China's Comments as of March 12, 2021

AGREED MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE TURKISH-CHINESE JOINT ECONOMIC AND TRADE COMMITTEE

The Turkish-Chinese Joint Economic and Trade Committee, (hereinafter stated as the JETC) established in accordance with the "Agreed Minutes of the Turkish -Chinese Joint Committee on Economic, Industrial and Technical Cooperation" signed on December 15, 1982 in Beijing between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the People's Republic of China, considering the Covid-19 pandemic situation, held its Seventeenth Session in Beijing and Ankara via video on the March 25th, 2021.

The JETC meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Ruhsar Pekcan, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Turkey and H.E. Wang Wentao, Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China. The lists of the members of the two Sides are attached as Annex I and Annex II, respectively.

Discussions between the two Sides took place in a cordial atmosphere reflecting the friendly relations between the two countries and their desire to strengthen and further develop bilateral economic and commercial relations on the basis of mutual benefit.

Both Sides reviewed the trend of bilateral trade and economic cooperation, confirmed the economic and trade achievement in various fields and expressed their willingness to further enhance their trade and economic cooperation through many channels.

During the meeting, which was conducted in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and cooperation, both Sides discussed all the issues related to their trade and economic cooperation and the results of the deliberations of the JETC are summarized as follows:

I- LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Both Sides expressed their satisfaction on signing the following agreements:

- "Framework Agreement on the Expanding and Deepening of Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Turkey and the People's Republic of China" on October 8, 2010;
- "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the People's Republic of China on co-operation and mutual assistance in Customs Matters on June 21, 2014;
- "Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the People's Republic of China on

Enhancing Cooperation in the Areas of Infrastructure Construction and Technical Consultancy in Third Countries" on October 8, 2010;

- "Framework Agreement on Financial Cooperation between the Undersecretariat of Treasury of the Republic of Turkey and China Development Bank", on February 21, 2012;
- "The Swap Agreement between the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey and the People's Bank of China" on February 21, 2012;
- "Protocol Between The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey and the General Administration of Quality Control, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China on the Phytosanitary Conditions of Tobacco Sent from Turkey to China" on February 21, 2012;
- "Protocol on Banking Cooperation between the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency of the Republic of Turkey and the Banking Regulatory Commission of the People's Republic of China for Intervention in Cross-Border Crises" on February 21, 2012;
- "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments (Revised) on July 29, 2015;
- "Agreement on Establishing the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank" for Turkey's participation to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank signed on 29 January, 2015.
- "Mid-Long Term Development Plan for the Economic and Trade Cooperation between Turkey and China" signed on July 29, 2015;
- "Memorandum of Understanding on E-commerce Cooperation to Strengthen the Development of Information Silk Road Between Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs, and Communications (MTMC) of the Republic of Turkey and National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of the People's Republic of China" on November 14, 2015;
- "The Swap Agreement between the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey and the People's Bank of China (revised)" on November 14, 2015;
- "Memorandum of Understanding on Aligning the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and the Middle Corridor Initiative between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the People's Republic of China" on November 14, 2015;
- "The Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Railways between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the People's Republic of China" on November 14, 2015;
- "The Veterinary Agreement between Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey and AQSIQ of the People's Republic of China for Export of Milk and Dairy Products" on November 14, 2015;
- "Protocol on the Phytosanitary Requirements for the Export of Turkish Cherries to China between the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock

of the Republic of Turkey and AQSIQ of the People's Republic of China" on November 14, 2015;

- "Protocol on Phytosanitary Requirements for Pistachios Exported from Turkey to China" and "Agreement on Cooperation in Renewable Energy and Coal" signed between Turkey and China on September 2, 2016;
- "Action Plan to Enhance Bilateral Trade and Investment Cooperation between the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China" signed on November 4, 2016;
- "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the International Road Transport of Goods and Passengers" on May 13, 2017;
- "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments (Revised) in May 30, 2019;
- "The Swap Agreement between the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey and the People's Bank of China (revised)" on May 30, 2019;
- "Protocol on Inspection, Quarantine Veterinary Hygiene Conditions of Fisheries to be Exported from Turkey to China" signed between Turkey and China in Ankara on September 9, 2019.

