would like to wish success for this unique meeting. I believe the creative findings in the meetings will help the growth of prosperity and successful collaboration between our beautiful countries. Thank you for your kind attention.