



BORIS JOHNSON MAYOR OF LONDON



Mayor of London (since May 2008)

MP for Henley-on-Thames (June 2001 - May 2008)

Shadow Minister for Higher Education (Dec 2005-July 2007)

Editor of The Spectator (August 1999 - December 2005)

Shadow Minister for the Arts (April 2004 - November 2004)

Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party (October 2003 - November 2004)

Q. Can you briefly tell us about the Mayoralty of London?

London is an exceptional, exciting and diverse city. Its people come from all continents, countries and cultures, bringing a vibrancy unmatched anywhere in the world. As the Mayor of London it is my job to ensure that we work to make London an even better place to live, work and do business.

This will be achieved by supporting and sustaining our city's economic growth, making sure that all of London's communities reap the benefits of this growth and delivering huge infrastructure projects like Crossrail and the Olympics, alongside common sense policies that will improve the quality of life of Londoners.

Q. What are the challenges faced by twenty-first century metropolises?

Despite London's fantastic success as one of the foremost cities in the world we face a number of challenges; a rapidly expanding population, weak transport infrastructure, an under skilled workforce, the growing fear of violent crime and the ever increasing threat of climate change threaten to damage London's success, however we are well placed to tackle these challenges head on.

We will respond to population growth with housing which is not only affordable but distinguished, and which will be admired by future generations. We will improve London's transport through the delivery of Crossrail and upgrading the tube while mobilising new technology to make our transport cleaner, greener, more efficient and more pleasant. London's skill shortages will be met through my London Skills and Employment Strategy that is designed to meet the existing and future needs of the London workforce.

And we will only achieve these improvements if we remember the central importance of the business community, and economic growth, and our role in making London an attractive place to invest.

Q. What are your observations and projections about business, trade and investment between Turkey and London?

Last year trade and investment between the UK and Turkey reach an historic high with a value of 14 billion US\$ last year. For Turkey, the UK is a major trade partner, and for the UK, Turkey has now become a significant market.

With our vibrant economy, fantastic investment opportunities and myriad of cultures, and a nearly 200,000 Turkish ethnic population, London is the centre of Turkish businesses in the UK, and as globalization moves countries ever closer together business links between Turkey and London can only grow even stronger.

Q. What sort of opportunities will the Olympics provide for Turkish businesses in the UK?

The 2012 Games will open up unprecedented opportunities for all sorts of companies to win new business. The ODA and LOCOG expect to award contracts for work worth over £6bn, either directly or through their supply chains so there is plenty of business to be won.

The London Development Agency is working to help London's businesses realise their potential, putting them in a stronger position to gain Games related contracts and ultimately make them more competitive in a global market place.

The London Development Agency's award winning CompeteFor system is one mechanism being used to achieve these objectives. CompeteFor gives suppliers the opportunity to bid for Games related contracts along the entire supply chain.

It also provides access to a range of business support services, in particular support for small and medium sized enterprises and businesses run by people in minority ethnic groups.

I strongly recommend that any and all prospective suppliers sign up to the CompeteFor system at www.competefor.com

Q. Can you briefly tell us about the assistance your mayoralty can provide for prospective businesses in London?

As the Mayor of London I have an important role to play in promoting our city's economic development. London is the driving force of the UK economy, generating 17% of the UK's GDP and contributing £90 billion in tax revenue to the British exchequer every year. This success is dependent on a dynamic and thriving business community, thus safeguarding London's economic development means safeguarding London's businesses and to do so I must both provide support and advice to those businesses already operating here and help those prospective businesses considering locating here.

Through the London Development Agency I run Business Link London, which offers one-stop access to the most appropriate information, services

and best business support to people who want to startup, run or grow a business in London.

For international businesses Think London offer free access to expert and experienced professionals, who advise and guide overseas companies through every aspect of locating and doing business in London.

Q. Do you have a message for the Turkish-British business community here?

Much of London's success rests upon its diversity, and the Turkish business community is a vital part of that diversity as the capital is home to 74 per cent of the UK's Turkish community. I am committed to working to ensure that they can fully benefit and grow in our capital.

Thank you Mayor Johnson