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

COR-2021-02189-00-04-CONVPOJ-REF (EN)
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