



**European Committee
of the Regions**

Brussels, 29 May 2017

NOTICE OF MEETING

WORKING GROUP ON RELATIONS WITH TURKEY

Meeting No	19
Chair	Jean-Luc VANRAES (BE/ALDE) Member of Uccle Municipal Council
Venue	European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 101, 1040 Brussels (room VMA 1)
Date	31 May 2017
Interpreting	FR/DE/EN/TR FR/DE/EN/NL/EL/TR (<i>passive</i>)

Draft agenda:

2.30 p.m.

1. **Adoption of the draft agenda**
2. **Approval of the minutes of the 18th meeting** (COR-2017-01580-00-00-PV)

2.45 – 4 p.m.

3. **Opening session:** *EU–Turkey relations – recent developments and impact on sub-national authorities*

For the European Committee of the Regions, the role of local and regional representatives in the enlargement process is fundamental by illustrating the benefits of EU membership and encouraging people to make use of the instruments offered by the EU. Furthermore, the enlargement process should be an inclusive exercise, involving all of society.

- **Jean-Luc Vanraes** (BE/ALDE), chair of the Working Group on Turkey
- **H.E. Faruk Kaymakçı**, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Turkey to the EU
- **Kati Piri** (S&D, NL), Member of the European Parliament, rapporteur on Turkey
- **Myriam Ferran**, Head of Unit, Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

Exchange of views

4 – 4.15 p.m. Coffee break

4.15 – 6 p.m.

4. **Thematic session:** *Sub-national governance in Turkey: empowering local authorities*

The basic principles for the functioning of the modern states confer an important role on local and regional authorities, making multi-level governance an essential instrument of local democracy by increasing the participation of citizens in the decision-making process.

The elected representatives, who work closely with citizens, are aware that political, social and economic reforms can only be introduced by respect of the subsidiarity principle.

Experience and future challenges in Antalya, Eskisehir, Karabuk:

- **Menderes Tevfik Turel**, Mayor of Antalya City (Justice and Development Party)
- **Yilmaz Buyukersen**, Mayor of Eskisehir City (Republican People's Party)
- **Rafer Vergili**, Mayor of Karabuk City (Nationalist Movement Party)

First reaction by:

- **Mustafa Ulusoy**, Director of EuroAcademic (EASC), Brussels

Exchange of views

5. **Any other business**

6.30 – 8 p.m. – Dinner hosted by the CoR, upon invitation. Venue: Van Maerlant building of the CoR (VMA)