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**Working Group of Turkic Minorities in FUEN**

**Habip Ođlu met with the YTB Vice President Sayit Yusuf  
15/02/2017**

Vice President of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) Halit Habip Ođlu visited Vice President of the Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (Y.T.B) Sayit Yusuf in his office in Ankara on February 10, 2017. Habip Ođlu congratulated Yusuf on his new appointment as the Y.T.B Vice President and wished him success and great achievements in his future work.



**Problems and demands of Turkish minorities and communities are raised in international platforms through FUEN TAG**

During the meeting with the YTB Vice-President Yusuf, Habip Ođlu informed him about FUEN and its activities and told that he has been elected in 2013 as the Vice President of the Germany-based FUEN, the largest umbrella organization of indigeneous and national minorities in Europe. Habip Ođlu told that the Working Group of Turkic Minorities and Communities(TAG) was established in 2013, as the third working group in addition to the existing working groups of German and Slavic minorities within FUEN. Habip Ođlu informed Yusuf about the member organisations of Turkish minorities and communities represented within FUEN TAG and added that the the first annual meeting of FUEN TAG was held in Ankara in November 2014, the second in Baku in November 2015 and third in Berlin in November 2016 with the logistical support of the Working Group of German Minorities.



Habip Ođlu noted that FUEN TAG carries out activities for the minority groups with urgent problems like Turkish Minority of Western Thrace, the Turkish community in Rhodes and Kos, the Meskhetian(Ahıska) Turks and the Crimean Tatars before the the European Union, the Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe(PACE), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe(OSCE) and the United Nations(UN).

Habip Ođlu further noted that FUEN submitted to the European Commission a European Citizens Initiative entitled 'Minority SafePack Initiative – one million signatures for diversity in Europe' for the establishment of a European protection mechanism for protecting and guaranteeing the rights of minorities in Europe and added that the European Commission refused to register that proposal on grounds that it manifestly fell outside its powers in September 2013. Habip Ođlu explained that after FUEN appealed to the European Court of Justice, the Court ruled that the Commission's decision on the rejection of the registration of the initiative was unlawful.

Habip Ođlu noted that the annual FUEN Congress 2017 will take place in Cluj-Napoca city hosted by the Hungarian minority in Romania, and he invited Yusuf himself and the Y.T.B to the FUEN Congress. As the Vice-President responsible for related communities within Y.T.B., Yusuf expressed his gratitude for the meeting with Habip Ođlu.