

Statement by H.E. Dr. Tawfiq Al-Rabiah, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the 12th ECO Summit Meeting, (16 October, 2012 – Baku)

**Excellencies,
Heads of States,
Distinguished Guests,**

Asalam-o-Alaikum Warakhmatullah-hi-Wabarakatohu

Thank you very much for inviting Saudi Arabia to attend 12th Economic Cooperation Organization Summit. I am participating on behalf of custodian of the two holy mosques H.E. Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz. We really appreciate the invitation extended to Saudi Arabia to participate in this Summit. I would also congratulate the People of Azerbaijan for the development made in all sphere of economy. I see the infrastructure of Baku. I am really very happy with the development. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is very interested to cooperate with all member organizations and to support the development within the countries. I strongly believe that this Summit will play a major role to promote more trade among the different states within the ECO region and Saudi Arabia will also be very interested to link ECO member countries. Saudi Arabia is building its own railway network and we would love to link our rail network with the ECO rail network, when it is achieved.

As mentioned, Saudi Arabia is also keen to promote trade among all Islamic Countries including ECO Member States. Wherever possible, we can promote more trades and alleviate any kind of obstacles or also to improve procedures and systems to make sure the smooth passage of goods among the different participating countries and also work on removing any barriers among different states to promote more cooperation.

Finally, again, I express my appreciation for the invitation to this event and look forward for more participation in the future.

Statement by H.E. Mr. Halil Akinci, Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, at the 12th ECO Summit Meeting, (16 October, 2012 – Baku)

**Mr. Chairman,
Honorable Speaker,
Honorable Ministers,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies,**

It is a great honor to address the 12th Economic Cooperation Organization Summit on behalf of Turkic Council.

First of all, I would also like to express my deep appreciation to the host country, the Republic of Azerbaijan, for the excellent arrangements made for this Summit.

ECO, deep rooted regional organization, has significantly contributed to the promotion of economic, technical and cultural cooperation within its region.

ECO has come a long way in pursuit of its objectives since its expansion in 1992, embracing the Turkic Speaking States. The expansion has strengthened the scope of cooperation capacity of the Organization.

In this connection, we highly appreciate the decision of Council of Ministers endorsing observer status of Turkic Council and express our gratitude and thanks to them.

As a very young organization established in 2009 by Nahchivan Agreement, Turkic Council aims at promoting comprehensive cooperation in all areas among Turkic Speaking States collaborating with other regional organizations.

With this in view, Turkic Council as an observer will be able to benefit from the enriched experience of the ECO which has been accumulated throughout decades.

We stand ready to promote and facilitate fruitful cooperation in areas of mutual interests and looking forward to strengthening cordial relations between two organizations.

Thank you for your kind attention.
