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Working Group of Turkic Minorities in FUEN

Visit by the Working Group of Turkish Minorities/Communities to the Turkish community in Bulgaria ziyaret 15/05/2017

Halit Habip Ođlu, Vice-President of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) paid on 5-7 May 2017 a study visit to Bulgaria upon the invitation of Kardzhali Turkish Culture and Arts Association (TÜRKSAD). During the study visit to Bulgaria where about 1.5 million Turks live, Habip Ođlu was accompanied by K. Engin Soyyılmaz from the Secretariat of the Working Group of Turkish Minorities/Communities (TAG) inside FUEN.



During the entire study visit organized to meet with the Turkish community living in Bulgaria and learn about its problems, Müzekki Ahmet, Chairman of TÜRKSAD, and Seyhan Mehmet, Vice-Chairman of TÜRKSAD and Chairman of Ömer Lütü Cultural Association, who attended as a guest the 3rd annual meeting of FUEN TAG in November 2017 in Berlin, accompanied and hosted the delegation.

Vice-President of FUEN Halit Habip Ođlu met with the Turkish community representatives in Plovdiv and Kardzhali



Habip Ođlu visited on Friday, May 5 Hüseyin Ergani, Consul General of the Republic of Turkey in Plovdiv, in his office and met with Taner Veli, Regional Mufti of Plovdiv and Ahmet Pehlivan, President of the Plovdiv Muslims Foundations Council at the Office of the Regional Mufti of Plovdiv. During the meetings, Habip Ođlu gave information on the works of the Federation of Western Thracian Turks in Europe (ABTTF) which represents the Western Thracian Turkish community in Greece. Besides, he introduced FUEN of which he is the vice-president, and informed about the European citizens' initiative called "Minority SafePack

Initiative” which is highly important for protection of national minorities in Europe. Habip Ođlu explained during the meetings the Working Group of Turkish Minorities/Communities has been established under the umbrella of FUEN, and introduced the Turkish minorities and communities who are members of the working group. Following the meetings, the delegation visited the city center in Plovdiv and the historical Cuma Mosque.



The delegation made on Saturday, May 6 a city tour in Kardzhali and visited the historical Madrasa of Kirdzhali. Afterwards the delegation visited Dzhebel which is one of the towns intensely

populated by Turks, met there with Kaşif Kaşif, owner of the most modern machinery factory in Southern Bulgaria, and made in his guidance a tour in the factory of which all employees are Turks. Then the delegation visited the Yedikızlar Mosque which is the first mosque built in Bulgaria and located in Nalbantlar village affiliated to the Municipality of Kirkovo, and attended the traditional Mawlid-Scharif organized on the occasion of Hidirellez. Besides, the delegation met there with Lütfi Mestan, Leader of the DOST Party. After that, the delegation visited Momtschilgrad which is another Turkish town where the Turkish population resides intensely.



During the meeting with Müzekki Ahmet, Chairman of TÜRKSAD, Seyhan Mehmet, Chairman of Ömer Lütfi Cultural Association and Zekiye Hasan, Representative of the Turkish Teachers Association of Southern Bulgaria, which took place at the building where the head offices of the three associations are located in Kardzhali, Habip Ođlu introduced FUEN and said FUEN is the largest

organization in Europe which brings national minorities under a single umbrella. Habip Ođlu informed them about the works of FUEN, received information on the works of three associations operating in Kardzhali and listened to the current problems of Turks living in Bulgaria.