



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 6 Tuesday, 31 March 2015, 6pm

PRESENT

Guests:

Colin Imrie, Scottish Government Head of European Relations
Euan Mackenzie, Scottish Government

Members:

Convener: James Dornan MSP
Deputy Convener: Gordon MacDonald MSP
Secretary: Sitki Nalci
Mary Scanlon MSP
Semih Turgut, Turkish Consul General in Edinburgh
Dr Ufuk Gucbilmez, Edinburgh University
Cllr Yen Hongmei Jin
Cllr Imtiaz Majid
Charandeep Singh, Scottish Chambers of Commerce
Roisin Milligan, Scottish Chambers of Commerce
Ahmet Serhat Sari, Turkish Airlines
John Clifford, Austrian Consulate
Dr Can Ozkan, Speak Turkish
Judy Ozkan
Nazmi Okan
Kazim Guner
Shelagh Demir
Haydar Demir

1. James Dornan MSP Convener of Cross-Party Group on Turkey welcomed all the members and Semih Turgut, Turkish Consul General in Edinburgh. Convener also welcomed Colin Imrie, Scottish Government Head of European Relations and Euan Mackenzie from Scottish Government.
2. Apologies were accepted ere Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs. Apologies were also given for Richard Lyle MSP, Hanzala Malik MSP, Professor Umit Bititici, Mehmet Mercan, Dr Chris Ferard, and Professor Jim Crow. There were no matters arising.
3. Colin Imrie and Euan Mackenzie from Scottish Government gave an extensive presentation on Scotland's International Policy. This document could also be accessed and printed through the following link.
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00473712.pdf>
4. Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Gordon MacDonald MSP and seconded by Cllr Yen Hongmei Jin. The Minutes were accepted unanimously.
5. Gallipoli Campaign: Semih Turgut, Turkish Consul General in Edinburgh gave a presentation on 100th Anniversary of Gallipoli Campaign and on its historical importance between two countries.
6. Sub-Groups;
 - i. Business Sub-Group: Dr Ufuk Gucbilmez gave a short summary of the work of Business Sub-group. Please see attached report. Charandeep Singh and Roisin Milligan announced that Scottish Chambers of Commerce would work together and support Business Sub-Group when it's needed.
 - ii. Education and Culture Sub-group: Dr Can Ozkan gave the summary of the work of the group. Main points were links with Turkish and Scottish Universities. Importance of cultural links and importance of language during this process. Possible events in the Scottish Parliament were also discussed
 - iii. Parliamentary Sub-Group: Convener James Dornan MSP announced the plans of a Parliamentary visit which will take place to Istanbul and to Northern Cyprus on the 16th of May 2015.
7. There were no other business and after a short questions and answers session Convener James Dornan MSP thanked everyone and closed the meeting.