



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
Email: CPG-on-Turkey@outlook.com

Minutes

of

Cross-Party Group Meeting on Turkey in the Scottish Parliament Committee Room 3

Tuesday, 22 September 2015, 6pm

PRESENT

Convener: James Dornan MSP
Deputy Convener: Gordon MacDonald MSP
Secretary: Sitki Nalci
Semih Turgut, Turkish Consul General in Edinburgh
Omer Guler, Turkish Vice Consul in Edinburgh
Judy Ozkan
Nazmi Okan
Serhat Sari, Turkish Airlines
Dr Ufuk Gucbilmez, Edinburgh University

APOLOGIES

Hanzala Malik MSP
Prof Umit Bititci
Mehmet Mertcan
Sheilagh Demir
Dr Can Ozkan
Cllr Yen Hongmei Jin
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 and Vice Consul Omer Guler.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting discussed and accepted unanimously.

3. Sub-Groups;

- i. Business Sub-Group: Dr Ufuk Gucbilmez gave the news of Scottish Development International's visit to Turkey which was at the end of August.

Dr Gucbilmez said that he would be happy to organise an annual business seminar in Edinburgh University with the first one being planned in the middle of next year.

Serhat Sari gave the news of Scottish Trade Mission to Turkey on the 15th of October for 3 days in cooperation with Turkish Airlines and Scottish Chambers of Commerce.

- ii. Education and Culture Sub-group: Judy Ozkan stressed the difficulties of finding teachers for their Turkish classes.

Nazmi Okan gave a summary of events in and around Edinburgh involving Turkish communities and Turkish culture including a visiting Turkish Theatre group performing in Turkish in Edinburgh at the Fringe Festival and two Turkish authors attending to the Book Festival.

- iii. Parliamentary Sub-Group: Convener James Dornan MSP informed the members that Parliamentary Visit to Istanbul and Northern Cyprus didn't take place on the 16th of May 2015.

4. Consul General Semih Turgut gave a short summary of the political climate in Turkey and the news about the forthcoming General Elections in Turkey. Consul General said during last elections 25% of the Turkish Electorate in Scotland had voted in Turkish Elections but this time they were hoping that more people would come to Edinburgh to use their rights to vote. Voting dates were 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th of October 2015 in the Turkish Consulate General Offices in Edinburgh. Consul General Turgut also gave a short summary of Turkey's role in supporting Syrian refugees and spoke of the security situation in Turkey after recent high profile terrorist attacks.

Gordon MacDonald MSP said he would be happy to assist in any way to Turkey's efforts to get Turkish people to vote during the Turkish elections.

Secretary informed the members that he will be updating membership contact list due to the some members having difficulty receiving emails and to ensure that CPG-on-Turkey has an up-to-date membership data free of any typing errors etc.

5. There were no other business and Convener James Dornan MSP thanked everyone and announced that the next meeting will be on the 15th of December 2015. Convener said by setting the CPG meeting dates well in advance would give sub-groups opportunity to meet and prepare & submit their reports early.
6. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 15 December 2015, 6pm.