

MODTAGET
LEDELSESSEKRETARIATET

Dato 17/2 2009 kl.

EMBASSY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
Ambassador

Copenhagen, 16 February 2009

Excellency,

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the invitation letter from the Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly H.E Mr. Köksal Toptan, addressed to Your Excellency regarding the "5th World Water Forum- Parliamentarians for Water" meeting which will be held between 18-19 March 2009, in Istanbul.

I would like to draw Your Excellency's kind attention to the fact that online registration is compulsory for each Member of Parliament. Registration must be made at <http://parliamentarians.worldwaterforum5.org>. A user name and a password are needed in order to access this page (User name: m590 Password: 7808). March 6th 2009 is the final date for registration.

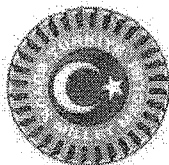
I also have the pleasure to inform that the participation of Your Excellency or other interested members of the Danish Parliament would be highly appreciated.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mehmet AKAT

Encl.1

H.E. Mr. Thor Pedersen
President of the Danish Parliament
Folketinget, Christiansborg
1240 Copenhagen K
Denmark



**GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TURKEY
SPEAKER**

*Mr. Thor Pedersen
President of the Danish Parliament
Folketinget, Christiansborg
1240 Copenhagen K
Denmark*

Ankara, 9th February 2009

Your Excellency,

Turkey will organize the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul on 16-22 March 2009 in cooperation with the World Water Council. The 5th Forum has three parallel processes, namely Thematic, Regional and Political.

Water resources are seriously threatened by global changes such as population growth, migration, urbanization, land-use changes, climate change, economic expansion and pollution. Without proper measures, water issues will become more and more severe in the future. Therefore, immediate and harmonized actions are needed for the preservation and sustainable use water resources.

Parliamentarians are increasingly aware of the strategic role of water for economies, societies and the environment. To respond to the mounting pressure on water resources and the demand for universal access to water and sanitation, Parliamentarians need to inform themselves on water issues and involve more actively in new initiatives on water.

With a view to addressing issues that are key to Parliamentarians and Parliaments, the Turkish Grand National Assembly, with the World Water Council, has been conducting the Parliamentarians' Process within the context of the Political Process of the 5th World Water Forum. The Parliamentarians Process will culminate "Parliamentarians for Water" Meeting on 18-19 March 2009.

Therefore, I have the pleasure inviting Your Excellency and interested members of your Parliament working in specific committees dealing directly or indirectly with water issues to the abovementioned meeting which will in particular focus on the implementation of the right to water and sanitation, transboundary water management, decentralization policies, the implications of global changes and a support mechanism for Parliamentarians on water issues.

Logistical information with regard to the "Parliamentarians for Water" Meeting is attached herewith.

I look forward to the participation of Parliamentarians from your country.

Yours sincerely,

Köksal TOPTAN



5th WORLD WATER FORUM

PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR WATER Istanbul, 18-19 March 2009

INFORMATION NOTE

“Parliamentarians for Water” Meeting of the 5th World Water Forum is going to be held in Istanbul on 18-19 March 2009. The Government of Turkey has the honour to provide the following information with regard to the afore-mentioned meeting.

Organizers

The Turkish Grand National Assembly (TBMM) is organizing the “Parliamentarians for Water” Meeting of the 5th World Water Forum together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the World Water Council and the 5th World Water Forum Secretariat.

General Programme

18 March 2009, Wednesday	Parliamentarians for Water Meeting
18 March 2009, Wednesday evening	Reception by H.E. Mr. Köksal Toptan Speaker of the Turkish Grand Nat. Asmbly.
19 March 2009, Thursday	Parliamentarians for Water Meeting
20 March 2009, Friday morning	Three-Level Dialogue (Governments, Parliaments, Local Auth.)

Venue

Sütlüce Congress and Cultural Center – the main Forum venue – Amphitheatre 3
(Address: *Eski Karaağaç Caddesi, Sütlüce, Istanbul*)

Participation

The Members of National Parliaments of all countries which are member of the United Nations as well as the Members of the European Parliament can participate in the Parliamentarians for Water Meeting.

Registration

Online registration is compulsory for each Member of Parliament (MEP).

Registration must be made at <http://parliamentarians.worldwaterforum5.org>. A user name and a password are needed in order to access to this page. This information specific to each country is attached herewith.

The MEPs should indicate their personal and travel information as well as passport details on the online registration form. They are also kindly requested to provide passport-size photos to enable the preparation of ID badges prior to their arrival to Istanbul. Photos can be attached while making the online registration, which is more simple and preferable. Otherwise, they should be sent by e-mail or regular mail to:

IKON Tourism & Travel Inc., Mete Caddesi, Yeni Apt., No. 10/11, Kat 4, 34437 Taksim, Istanbul, Turkey parliamentarians@worldwaterforum5.org

The MEPs will receive a registration confirmation notice once they make their online registration. The notice will include all the information submitted in the online registration form.

Registration Fee

The MEPs who will be attending to the Parliamentarians for Water Meeting are exempt from the registration fee not only for the duration of the said meeting, but also for whole Forum week.

