

Witten, 27.10.2025

Press Release

Turkic minorities and communities attended the 69th FUEN Congress

The 69th annual Congress of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) was held in the city of Bozen/Bulsan/Bolzano in Italy's South Tyrol region from 23 to 26 October 2025.

Hosted by the South Tyrolean People's Party (SVP), which represents the German and Ladin minorities in Italy, the Congress was attended by members of the Working Group of Turkic Minorities/Communities in FUEN (TAG), including the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF) representing the Western Thrace Turks, the Rhodes, Kos and the Dodecanese Turks Culture and Solidarity Association (ROISDER) representing the Rhodes and Kos Turks, the Public Organisation of Meskhetian Turks "VATAN" representing the Meskhetian Turks, the Kosovo Youth Union Association (KGBD) representing the Turks in Kosovo, and the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People (QTMM) representing the Crimean Tatars.

The Congress, attended by representatives of autochthonous national minorities, peoples and language groups from 30 different European countries, featured panel sessions discussing barriers to cross-border, access to audiovisual media in minority languages in Europe and how FUEN's European Citizens' Initiative known as the Minority SafePack Initiative (MSPI), addressed this issue. The host German and Ladin minorities were introduced with cultural performances.

TAG members attending the Congress gathered for a consultation meeting

At the FUEN TAG consultation meeting held on the second day of the Congress, TAG Spokesperson Halit Habip Oğlu reported on TAG's work and activities since the 11th Annual TAG Meeting held from 29 May to 1 June 2025. The meeting, which assessed recent developments in the Turkic minorities and communities that are members of TAG, also discussed the programme and organisation of the 12th Annual TAG Meeting in 2026.

Resolutions submitted by the Western Thrace Turks, Turks of Rhodes, Kos and Dodecanese Islands, Meskhetian Turks and Crimean Tatars were adopted

TAG Spokesperson Halit Habip Oğlu informed the delegates about TAG's activities since the previous annual congress in his presentation to the FUEN Assembly of Delegates.

The resolution proposals submitted by TAG members, the Western Thrace Turks, the Turks of Rhodes, Kos and Dodecanese Islands, the Meskhetian Turks and the Crimean Tatars, were adopted by the delegates' votes at the FUEN Assembly of Delegates.

Nabi Ibraimtzik, a member of the Turkish community in Western Thrace, was re-elected as FUEN Vice President

Elections were held at the FUEN Assembly of Delegates for the positions of FUEN President and FUEN Vice-President. Olivia Schubert, a member of the German minority in Hungary, was elected as

the new FUEN President, while Nabi Ibraimtzik, a member of TAG from the Western Thrace Turks, was re-elected as FUEN Vice President for the next three years.

Four new minority organisations joined FUEN

As a result of the vote in the FUEN Assembly of Delegates, the organisations of Ukrainians in Hungary, the Romanian minority in Romania and the Saterland Frisians in Germany were accepted as full members, while the organisation of the Yenish in Germany was accepted as a supporting member of FUEN.

The Assembly of Delegates also decided that the 70th FUEN Congress in 2026 will be hosted by the Swedish minority in Finland in Helsinki, and the 71st FUEN Congress in 2027 will be hosted by the Italian minority in Slovenia in the Istria region.

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