

## **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

Dear Readers,

DEİK/Turkish-Canadian Business Council's mission is to enhance the economic bilateral relations between Turkey and Canada through promoting trade and investments between the two countries.

The relations between Turkey and Canada are based on common values and ideals with regard to democracy, freedom, human rights, and free market economy. For this reason, the foundation of the relations between Turkey and the Canada is very sound.

We should take two important global developments into consideration as we consider the future of the relations between countries. First of them is the increase in the mutual dependence of the countries. The destruction of the rain forests in Brazil has effects to the global climate. The SARS disease that originated in China could threaten Canada in a very short time after its origination. The increase in the number of the AIDS patients in Africa could become among the biggest problems of the world in a very short time. The huge increase in the demand of Asian countries could make other countries to endure higher energy and logistical costs. A terrorist group in a distant place of the world could commit attacks to the most powerful country of the world. It is for this reason that the countries sharing same ideals and values should increase the cooperation they have.

The other important development is that the relations between countries are becoming multidimensional. Civil society is taking an ever increasing role. The relations between the countries are no more solely determined by the governments; the role of the business world, worlds of academics and arts, and the non-governmental organizations in these relations is growing. Success in public policy making would be increasingly difficult, if one misses the meaning of this transformation. This is so, because the NGOs are instrumental in shaping the global standards, in the gathering and dissemination of the information that feeds decision making, and problem solving. For example, the sensitivity towards the environmental problems has been developed by non-governmental organizations. Important developments such as the ratification of the "Universal declaration of human rights," prohibition of land mines are all results of civilian initiatives. Most importantly NGOs bring participatory democracy to life. Therefore, as the Turkish-Canadian Business Council and our Canadian counterparts, we have much to contribute to the development of Turkish-Canadian relations.

Turkey is a prominent actor in international trade as well as an attractive destination for foreign direct investments and this brief report on Turkish-

Canadian relations aims to be instrumental in raising interest and awareness among readers and have a positive effect on Turkish-Canadian bilateral relations.

The primary goal of this report is to present the opportunities for further developing the partnership of Turkey in Canada in areas such as telecommunications, agribusiness, mining, automotive, energy, and education.

Although Turkey is Canada's biggest trading partner in Eastern Europe, and this position is strengthening every day, the current trade and investment figures still fall short of reflecting the true potential. As the DEİK/Turkish-Canadian Business Council, we are hopeful that the positive trend will continue in the future and we stand ready to take the necessary steps to further strengthen the relations with Canada.

DEİK/Turkish-Canadian Business Council is a source of information and networking on bilateral business issues for both Turkish and Canadian companies and acts to assist Canadian companies to view Turkey as a key partner and destination for direct investments in the region. The Business Council organizes Annual Conferences and visits to Canada and hosts Ministers and top level delegations from Canada and is the sole institution with a mandate to promote bilateral economic relationships. We believe that the report titled "Turkey Brief: Turkish-Canadian Relations" will serve as a guide to those who would like to have a better understanding of the current state of affairs between Turkey and Canada.

Dr.Yılmaz ARGÜDEN

DEİK/Turkish-Canadian Business Council

Chairman