II- COMMERCIAL COOPERATION

i-Bilateral Trade

Both Sides reviewed the recent developments in their bilateral trade and noted the growing trend volume observed since the last session of the JETC. Both Sides urged the need to further increase and diversify their bilateral trade and agreed to take necessary measures to maintain its healthy and sustainable development. Both Sides also emphasized the importance of implementing joint investment projects to support bilateral trade.

Both Sides emphasized that the establishment of the Joint Working Group for the Promotion of Trade ~~in Goods and Services~~ will be helpful to enhance communication and promote cooperation in this area. Both Sides expressed their willingness to hold the 1st meeting of the Working Group at the earliest.

The Chinese Side expressed its concern on the Turkish Side's raising tariffs over Chinese toys and other products. The Turkish Side has taken note of it and expressed its readiness to reflect upon properly.

ii-Trade Promotion Activities

Having emphasized the importance of organizing mutual trade and business events to support their bilateral trade, both Sides agreed to encourage their enterprises

to take part in exhibitions, expositions, ~~fairs,~~ seminars, business forums and events in either country.

The Chinese Side noted with satisfaction Turkey's strong participation in the first three sessions of China International Import Expo (CIIE) and welcomed the willingness of Turkish Side to participate in the future.

The Turkish Side expressed contentment over China's valuable participation to the 88th İzmir International Fair (IEF) as a "Partner Country" and appreciated the successfully organized "Turkey-China Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum" held at the sideline of it.

Both Sides also highlighted with satisfaction that Turkey took successfully part in the International Horticultural Exhibition 2019 Beijing Expo with the theme of "Live Green, Live Better" which was held from April 29-October 7, 2019.

iii-Multilateral Cooperation

Both Sides also highlighted the importance of cooperation in multilateral fora on the basis of their mutual interests and expressed their willingness to safeguard free trade, multilateral trading system and an open world economy.

Both Sides also highlighted the importance of cooperation under the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement and are willing to communicate and cooperate in the field of bilateral trade facilitation.. ~~Turkish Side proposed to establish a Joint Working Group on Trade Facilitation with the involvement of National Committees on Trade Facilitation.~~

III- ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

i- Investment Cooperation

Aiming to foster mutual investments and promote bilateral investment opportunities, both Sides agreed to support their existing related bodies and develop proper communication channels. Both Sides underlined the importance of establishing a dialogue mechanism for intergovernmental communication and collaboration, sharing information on investment cooperation projects and legal framework related to investments.

~~The Turkish Side welcomed Chinese companies to invest in Turkey and expressed its desire to introduce information on investment policies, opportunities, key areas and projects of Turkey to enhance Chinese companies' understanding of Turkish market.~~

Both Sides emphasized that the establishment of the Investment and Economic Cooperation Working Group under the framework of JETC will play a positive role in enhancing the information exchange regarding investment cooperation in all areas, coordinating the solution of related problems and building a ~~pragmatic~~ platform for pragmatic cooperation of both sides. ~~to increase investment opportunities and lead to a closer cooperation between the Parties in this area.~~ Both Sides expressed their willingness to hold the 1st meeting of the Working Group at the earliest as needed.

ii-Cooperation on Free Zones and Special Economic Zones

Both Sides agreed to exchange expertise and experience in the field of free zones and special economic zones. ~~The Chinese Side expressed its willingness to collaborate on establishing specialized free zones in Turkey with the aim of increasing high value added and technology oriented production.~~

The Chinese Side further expressed its willingness to encourage Chinese enterprises with strength and willingness to invest in Turkish free zones or conduct investment cooperation in building and operating free zones and special economic zones in Turkey. ~~cooperate with the Turkish Side in building special economic zones in Turkey. The Chinese Side agreed to dispatch a delegation to research on the feasibility of special economic zone construction.~~

iii-Customs Cooperation in Inspection and Quarantine

Both Sides expressed their satisfaction on the overall cooperation between the customs authorities which was supported by the organization of series of training seminars and field visits.

Having noted China's participation to TIR Convention in 2017, Turkish Side expressed its appreciation that China has started to fully implement the TIR System at all of its checkpoints at border and inland customs offices.

