

The second EU-Türkiye Business Summit, co-organised by European Business Summits (EBS) and DEİK, brought together policymakers, business leaders and institutional representatives to examine how a long-standing economic partnership can respond to new trade, industrial and geopolitical realities. The successful collaboration between EBS and DEİK created a valuable platform for open dialogue and concrete opportunities for cooperation.

MODERNISING THE CUSTOMS UNION

Thirty years after its creation, the Customs Union remains the foundation of EU-Türkiye trade, but participants stressed that it needs to reflect today's economy. Regulatory divergence, technical barriers, customs procedures and new requirements linked to the green and digital transitions all create friction for businesses.

Speakers highlighted the importance of more systematic consultation, greater predictability and renewed dialogue on modernisation. The goal is not simply to facilitate trade, but to help companies on both sides compete and invest with confidence.

INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION: MADE WITH EUROPE

Debates on European industrial resilience raised a key question: how can Europe strengthen strategic production without weakening the integrated supply chains on which it depends? Türkiye's manufacturing capabilities make it an important partner in sectors ranging from automotive and machinery to clean technologies.

Participants pointed to joint research, advanced manufacturing, cleaner materials, circularity, skills and reciprocal access to public procurement as practical areas for deeper cooperation.

As Yaprak Balkan, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Türkiye to the EU, observed: "The future is about joint research, advanced manufacturing, cleaner materials, batteries, circularity, and skills. It's also about opening new opportunities in areas such as public procurement, where we are now working towards reciprocal market opening."

ENERGY AND CONNECTIVITY AS SOURCES OF RESILIENCE

Energy security was presented as both an economic and geopolitical imperative. Stronger interconnections, diversified supply, renewables, storage and investment in grids can reduce vulnerabilities while supporting the competitiveness of European and Turkish industry.

Connectivity also extends to transport, logistics and regional links. As supply chains adapt to global uncertainty, cooperation with reliable nearby partners offers concrete opportunities to strengthen resilience.

A PARTNERSHIP BUILT ON TRUST

Beyond technical negotiations, the Summit emphasised the political and institutional conditions needed for meaningful progress. Mutual confidence, consistent dialogue and engagement with civil society were presented as essential to building a durable economic relationship.

As Séamus Boland, President of the European Economic and Social Committee, stated: "EU-Türkiye relations has to be defined by gradual confidence building, and above all, trust."

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND TRUSTED AI

Artificial intelligence was discussed as an opportunity to build shared competitiveness, provided that innovation is supported by clear rules and trusted governance. Speakers examined how cooperation on skills, cybersecurity, standards, testing and cross-border projects can help companies scale technology while preserving confidence and accountability.

SECURITY AND ECONOMIC STABILITY

The conversation on NATO and Europe underscored that security and economic policy can no longer be treated separately. Stable partnerships, resilient infrastructure and secure supply chains are increasingly important for investment decisions, while Türkiye remains a significant actor in the wider European and transatlantic security architecture.

FROM SHARED INTERESTS TO ACTION

A recurring message was that proximity and economic complementarity should translate into concrete cooperation. Addressing obstacles to trade, supporting industrial partnerships and widening opportunities for joint investment would make the relationship more resilient and mutually beneficial.

As Maxime Prévot, Belgium's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, put it: "Türkiye has the manufacturing capacity, the industrial expertise, and the connections to neighbouring markets that can help make European supply chains more resilient. I believe our relationship should reflect these shared interests much more clearly."

The good cooperation between EBS and DEİK in co-organising the Summit demonstrates the value of sustained dialogue. The challenge now is to move from discussion to delivery, with practical steps that give businesses greater certainty and strengthen the EU-Türkiye partnership.