However, accompanying officials to the MEPs must pay the registration fee and they have to make their online registration as a regular Forum participant at <https://event.worldwaterforum5.org/OneClick.aspx>.

Accommodation

The MEPs and accompanying officials have to make their hotel reservations themselves using the hotel booking portal integrated to the online registration page.

Participants are kindly requested to make their online registrations and hotel reservations as early as possible, but no later than 6 March 2009. The organisers cannot guarantee room availability for the requests made after the said date.

The accommodation and board expenses of utmost 35 MEPs from least developed countries, (**maximum two per country**), will be covered by the Forum Secretariat, upon the request.

Transportation to/from hotels and the Forum venue

Throughout the duration of the Forum, a courtesy shuttle service will operate between the recommended hotels, the Forum venue and the locations of social events.

Interpretation and Documentation

There will be simultaneous interpretation in four languages (English, French, Spanish and Turkish) during the Parliamentarians for Water Meeting.

Simultaneous interpretation during the the Three-Level Dialogue will be provided in the official languages of the UN (English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic and Russian) and in Turkish.

Forum documentation will be provided in English and Turkish.

Visa requirements

MEPs and accompanying officials must possess a valid passport to enter Turkey. They have to indicate on the registration form their passport details. A listing of countries for which visa is required to enter Turkey can be found at <http://www.mfa.gov.tr>.

For nationals of countries whose nationals have to obtain their visas before traveling to Turkey, Turkish representations abroad shall be issuing gratis visas without delay upon presentation of confirmation of registration. For the others who will be traveling from countries where there are no Turkish representations and who are, therefore, unable to obtain visas before departure, it is important to contact the relevant authorities for further information on the issuance of visas at border gates upon arrival. To avoid delays at the point of entry, delegates are advised to obtain visas before leaving for Turkey.

Information on the city of Istanbul

In order to get information on the city of Istanbul and what is going on in the city, the following web site could be visited.

<http://english.istanbul.com/>

Local time

Local time in Istanbul is GMT + 2 hours.

Currency, exchange, credit cards

The Turkish Lira (TL) is the national unit of currency. Foreign currencies can easily be changed at banks, change offices and post offices.

Major credit cards (American Express, Visa, Diner's Club, MasterCard, Access, JCB, Eurocard, etc.) are accepted in most services. ATMs accept international credit/bank cards and almost all ATMS provide instructions in English.

Climate

In March, daily minimum and maximum temperatures in Istanbul are 3.9°C and 11.2°C respectively. Mean number of rain days in March is 14. The climate might be quite variable during the Forum week. For the details, please visit:

http://weather.yahoo.com/forecast/TUXX0014_f.html

http://www.meteor.gov.tr/indexmaster_eng.htm

<http://www.wunderground.com/global/TU.html>

Electricity supply

The electrical current in Turkey is 220 volts and 50 hertz alternating current (AC). Wall outlets take continental-style plugs with two or three round prongs.

Practical information

Banks are open on weekdays from 08:30 to 12:00 or 12:30, and from 13:30 to 17:00. Some banks remain open during lunch. A bank will be in operation at the Conference Centre.

Post offices are painted bright yellow and can be identified by the PTT signs on the front. Major post offices are open from 09:00 to 21:00 from Monday to Saturday, on Sunday from 09:00 to 19:00. Smaller post offices are usually open from 08:30 to 17:00.

Shops and bazaars are usually open Monday-Saturday, from 09:30 to 19:00, and closed on Sundays. Most shopping centers in busy areas are open 7 days a week from 09:30 to 22:00.

VAT (called KDV) is between 8% and 18%.

Tipping at a rate of 10 per cent of the bill is common in hotels and restaurants.

Useful numbers

Police: 155

Emergency: 112

Fire: 110

Contacts

For questions relating to organisational/logistical aspects of the Ministerial Conference, please contact with:

Ms Ece Özbayoğlu Acarsoy, Head of Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Tel: +90 312 292 16 76

Fax: +90 312 287 16 48

E-mail: eacarsoy@mfa.gov.tr

Ms Dilek Gülhan, Assistant to the Secteray General, 5th World Water Forum Secretariat

Tel: +90 216 325 49 92/414

Fax: +90 216 428 09 92

E-mail: dkayis@worldwaterforum5.org

Ms Emel Çakır, Assistant to the Secteray General, 5th World Water Forum Secretariat

Tel: +90 216 325 49 92/413

Fax: +90 216 428 09 92

E-mail: ecakir@worldwaterforum5.org

Ms. Elif Erten, IKON, *Registration*

Tel: +90 212 244 71 71/203

Fax: +90 212 2447181

elif@ikonevents.com

Ms. Esra Akmanlı, IKON, *Accommodation Services*

Tel: +90 212 244 71 71/136

Fax: +90 212 2447181

esra@ikonevents.com

Mr Omer Tekler, IKON, *Conference Services*

Tel: +90 212 244 71 71/205

Fax: +90 212 2447181

omer@ikonevents.com

Mr Eray Sakınç, IKON, *Project Coordinator*

Tel: +90 212 244 71 71/137

Fax: +90 212 2447181

eray@ikonevents.com