The Turkish Side noted the efforts and achievement of the Chinese Side in pushing some Turkish food and agricultural products exported to China. Having expressed its appreciation for the cooperation on fisheries and cherry exports from Turkey to China, Turkish Side also recorded its interest in exports of lemon, orange, pomegranate, apple, fresh grape, tangerine, grapefruit, fig, kiwi and peeled almonds to China. Turkish Side underlined that the official application file for the exports of bay leaf from Turkey to China was also submitted.

Turkish Side also proposed cooperation on the implementation of block chain based system at customs.

~~**iv- Cooperation on Quality and Safety of Industrial Products**~~

~~Turkish Side proposed to bring into force the Protocol on the Establishment of the Consultation and Cooperation Mechanism on Quality and Safety of Industrial~~

~~Products which was signed in 2005 and take necessary steps for establishing a notification mechanism for unsafe products that are imported from the other Side.~~

~~v-~~iv- Standardization and Conformity Assessment

Turkish Side proposed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding in the fields of standardization, conformity assessment and other related areas to improve cooperation between Turkish Standards Institution (TSE) and counterpart organization of the People's Republic of China, State Administration for Market Regulation's (SAMR) and its sub-organizations. Turkish Side also proposed to assign contact points for a more effective communication between TSE and SAMR's sub-organizations.

Turkish Side noted readiness of TSE to provide Project Management Consultancy (PMC), inspection and surveillance services for the Belt and Road Initiative and other projects in Turkey and nearby regions initiated and continued by the People's Republic of China.

Both Sides took note of the importance of supporting each other in international and regional platforms in the fields of standardization, certification, conformity assessment, metrology and calibration in a way strengthening their technical cooperation.

~~vi-~~v- Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

Both Sides expressed their willingness to organize mutual information and training programs for SMEs and sharing experiences on their efforts to increase their trading capacity.

~~vii-~~vi- Science & Technology

Both sides agreed to enhance people-to-people exchange in the field of science and technology, and support communication and cooperation of various forms by scientific researchers and entrepreneurs.

Both sides agreed to hold activities to provide cooperative platform for scientific enterprises and entrepreneurs.

~~Both Sides agreed to further develop technological cooperation through sharing best practices and experiences in technology and innovation areas and encouraging investors such as venture capital funds and angel investors to invest in technology-based firms which operate in techno-parks in Turkey and in China.~~

~~Both Sides also agreed to carry out activities for the purpose of bringing together the technology-based firms and entrepreneurs of the both countries.~~

Turkish Side proposed to develop cooperation in the field of digital transformation policies and implementations and to establish concrete collaborations between techno-parks or similar structures of both countries through cooperation protocols to be signed between themselves.

Both Sides agreed to share experiences and knowledge about the qualified projects and best practices carried out by R&D and Design Centers in the both countries.

Both Sides expressed their satisfaction from the ongoing cooperation within the scope of Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) in the field of space. Both Sides agreed to enhance cooperation and discussions between the Turkish Space Agency (TSA) and China National Space Administration (CNSA), notably on the subjects such as ~~commercial relations in the space,~~ reciprocal technology transfer and are willing to promote the negotiation and signature of the MoU on space cooperation.

~~viii-~~ vii- Mining and Energy

Turkish Side proposed to enhance cooperation in the fields of renewable energy, particularly in Renewable Energy Zones (RE-Zone) projects ~~and coal technologies~~.

Turkish Side expressed its willingness to examine the possibilities of cooperation on coal mining, alternative coal production methods to utilize coal resources which cannot be produced through conventional methods and utilizing low-calorie coal resources by using clean coal technologies.

Having emphasized the importance of evaluating the opportunities of new projects and cooperation in the field of earth sciences, Turkish Side expressed its willingness to examine the possibilities of technological cooperation opportunities regarding search, operation and production of rare earth elements.

yorum [m1]: This part is yet to be checked.

~~Turkish Side~~Both sides ~~proposed~~ agreed to further deepen cooperation in the field of nuclear energy and promote cooperation between enterprises of both Sides on nuclear power plant project in Turkey on the basis of fairness, mutual trust and benefit.

Both Sides emphasized their willingness to increase the cooperation between relevant corporations on the basis of mutual benefit in order to develop the electricity transmission infrastructure.

