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Working Group of Turkic Minorities in FUEN

**FUEN Vice-President Halit Habip Ođlu visited the Turkish community in Kosovo
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Halit Habip Ođlu, Vice-President of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN), visited on 17-19 April 2017 the Turks living in Kosovo, who are one of the founder communities of the Republic of Kosovo. Upon the invitation extended by the Kosovo Youth Union Association on the occasion of National Festival of Kosovo Turks on 23 April, FUEN Vice-President Habip Ođlu met during the visits paid to Pristina and Prizren where Kosovo Turks populate intensely with the representatives of the Turkish community in the Republic of Kosovo which



obtained its independence on 17 February 2008. During the study visit, Habip Ođlu was accompanied by Melek Kirmacı Arık, Director of International Affairs of the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF) which runs the Secretariat of the Working Group of Turkish Minorities/Communities (TAG) inside FUEN.

Habip Ođlu first met with Cengiz Kovaç, Chairman of the Kosovo Youth Union

Association, who participated in the third annual meeting of FUEN TAG on 14-17 November 2016 in Berlin at the headquarters of the association located in Prizren and was provided by him with information on the association's works. On the same day at night, the delegation participated in the 23 April inauguration concert held within the scope of the Kosovo National Festival activities of Kosovo Turks at Prizren Culture House. FUEN Vice-President Habip Ođlu visited Mahir Yađcılar, Minister of Public Administration of Kosovo and Chairman of the Democratic Turkish Party of Kosovo, in his office and stated FUEN is the largest





umbrella organization of national minorities in Europe and informed him about the activities of FUEN. Within this framework, Habip Ođlu provided him with information on FUEN's European Citizens' Initiative, namely "Minority SafePack Initiative" and noted FUEN aims at protection of persons belonging to national and linguistic minorities and achievement of measures taken for strengthening cultural and linguistic diversity in Europe.

Following the meeting with the Minister, FUEN Vice-President Habip Ođlu met with Fikrim Damka and Muferra Őinik, MPs from the Democratic Turkish Party of Kosovo representing the Kosovo Turks in the parliament, who have the same rights to elect contingency deputy as per the Constitution of Kosovo like the other founder communities. During the meeting held in the parliament, Habip Ođlu provided the MPs with information on FUEN along with the Turkish minorities and communities represented at FUEN and got informed by the MPs about Turks living in Kosovo. Finally, Habip Ođlu visited Selen Evcit, Consulate General of the Republic of Turkey in Prizren and informed her about the works of the FUEN by underpinning the importance of the issue regarding the "Minority SafePack Initiative" for protection of national minorities in Europe and support of the linguistic and cultural diversity.

