



**Dinner Speech by Muharrem YILMAZ
TÜSİAD President of the Board
13 November 2013, Tel Aviv
(Prepared by Global Economic Relations Department)**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to address you today on behalf of TÜSİAD. I would like to thank Mr. Shimon Gal, Deputy CEO of Bank Hapoalim for hosting us. I believe this dinner will provide a very good opportunity to better know each other and develop stronger bilateral relations. And special thanks to Mr. Hasan Akçakayalıoğlu for making this organization possible for us.

Today, we are very pleased to be here all together with the distinguished and significant business delegations from both sides.

As you might know, TÜSİAD is one of the leading non-governmental and voluntary business organizations in Turkey. Our members and their companies realize

- Eighty per cent (80%) of Turkey's foreign trade excluding energy import,
- Sixty-five per cent (65%) of industrial production and
- Fifty per cent (50%) of the registered employees except agriculture and civil servants.

Through our representative offices based in Brussels, Paris, Berlin, Washington DC and Beijing, we actively follow the international agenda and share it with our members. As the voice of business in Turkey, we also represent Turkish business in G-20/B-20 activities.

Our bilateral economic relations have continued to increase even in the tough times of the political atmosphere.

Today, to take a step further, we had an opportunity to realize the first meeting of the steering committee with our Israeli colleagues at MAI and also a very effective Turkey focused seminar with EBRD, Israel-

Turkey Business Council, Israel Export & International Cooperation Institute and our counterpart MAI. I must say that, it was very positive and beyond expectations. We draw a road map for the future steps in order to explore and exploit the untapped potential.

There are many cooperation areas between Turkey and Israel. We discussed them today in depth, especially the sectors of energy, agriculture and technology. I believe we will take solid steps further to realize our decisions.

I wish to underline the importance of keeping the communication channels open. We have always sustained our vision to support bilateral business relations even in the most challenging days of our bilateral political relations.

Our presence here in Tel Aviv today, with such a delegation, signifies already our commitment to deepening, further improving and diversifying our bilateral partnership.

Thank you once again for your hospitality and friendship here in Israel.