~~ix-~~ viii- ~~Contracting and Engineering Consultancy Services~~Cooperation in Infrastructure Construction

~~Having noted with satisfaction the ongoing projects and considered the potential and capacity of their respective contracting sectors, b~~Both sides emphasized the importance in cooperating in the field of infrastructure construction and will make efforts to push forward the cooperation in this field. The Turkish side welcomed the involvement of Chinese companies in infrastructure projects, including the upgrading of traditional infrastructure and is willing to discuss the possibility of cooperation of all forms in new infrastructure construction as communication network, clean energy,

artificial intelligence and digital economy to promote green sustainable development of cooperating projects.

Both sides expressed their willingness to explore further cooperation possibilities between their companies in Turkey and China, as well as in third countries. ~~Turkish Side welcomed the possible involvement of Chinese companies in infra-structure projects.~~

~~Both Sides emphasized the importance of cooperation on the contracting sector in a way further supporting their bilateral relations and agreed to exert their best efforts to cooperate in this sector.~~

~~x-~~ix- Agriculture and Agricultural Trade

Both Sides emphasized the importance of increased cooperation in the area of agriculture and continuing dialogue on particular issues that need to be dealt with in trade of agricultural products.

~~Having expressed its appreciation for the cooperation on fisheries and cherry exports from Turkey to China, Turkish Side also recorded its interest in exports of lemon, orange, pomegranate, apple, fresh grape, tangerine, grapefruit, fig, kiwi and peeled almonds to China. Turkish Side underlined that the official application file for the exports of bay leaf from Turkey to China was also submitted~~.

Having further expressed its willingness to cooperate in aquaculture, to enhance export opportunities of sea bream, sea bass, bluefin, tuna fish and trout, Turkish Side proposed to work in cooperation in the fields of crops research, biotechnology, animal husbandry, aquaculture and phytosanitary research. ~~Turkish Side underlined the importance of conveying the relevant legislation on aquatic products of China to Turkey, in order to eliminate misunderstandings about aquatic animal diseases and clarifying the required statement.~~

~~xi-~~x- Forestry, Water and Metrology

Both Sides expressed their willingness to cooperate in sharing knowledge and experience in the ~~planning,~~ development, utilize, economize, protection and management of water resources, including integrated water resources planning, integrated watershed planning and flood and drought management planning as well as water conservation, water use efficiency, water quality and quantity monitoring, climate change impacts on water resources, etc.~~water efficiency, water saving,~~ reuse ~~of waste water and drainage water from agricultural irrigation, preparation of river basin management plans, monitoring the water in terms of quality and quantity, effect of climate change on water resources, preparation of flood and drought management plans.~~

yorum [m2]: Currently as the treatment and reuse of urban sewage is the key point of water resources development and utilization, we suggest to delete this part.

Both Sides also underlined the importance of carrying out trainings on planning, redesign and modernization of observation network, analysis of current situation and needs, determination of technical specifications of the system, purchasing, installation procedures, maintenance, repair and calibration services and capacity building.

~~xii-~~xi- **Transportation**

a. Civil Aviation

Both Sides underlined the importance of enhanced cooperation in the area of civil aviation and civil aviation authorities of the both countries and will keep in touch on traffic rights arrangement. Both sides will encourage the airlines of both countries to carry out business cooperation according to market principles.

~~On passenger flights, Turkish Side expressed its readiness to increase frequencies from 7 to 14 for Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou flight/destination points which will enable total frequencies of passenger flights from 21 to 42 between two countries.~~

~~On cargo flights, Turkish Side expressed its expectation to increase frequencies from 14 to 21.~~

~~Turkish Side proposed to revise the Agreement on Air Transport between Turkey and China to add code sharing with Air China in the Chinese domestic lines in order to access Chinese domestic market and to enable Turkish firms to employ Chinese pilots and Chinese cabin crew in their flights.~~

b. Railway Transportation

Turkish Side expressed its readiness for cooperation to be established with the Chinese public and private companies and financing institutions in order to realize public-private partnership and/or other financing models in the construction and financing of the planned and/or on-going railway infrastructure projects available in the investment program of Turkey.

c. ~~Maritime Transportation~~Ports Cooperation

~~The Turkish Side welcomed the possible proposals to be offered by Chinese companies for operation of some terminals in Çandarlı Container Port following its completion.~~ Both sides expressed that cooperation on ports is an important part of economic and trade cooperation between China and Turkey. Turkey has a good foundation and potential for port development. Enterprises from both countries have

yorum [m3]: The project is still in the exploration stage.

achieved successful experience in port cooperation, and both sides will continue to strengthen communication and cooperation in this field.

