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Press Release

FUEN TAG attended the 70th FUEN Congress

Whilst FUEN TAG member organisations gathered at the 70th FUEN Congress held in Helsinki, three resolutions concerning Turkic minorities and communities were adopted by the Assembly of Delegates.

The Working Group on Turkic Minorities/Communities (TAG) in the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) took part in the 70th FUEN Congress, held in Helsinki, the capital of Finland, from 17 to 20 September 2026.

The Congress was attended by the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF) the Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association (WTMUGA) and the Friendship, Equality and Peace (FEP) Party representing the Turkish minority in Western Thrace, Greece; and the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People (QTMM), representing the Crimean Tatars in Ukraine.

The Congress addressed minority languages in public broadcasting, language rights in health and social services, barriers to the use of minority languages in the digital sphere, and current issues facing minorities in Europe.

As part of the congress, TAG members also joined other participants on a study visit to Mattlidens School, which provides primary and secondary education in Swedish, where they learnt about the school's operations, curriculum and educational model.

TAG also met as part of the FUEN working group meetings

As part of the FUEN Working Group meetings held on the second day of the Congress, FUEN TAG members attending the Congress also held a meeting. At the meeting, FUEN TAG Spokesperson Halit Habip Oğlu and FUEN Vice-President Nabi İbrahimcik, who represents TAG on the FUEN Presidium, provided an update on the work of FUEN and FUEN TAG since the 2025 Congress. Representatives of the Turkish Minority in Western Thrace and the Crimean Tatars also reported on the latest developments in their respective countries.

TAG's work was presented to the Assembly of Delegates

At the FUEN Assembly of Delegates, held on the third day of the Congress, FUEN TAG Spokesperson Halit Habip Oğlu delivered a presentation to the delegates on TAG's recent activities and the work to be carried out in the upcoming period.

Three draft resolutions submitted by TAG member organisations were also discussed and adopted at the Assembly of Delegates.

In the resolution titled "Ongoing Interference in the Religious Autonomy of the Turkish Minority in Western Thrace and Violations of Religious Freedoms", jointly submitted by ABTTF, WTMUGA and the FEP Party, attention was drawn to the right of the Turkish Minority in Western Thrace to elect

their own religious leaders and control their religious institutions. The resolution, which addressed the practice of state-appointed muftis and regulations keeping mufti offices under state control, called on Greece to re-establish the religious autonomy of the Turkish Minority, to respect their right to elect their own religious leaders, and to recognise their elected religious representatives.

In the resolution entitled “Protecting the Rights of the Turkish Minority in Rhodes and Kos”, submitted by the Rhodes, Kos and the Dodecanese Turks Culture and Solidarity Association (ROİSDER), issues concerning the freedom of the Turks of Rhodes and Kos to freely express their ethnic identity, Turkish-language education, religious autonomy, the management of waqfs and the preservation of Turkish cultural heritage were raised. Greek authorities were called upon to provide opportunities for bilingual education, to respect religious autonomy and endowment rights, and to establish dialogue with community representatives.

In the resolution titled “On the Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and National Minorities in Ukraine”, submitted by the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People (QTMM), the human rights violations faced by indigenous peoples and national minorities living in regions under Russian occupation – particularly the Crimean Tatars – were addressed. Whilst a call was made for Russia to release civilian detainees, Ukrainian authorities were urged to take measures to protect the languages and cultures of indigenous peoples and national minorities.