

UK-Türkiye Deal Marks Trade Expansion Milestone

August 4, 2025

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A renewed free trade agreement between the United Kingdom and Türkiye is shaping up to be a modern example of bilateral economic cooperation, according to British trade official Kenan Poleo.

Poleo, the British consul general in Istanbul and UK trade commissioner for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, confirmed that the initial phase of negotiations had concluded

successfully. Talks focused on improving goods trade while incorporating provisions for environmental considerations.

Speaking in a recent interview, Poleo said: “The most exciting thing about this new free trade agreement is (that it is) an opportunity for the UK and Türkiye to set a great example for the whole world around what a modern free trade agreement between two important partners looks like.”

A further round of talks is expected later this year. These will focus on building stronger cooperation in service sectors and technology-based industries, an area of increasing importance to both economies.

Currently, trade between the UK and Türkiye exceeds £27 billion per year, underlining Türkiye’s position as one of Britain’s key commercial partners. The scale and momentum of this relationship have grown considerably in recent years.

“Given the depth of our relationship, the sky’s the limit,” Poleo noted. He described the UK–Türkiye connection as “huge,” with opportunities spreading across multiple sectors.

Poleo also emphasised mutual interest in clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and the mobility field, seen as vital to the next phase of the partnership.

While the government in Westminster has struggled to clearly define its post-Brexit global trade stance, this bilateral engagement with Türkiye highlights the importance of agile, targeted trade diplomacy led by seasoned envoys and economic teams on the ground.