



VURAL ÖGER
MEMBER OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Brussels, 5 March 2009

Welcome by Vural ÖGER (MEP) for GERMANY MEETS TURKEY 2009

Dear young leaders, dear friends, dear Mr. Donfried,

One of the most important challenges facing the Federal Republic of Germany today is the need to strengthen understanding and trust with our partner and friend Turkey. In seeking to achieve this goal it is important that we embrace the younger generations, the leaders of tomorrow, in both countries. These are the individuals who will play such an important role in the future, and the German-Turkish relationship rests in their hands.

In achieving this important mission, the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy and their program “Germany Meets Turkey: A Forum for Young Leaders” represent a unique example of what is being done, and what is possible. I have followed their work for a number of years and am excited by the prospect of young Germans and Turks developing links at early stages in their careers that will then develop, just as they do. Through this program a number of leadership initiatives have already begun that promise to reach the furthest corners of civil society and build bridges at all levels.

It is therefore an honor to welcome you at the launch of German-Turkish Week 2009 in the Amerika Haus Berlin, an event which promises to bring Germany and Turkey closer together by reflecting upon and celebrating the influence of the German-Turkish Community. I hope that this series can develop into an annual tradition that will generate further activity in this area, and I wish you all an enjoyable and informative experience.

Sincerely,

Vural Öger
Member of European Parliament