IV-FINANCIAL COOPERATION

i- Trade in National Currencies

Having reiterated their desire to increase the use of national currencies in bilateral trade and payment systems, both Sides welcomed the ongoing work on the establishment of a comprehensive collaboration system with collective support from central banks, public institutions, financial institutions, private sector and non-governmental institutions such as trade and banking associations.

ii- Portfolio Investments

Both Sides acknowledged that bond issuance in Panda market would contribute to further development of bilateral economic and commercial relations. ~~In this respect, Turkish Side expressed its appreciation for successfully concluding the technical documentation process between the Ministry of Treasury and Finance of Turkey and its Chinese counterpart since September 2018.~~

yorum [m4]: Related authorities are not clear about this document.

Aiming to start the bond issuance in Panda market, Turkish Side expressed its expectation from Chinese Side to support the ongoing process and facilitate the communication between the above-mentioned Ministry of Turkey and the People's Bank of China (PBOC) and the National Association of Financial Market Institutional Investors (NAFMII) for the conclusion of the necessary requirements.

V- ALIGNMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

i- Enhancing the Alignment of "Belt and Road" Initiative (BRI) and the "Middle Corridor" Initiative

Both Sides agreed to enhance the alignment of the Belt and Road Initiative-BRI and the "Middle Corridor" Initiative to make use of Turkey's special geographical advantage in connecting Europe and Asia.

Both Sides agreed to expedite the convening of the first meeting of the Working Group foreseen to be established in line with the Memorandum of Understanding on the alignment of the two initiatives signed in Antalya on November 14, 2015. ~~Both Sides also expressed their intention to further develop existing cooperation between the "Middle Corridor (BRI)" and the "Kervansaray Project".~~

Having noted with satisfaction the launch and smooth operation of China-Europe Freight Train ~~"Chang'an Freight Train"~~ on "Xi'an-Ankara-Prague" line, both Sides are willing to further enhance their cooperation in railway freight transportation.

Among others, both Sides shall jointly endeavor to organize regular block freight trains from the People's Republic of China to Turkey and to Europe via Turkey, setting reasonable and attractive tariffs.

Turkish Side expressed its satisfaction over signing of the International Road Transport Agreement between the Parties which will eventually give additional impetus to the development of Middle Corridor within the framework of BRI Initiative.

ii- Deepening Cooperation under the Framework of AIIB

Both sides agrees to enhance their cooperation under the framework of AIIB, including supporting the alignment of the development strategy of AIIB and "Belt and Road" Initiative with high quality and third-party market cooperation. Sides expressed their willingness to use the funds and financing facilities of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to jointly undertake projects both within the BRI and in third countries.

VI- COOPERATION DOCUMENTS

i- Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Joint Working Group for the Promotion of Trade in Goods and Services

Both Sides agreed to establish the Joint Working Group for the promotion of trade and signed the "Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China on the Establishment of the Joint Working Group for the Promotion of Trade in Goods and Services".

ii- Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Investment and Economic Cooperation Working Group

To further develop bilateral cooperation in the investment area, both Sides decided to sign the "Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China on the Establishment of the Investment and Economic Cooperation Working Group" during the meeting.

iii- Memorandum of Understanding on Electronic Commerce Cooperation

To enhance cooperation in e-commerce and share their experience in developing cross-border e-commerce, both Sides agreed to sign "Memorandum of Understanding on Electronic Commerce Cooperation between the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China" during the meeting.

~~**iv-Memorandum of Understanding on Establishment a Turkey-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry Forum**~~

~~Both Sides welcomed TOBB and CCPIT to sign an "MOU on the Establishment of a Turkey-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry Forum". Both Sides noted with satisfaction that the text-based negotiation is continuing smoothly between the relevant parties.~~

~~**v- Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Joint Customs Committee**~~

~~To further enhance the cooperation in the area of customs between the two countries, both Sides agreed to establish a Joint Customs Committee. The Chinese Side welcomed the Turkish Side to raise suggestions of modification and expressed its readiness to expedite negotiations.~~

~~**vi-The Protocol on Cooperation in the Field of Trade in Agricultural Products**~~

