

## Promotion of Civil Society Dialogue between EU and Turkey Project

# Providers of Turkish legal services get ready for EU membership

### Meeting the Challenge

One of the key aspects of Turkey's efforts towards membership of the EU is the improvement in access to justice for its citizens. An important tool in this process is the provision of services by lawyers and others in the legal professions in Turkey. Across the country there are nearly 60,000

practising lawyers and, as they are all affiliated to the 78 local Bar Associations, the Union of Turkish Bar Associations is in a pivotal position to ensure the lawyers adapt their practices to reflect EU norms and standards.

To assist them in the challenge of transferring know-how for improving the provision of legal services, the Union is developing partnerships with the Law

Society of England & Wales, the French National Council of Barristers, and the Brussels-based Law Societies of Europe. Together the Associations have created a training package to be delivered at various workshops around Turkey, are facilitating Turkey-EU study visits for 'trainers of trainers', and are developing a programme of continuous education for practising Turkish lawyers.

### The Benefits

As a result of this project all the providers of legal services in Turkey will have access to a continuous training programme on the EU norms and standards and as a result will be making their contribution to aligning Turkey's justice system to that of the EU. In practical terms more than 500 lawyers from Turkey and the EU will have made contact with each other and will have enhanced a network for peer-learning, and the Union of Turkish Bar Associations will have been institutionally strengthened, readying it for the demands of its members within an enlarged EU.

### Partners

- ▶ England, Law Society of England and Wales
- ▶ France, Conseil National Des Barreaux
- ▶ Belgium, Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe

### The Project Facts

**A total budget of 230,000 Euros**

- ▶ 17 months project ending in November 2009
- ▶ Activities include supporting a comprehensive needs assessment of the 78 local Bar Associations in Turkey, a comparative study of approaches to continuous legal education in 5 EU Member States, creation of a pool of 15 trainers, production of a series of 4 educational DVDs, development & delivery of training workshops, and a national Conference.



*"It's very important that we can work with our members to contribute towards the Turkish justice system matching EU standards"*

*Project Coordinator*



### For Further Information:

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