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**Towards the Intergovernmental Summit.
The growing synergies between Italy and Türkiye**

di

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Thank you, Director Giannotta, dear Valeria.

Allow me at the outset to thank you, the Türkiye Observatory of CeSPI, the Diplomacy Foundation and Casa Italia for co-hosting this important and timely discussion.

Italy and Türkiye are indeed bound by a deep and articulated partnership, which is rooted in our common history and Mediterranean identity and at the same times is constantly aiming at the future.

As the theme of today's Conference rightly states, we are indeed exploring **growing synergies** across all sectors, strengthening **political and economic cooperation** and **strategic complementarities**.

The **political dialogue** between our Governments is particularly intense and focused on **joint priorities**. As Mediterranean partners and NATO allies, we work together for a more stable and prosperous region and for more international cooperation in all crises contexts. Our partnership is growing even beyond the frequent contacts at Leaders and Foreign Ministers levels. We are indeed **developing a robust agenda across all Governmental sectors**. Just yesterday, the Italian Minister of Justice was here in Ankara for meetings with Turkish counterparts with the aim to strengthening bilateral judicial cooperation, to intensifying joint efforts in the fight against organized crime and to share ideas on justice reforms. In a few days, in Istanbul, the Italian Minister of Enterprises and Made in Italy, will have talks with Turkish Ministers and authorities on our **vibrant and growing economic partnership**. Our Ministers of Interiors are in frequent contact, working to join forces on issues such as the fight against organized crime and terrorism, irregular migration and human trafficking, where our countries already have an excellent level of **operational cooperation**. Our Defense Ministers have frequent contacts and also the **dialogue on defense industrial cooperation** is well established.

Certainly, our excellent bilateral relations are **instrumental to sustain our ever-growing economic partnership**. I am very pleased to report that, by the end of 2024, bilateral trade between Italy and Türkiye surpassed **32 billion US Dollars**. In just two years, we have exceeded the goal set during the 2022 Intergovernmental Summit, which aimed to reach 30 billion US dollars by 2030.

These results confirm the strength of our partnership and also reveal that there is still potential for further growth. Our economic partnership is sustained by key factors such as the **1.500 Italian companies** operating in Türkiye with a well-established presence and integration in the Turkish industry and economy.

¹ *Speech by Ambassador Marrapodi participating in the conference "Towards the Intergovernmental Summit: The Growing Synergies Between Italy and Türkiye" held on February 14, 2024, in Casa Italia, Ankara.*
<https://diplomasivakfi.org/en/etkinlikler/98>

Another key role is played by the Italian Chambers of Commerce in Istanbul and Izmir, which support the companies and strengthen the bridges between our Countries. I am sure we will hear more about it also from the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce in Izmir, later on.

Most recently, the **acquisition of Piaggio Aerospace by the Turkish group Baykar** was another flagship example of our strong partnership. It is a demonstration of the potential of our technological and industrial cooperation. Partnerships like this, driven by innovation and entrepreneurial dynamism, can pave the way for future successes in strategic sectors such as defense, aerospace, and beyond

There are even more sectors where Italy and Türkiye are working together, such as energy transition, digital and technological innovation, smart agriculture, electronics, automotive, fashion and clothing.

All these components make our economic partnership thrive, not just in terms of a sum of economic operations, but as a **wider industrial complementarities' strategy**.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

We are about 60 days away from the **IV Italy-Türkiye Intergovernmental Summit**, which will be held in Rome, co-chaired by President Meloni and President Erdogan. The Summit is going to be the **ideal platform to set new ambitious objectives** and to further boost our cooperation across all sectors, through a “whole-of-Government” approach.

I am confident that our renewed, joint commitments will have direct, positive effects, for our Countries and our Peoples.

As Atatürk said, “The future is in the skies” and it is by looking that far that we must build the next chapter of this long-standing and profound friendship between Italy and Türkiye.

I thank you.