~~Both Sides noted with satisfaction the on-going process between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the People's Republic of China towards the conclusion of a "Protocol in the field of Trade in Agricultural Products". Having expressed the need to urge negotiations between the relevant authorities, both Sides underlined the importance of the Protocol in further developing and diversifying trade in agricultural products in a long-term, stable and balanced manner and within an institutional basis.~~

~~**vii- Memorandum of Understanding among the Ministry of Trade of The Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China Regarding Cooperation in the Field of Special Economic Zones**~~

~~Turkish Side renewed its readiness to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries on the Cooperation in the Field of Special Economic Zones, referring to strong contribution it may bring about for Parties to build long-term cooperation in this area, consolidating their efforts to increase high value added and technology oriented production, among others.~~

~~To this end, Turkish Side called upon Chinese Side to expedite its work on the draft MoU text submitted by Turkish Side earlier.~~

VII- COORDINATION IN ECONOMIC POLICIES AND COOPERATION IN PANDEMIC PREVENTION

i- Coordination in Economic Policies

Both Sides introduced their macro-economic situation and development strategy and underlined that there exists more opportunities in future cooperation, expressing their readiness to enhance coordination in economic policies.

ii- Enhance Cooperation in Pandemic Prevention

Both Sides confirmed their close cooperation during Covid-19 pandemic and underlined the huge influence of the virus on the global economy. Both Sides agreed to support each other and enhance cooperation and implement the important consensus made by leaders of the two countries.

VIII- COOPERATION IN OTHER FIELDS

i- Business Council

Both sides believe that in order to continuously strengthen trade and investment cooperation, there is a need for closer exchanges between the chambers of commerce of both sides. For this purpose, both sides will make full use of the China-Turkey Joint Business Council established in 1992 and push CCPIT and TOBB to sign the cooperation MoU.~~Both Sides noted the importance of more frequent contacts between their business councils in the expansion of their trade and investment relations. In this respect, both Sides have also noted the important role to be played by the Turkey-China Joint Business Council established in 1992 in exploiting trade and business opportunities available in both countries.~~

~~Both Sides noted that the Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK in Turkish abbreviation) is the sole representative of the Turkish private sector to carry out trade diplomacy globally. Both Sides underlined the importance of Turkey-China Business Council Meetings organized by DEİK and CCPIT.~~

~~Both Sides gladly took note of the willingness to push CCPIT and TOBB to sign "The Memorandum of Understanding in order to Establish a Turkey- China Chamber of Commerce and Industry Forum".~~

ii- Business Visa

The Chinese Side introduced its regulations on the application of Chinese business visa and adjustment during Covid-19.

Both sides stated their pleasure to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Turkey and China in 2021.

With a view to ensuring strong participation of the Turkish and Chinese business circles to the business activities to be organized in their respective countries and maintaining close ties between the two nations' business environments, both Sides

agreed to support their respective authorities to continuously improve facilitation of people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.~~further streamline business visa application procedures in order to increase the efficiency of visa issuance in the counterparty.~~

The Turkish Side requested from the Chinese Side to obtain multiple entry visa valid for 1 year for the Turkish business circles. ~~In this respect, b~~Both sides agreed to hold a meeting at proper time~~in the first half of 2021~~ between their relevant authorities to identify a common understanding and solve problems of both concerns~~set of procedures that shall satisfy both Sides' businesspersons~~.

iii- The Protocol between the Directorate of Communications of Turkey and the State Council Information Office of China

yorum [m5]: This part is yet to be checked.

The Turkish Side proposed to sign "The Protocol between the Directorate of Communications of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey and the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation and Exchange in the Areas of Media and Information" in the coming period. The Chinese Side expressed that it will convey the request of the Turkish Side to the relevant Chinese authorities.

iv-Culture and Tourism

Both Sides expressed their willingness to provide assistance and convenience necessary for the establishment and functioning of the Cultural Centers in their respective countries in pursuance of Article III of the Agreement on the Reciprocal Establishment of Cultural Centers.

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This Agreed Minutes is signed in Ankara and Beijing on ~~……,~~March 25th, ~~2020~~ 2021 in two originals in the English language.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY	FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
H. E. RUHSAR PEKCAN	**H.E. ~~ZHONG SHAN~~Wang Wentao**
Minister of Trade	**Minister of Commerce**

China's Comments as of March 12, 2021