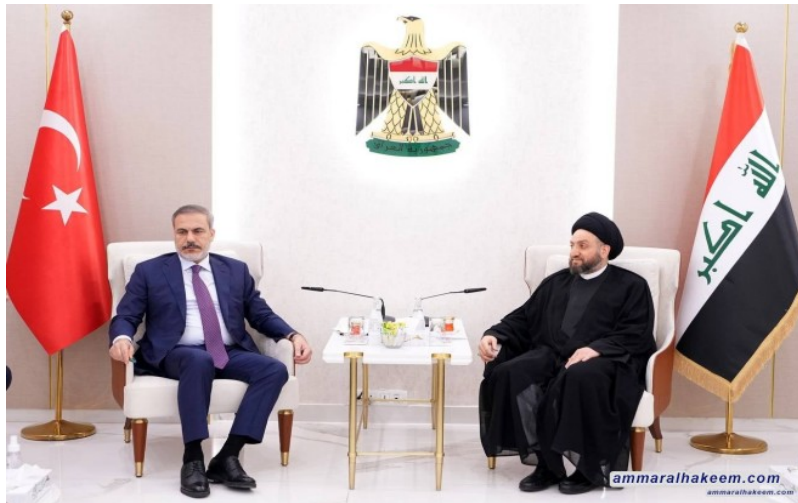


«Sayyid Al-Hakeem receives Turkish Foreign Minister, calls to transform Baghdad-Ankara relationship to political & economic partnership, hope Turkey increase water release



Sayyid Ammar Al-Hakeem, head of Al-Hikma National Movement, received the Turkish Foreign Minister, Mr. Hakan Fidan on 23/8/2023, and illustrated that his visit represents an important message to deepen the relationship between Iraq and Turkey. His Eminence expressed Iraq's desire to transform its neighboring and friendly relations with Turkey into a political and economic partnership, building upon Iraq's historical relationship with its neighbor Turkey. H.E. emphasized Iraq's pride in its components and diversity, particularly the esteemed Turkmen component, noting the Turkmen people serve as a cultural and national bridge between Iraq and Turkey.

H.E. stressed the volume of trade exchange with Turkey, amounting to 20 billion dollars, affirming the available opportunities with Ankara are significant and promising, especially given Turkey's vast expertise in agriculture, industry, tourism, and investment.

H.E. discussed the Development Road project and stressed that this project will turn the relationship between the two countries into a lasting one. H.E. expressed confidence in Iraq and Turkey's ability to turn their relationship challenges into promising and productive opportunities.

H.E. called for complete cooperation and coordination with the Iraqi government in the security aspect to address terrorist challenges while respecting Iraqi sovereignty. H.E. expressed our aspirations to increase water releases and assist Iraq in utilizing advanced technologies in Turkey to achieve optimal water management, as water is a human necessity to sustain life.

H.E. stressed the importance of facilitating visa and residency procedures for Iraqis in neighboring Turkey, especially considering that Turkey is an important tourist destination for them. H.E. expressed confidence in Turkey's role in contributing to regional stability.

H.E. thanked His Excellency for valuing the position of Al-Hikma National Movement and its political steps. We emphasized that Al-Hikma National Movement has been and will remain committed to the approach of moderation, centrism, and dialogue to solve issues. H.E. reiterated our support for the government of Mr. Al-Sudani and its steps in enhancing Iraq's

relations with neighboring countries and the world, as well as its efforts in providing services, creating job opportunities, and strengthening the relationship between citizens and the political system.