



Brussels, 11 June 2021

**NOTICE OF MEETING
WORKING GROUP ON RELATIONS WITH TURKEY**

Meeting No **25**
Chair **Jens Christian GJESING (DK/PES)**
 Councillor, Haderslev municipal council, Denmark

Venue: Meeting will be held in fully remote format via *Interactio*
Date and time 14 June 2021, 14:30 – 17:00 (Central European Time, CET)
Interpreting: EN/FR/TK – passive PL

All times in CET

13:30 – 14:30 *Interactio* test

Participants who are going to speak (Chair, speakers and members who intend to take the floor) should do the test.

14:30 – 15:30 Points 1 – 3

Participants should connect a couple of minutes before the official start.

1. **Adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes (COR-2021-02233-00-00-PV-REF)** of the twenty-fourth meeting of the European Committee of the Regions Working Group on relations with Turkey held on 16 December 2020 fully remote.

2. **Opening remarks by the Chair**
 - **Jens Christian GJESING (DK/PES)**, Councillor Haderslev, Denmark

3. **Recent developments in the EU – Turkey relations**
 - **Fatma ŞAHİN (AK Party)**, Mayor of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality and President of Union of Municipalities of Turkey (TBB)
 - **Ignacio SÁNCHEZ AMOR (ES/S&D)**, Member of the European Parliament, Rapporteur on Turkey

- **Marko MAKOVEC**, Deputy Managing Director, Western Europe, Western Balkans, Turkey and United Kingdom, European External Action Service (EEAS)
- **Amb. Faruk KAYMAKCI**, Turkish Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Director for EU Affairs

Exchange of views

15:30 – 16:45 Point 4

4. **Thematic session:**

Environmental protection, Climate Action and Energy: a common agenda for the EU and Turkey in the context of the economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic

- **Davor PERCAN**, Head of Unit, Bilateral and Regional Environmental Cooperation, Global Sustainable Development, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission
- **Ángel GUTIÉRREZ HIDALGO DE QUINTANA**, Head of Economic and Social Development Section, Delegation of the European Union to Turkey
- **Yücel YILMAZ (AK Party)**, Mayor, Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality
- **Vahap SEÇER (CHP)**, Mayor, Mersin Metropolitan Municipality

Tour de table – Participants of the WG, from the partner country and from the CoR, are encouraged to share information and views from their communities on the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and their views how to achieve sustainable recovery and resilience, in particular in the fields of Environmental protection, Climate Action and Energy.

Some questions to prepare the discussion:

- What are the "lessons learnt" from COVID-19 pandemic in terms of local economic development: what the EU and the national governments should have done differently, what they should do next to support local authorities and communities on their paths to sustainable local recovery?
- (for EU participants): Would you like to engage in peer-to-peer cooperation with the municipalities from Turkey in the future, and if yes, how?
- (for Turkish participants): What do you expect from your future EU partners in peer-to-peer cooperation?
- What do you expect from this meeting and the Working Group Turkey in general?

Exchange of views

16:45 – 17:00 Points 5 - 6

5. **Any other business**

6. **Concluding remarks by the Chair**

- **Jens Christian GJESING (DK/PES)**, Councillor Haderslev, Denmark