

TDBB Eurasia Local Authorities Summit (Sarajevo, 30 May 2016)

Speech of TDBB Secretary General, Dr. Fahri SOLAK

Dear ambassadors, mayors, members of TDBB,

Ladies and gentlemen, dear press, esteemed guests,

I wish you a warm welcome to “TDBB Local Authorities Summit” organized with the help of TDBB members. First of all, thank you for your participations. Today its last day of our program in Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized with participants from 11 countries and with more than 150 local authorities. We are at our programs last day. In these three days we had Administrative Board Meeting, visiting Ajvatovica Festival, visiting our members and sister cities meetings, seeing historical places and now we are at this Summit. We are aware that you are a little bit tired because of the intensiveness of the program. But I hope you will be satisfied after seeing that it was a rather functional and productive program.

Second, I want to express my appreciation to all of you who made contributions in the organization of this program. I especially want to thank TDBB Administrative Board member and young Mayor of Novi Grad Sarajevo Municipality, Semir Efendic, his advisor Mr. Denan, and the entire personnel and volunteers of Novi Grad Sarajevo Municipality. They have worked with us for the last two months with such devotion and full commitment, especially for the last three days. Beside establishing good relationships between the countries, they created a brotherhood between us. Also, I want to express my appreciation to TDBB staff because of the coordination between 20 countries and for 11 countries, transfers, visa issues, other operations, also preparing all of the necessary documents and for they efforts for this program.

TDBB is an international organization founded in 2003 and works actively for more than ten years. There are today more than 1.100 member’s municipalities, from 28 countries. I don’t want to take your time with the details of our Union, you can find printed documents about us in the bags we prepared, and also you were able to see it all in the video. You can find our activities in Turkish, English and Russian languages on our website, you can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and other social Medias. For more active interaction you can follow these sites and also we are sending e-mails about our activities to countries where we have our members. In this way we have the opportunity to share with our members Activity Report and similar publication in the aforementioned languages.

Host country Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the most active countries in the Balkans that we have worked with. From eight Balkan countries we have around 80 member

municipalities, and 20 of them are from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Beside our standard educations and similar activities we are working on: reconstruction and installing equipment in fourteen classrooms for Turkish language in different schools, support constructing bridge in Dobož, provide support in the equipment for maternity hospital in Zenica, with the capacity of 1000 beds, books support for learning Turkish language, support for Hospital in Bihac and its dental department, summer camps for Bosnians students etc.

We are always waiting for the new members from all Balkans countries as from Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this light, just yesterday, during our Administrative Board meeting, we accepted new members from Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In this program, beside the biggest delegation from Turkey, we also have delegation from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and I want to thank our Administrative Board members from these countries. Also special thank goes to our members from Republic of Turkey because of their financial help in realizations of many projects in our member countries.

Furthermore, TDBB is not credit or sponsor agency. TDBB is an international organization which makes cooperation and coordination between our member's municipalities. And Union is giving its support to projects with this aim.

From our General Meeting in 2015 TDBB Administrative Board has members from Turkey, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Macedonia, Mongolia, Moldova and Tatarstan with mayors from eleven countries. This step was very important for the institutionalization and empowering of our organization as international.

Implementation of the twin city project, not only with Turkey but other countries, is very important for the cooperation among local governments.

With these thoughts I want to finish my speech. Thank you for your participation and I hope this summit will be successful.

Thank you.