



Cross - Party Group on Turkey in the Scottish Parliament

Convener: James Dornan MSP
Deputy Convener: Gordon MacDonald MSP
Deputy convener: Hanzala Malik MSP

Secretary: Sitki Nalci
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MINUTES OF

Cross-Party Group Meeting on Turkey in the Scottish Parliament Committee Room 5 Tuesday, 16 December 2014, 6pm

PRESENT

Guest:

Keith Brown MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Infra Structure, Investment and Cities

In Attendance:

Susan Fountain, European Relations, Scottish Government

Members:

Convener: James Dornan MSP
Deputy Convener: Gordon MacDonald MSP
Secretary: Sitki Nalci
Richard Lyle MSP
Semih Turgut, Turkish Consul General in Edinburgh
Omer Guler, Assistant Consul General in Edinburgh
Cllr Yen Hongmei Jin
Dr Ufuk Gucbilmez, Edinburgh University
Mehmet Akdeniz
Prof James Crow, Edinburgh University
Nazmi Okan
Ahmet Serhat Sari, Turkish Airlines
Kadir Kavak
John Clifford, Austrian Consulate
Judy Ozkan
Mehmet Mertcan, Turkis Scottish Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Dr Can Ozkan, Speak Turkish
Leonard Thomson
Cllr Imtiaz Majid
Belgin Jackson

1. James Dornan MSP Convener of Cross-Party Group on Turkey welcomed everybody and Keith Brown MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Infra Structure, Investment and Cities. He also welcomed Semih Turgut, Turkish Consul General in Edinburgh
2. Keith Brown MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Infra Structure, Investment and Cities thanked to group for inviting him to address at today's meeting. He would welcome any cooperation between two countries. He briefly described the similarities in some of the infra-structure going on in both countries i.e. the 2nd Forth Road Bridge and 3rd Bridge in Istanbul and he would be happy to see expertise being shared. He said he welcomed to see developments in aviation and the new airport in Istanbul. Cabinet Secretary said that his portfolio also covered European Structural Fund, Scottish Future Trust and Scottish Water, he would be happy to engage or send expertise in these fields in the future meetings of the Cross-Party Group.
3. Secretary Sitki Nalci presented the draft minutes of previous meeting and it was accepted unanimously. Proposed by Yen Hongmei Jin and seconded by John Clifford. There were no matters arising.
4. Reports of Sub-Groups;
 - Business Sub-Group: Mehmet Mertcan and Dr Ufuk Gucbilmez gave a short presentation about Turkish Economy and links between Turkish and Scottish economies. A printed report was given to all members.
 - Education and Culture Sub-Group: In the absence of Prof Umit Bititci Education and Culture Sub-Group's report was presented by Dr Can Ozkan and Nazmi Okan. A printed report was given to all members. During the coming months they will explore new ways of increasing cultural and educational links between two countries.
5. After a short questions and answers session Convener James Dornan MSP said that he was very pleased with the commitment and enthusiasm of the group and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.
6. Date of next meeting and AGM will be communicated by the Secretary