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**PRESS RELEASE – 2024**

**LOGISTICS INDUSTRY MET AT TÜRKİYE LOGISTICS SUMMIT**

**Organized by the Turkish Forwarding and Logistics Association (UTIKAD), with Turkish Cargo as the main sponsor, Türkiye Logistics Summit, the largest logistics gathering in Türkiye, brought the representatives of logistics industry together. In his opening speech UTIKAD President Bilgehan Engin stated that the Turkish logistics industry ranked 11th with 100 billion dollars of market volume and that their goal is to be among the top 10 countries in the world.**

The largest logistics gathering of Türkiye, organized by the Turkish Forwarding and Logistics Association (UTIKAD), the umbrella organization and reference point of the Turkish logistics industry, with Turkish Cargo as the main sponsor, Türkiye Logistics Summit was held on October 23, 2024 at the Four Seasons Hotel Bosphorus. Organized with the aim of making Türkiye a logistics center in its region, Türkiye's largest logistics gathering was held with the participation of the Deputy Minister of Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Türkiye Durmuş Ünüvar, Turkish Exporters’ Assembly President Mustafa Gültepe, Turkish Chamber of Shipping Chairman Tamer Kiran, FIATA President Turgut Erkeskin, Turkish Airlines Deputy General Manager (Cargo) Ali Türk, UTİKAD President Bilgehan Engin and officials from the logistics industry.

**The Goal is to Make Türkiye a Logistics Center**

Expressing that the developments in the world have once again revealed the strategic importance of the Middle Corridor, where Türkiye is the key point, Deputy Minister of Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Türkiye Durmuş Ünüvar said, “Our country has implemented mega projects such as the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway, Eurasia Tunnel, Marmaray, Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge and Northern Marmara Motorway, which became operational in 2017 within the scope of the development of the Middle Corridor, and continues to implement new ones. With the Development Road Project, uninterrupted transportation will be provided to every country in Europe by road and rail from the airport in Iraq to London. Our infrastructure investments contribute to our goal of making Türkiye a strategic logistics center in the region.”

**Logistics is Transforming with Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence**

Stating that the logistics industry is facing many global crises today, UTIKAD President Bilgehan Engin said the following: “When it comes to logistics today, it is very difficult to put together a sentence without the word crisis in it. The Russia-Ukraine crisis, the Middle East crisis, the Suez crisis and the climate crisis… All of these put logistics under global pressure and cause it to be reshaped. In the current conjuncture, digitalization and artificial intelligence in logistics are gaining more importance. With digitalization and artificial intelligence we can increase the potential in increasing efficiency, reducing costs and increasing customer satisfaction in the industry,” he said. Stating that the Turkish logistics industry ranks 11th with 100 billion dollars of market volume, President Engin stated that their goal is to be among the top 10 countries in the world.

**“Our Goal is to be the World’s Largest Cargo Brand in 2033”**

Turkish Airlines Deputy General Manager (Cargo) Ali Türk said the following in his speech at the summit: “We are in third place in the world air cargo market. We provide service to a total of 367 different points, 106 of which are cargo destinations. Each new line we open creates new export opportunities for Turkish exporters and makes significant contributions to Türkiye’s foreign trade. We aim to increase the current 2.2 million tons of handling capacity of our SmartIST facility at Istanbul Airport to 4.5 million tons. With the second phase, we will be the world leader under one roof with both our handling capacity and unique technological infrastructure. Our goal is to be the world’s largest air cargo brand in 2033.”

Organized with the support of Turkish Cargo, the Türkiye Logistics Summit brought together leading names, experts and industry representatives from the global logistics world. The summit hosted panels titled "Innovative Approaches in Supply Chain", "Artificial Intelligence and Digitalization", "Sustainable Logistics" and "Future of Logistics, Logistics of the Future" where prominent speakers took the stage.

***About UTIKAD;***

*UTIKAD (Association of International Forwarding and Logistics Service Providers), established in 1986, represents road, air, sea, rail, combined transport and logistics service providers companies in Turkey and at international arena as the most important and active association in Turkish Logistics Industry. UTIKAD is the national representative of Turkey in FIATA (International Federation of Freight Forwarders Association) which is the largest non-governmental organization in the field of transportation and logistics in the world. Separately, UTİKAD is an observer member of European Association For Forwarding, Transport, Logistics and Customs Services (CLECAT), and founder member of ECO Logistics Providers Associations Federation (ECOLPAF).*