Azerbaijan Visit of H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

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Health Minister Dr. Fahrettin Koca accompanied the President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in his visit to Azerbaijan to attend the Azerbaijan-Turkey Business Council meeting on 14-15 October 2019.

On occasion of the visit, Dr. Koca met with Health Minister of Azerbaijan Oktay Şiraliyev, and the two Ministers exchanged views on health tourism and establishment of a joint working group.
First Lady Emine Erdoğan participates in World Cancer Leaders’ Summit

Health Minister Dr. Fahrettin Koca accompanied H.E. Emine Erdoğan in her visit to Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan in order to attend World Cancer Leaders’ Summit on 15-17 October 2019. On occasion of the visit, Dr. Koca held a bilateral meeting with Health Minister of Kazakhstan Yelzhan Birtanov. Following the meeting, “Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Cooperation in the field of Health Investments” was signed by Health Ministers Dr. Fahrettin Koca and Dr. Yelzhan Birtanov in Nur-Sultan on 15 October 2019. The MoU aims to enhance cooperation in the field of investment projects including public-private partnership, development and construction of health facilities based on international good practices, pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and medical equipment. The Sides further enhance cooperation in the other areas based on mutual agreement in line with the objectives and purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding.
The 6th Turkish Medical World Council took place in Istanbul on 29-31 October 2019 in collaboration of Presidency of the Republic of Turkey, Ministry of Health and TÜSEB, concurrently with HIMSS’19 Eurasia Organization. Health Ministers of Djibouti, Mauritania, Namibia, South Africa, TRNC, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and Deputy Health Ministers of Azerbaijan and Croatia attended these events.

On 30 October 2019, on the margin of the Council, Health Minister Dr. Fahrettin Koca met with Health Minister of Kazakhstan Yelzhan Birtanov, Health Minister of Namibia Dr. Kalumbi Shangula, Health Minister of TRNC Ali Pilli, Health Minister of Mauritania Dr. Mohamed Nedhirou Hamed, and Health Minister of Kyrgyz Republic Dr. Kosmosbek Cholponbaev. In addition, Deputy Minister of Health Prof. Dr. Emine Alp Meşe met with Deputy Minister of Health of Croatia Tomislav Dubulić.

Following the bilateral meetings with Health Ministers of Kazakhstan and Djibouti, the two Ministers signed Cooperation Agreement with USHAŞ, and Health Ministers of Turkey and Namibia signed an Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Health.
HIMSS’19 Eurasia EMRAM Training Conference and Health IT Exhibition

HIMSS’19 Eurasia EMRAM Training Conference and Health IT Exhibition took place in Istanbul on 29-30 October 2019 under auspices of the Ministry of Health and with participation of universities, private hospitals, Social Security Institute and similar organizations as well as health authorities of the countries in the region. Health Ministers of Djibouti, Mauritania, Namibia, South Africa, TRNC, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and Deputy Health Ministers of Azerbaijan and Croatia attended the organization.

Furthermore, 3140 people from 32 countries visited HIMSS’19 Eurasia Organization. Deputy Minister of Health Dr. Şuayip Birinci, HIMSS CEO Harold F. Wolf III and Health Minister Dr. Fahrettin Koca made inaugural speeches during the opening ceremony. Participants showed great interest in the digital hospital and other stands at the exhibition area.
G20 Health Ministers’ Meeting

G20 Health Ministers’ Meeting took place in Okayama, Japan on 19-20 October 2019. On behalf of Turkey, Deputy Minister of Health Prof. Dr. Emine Alp Meşe and the accompanying delegation attended the meetings which dealt with universal health coverage, response to ageing communities and global health safety.

In her speech at the G20 Health Ministers’ Meeting, Prof. Alp Meşe underlined the necessity of including the fragile and disadvantageous groups while creating the health systems, and added, “No one can be left behind in health”.

During the meeting, Prof. Dr. Alp Meşe also talked about the health system reforms of Turkey and stated that Turkey had prepared an action plan on one-health basis in order to fight against antimicrobial resistance.

Prof. Dr. Alp Meşe also mentioned about the delivery of high-quality health services for over 4 million Syrian refugees in Turkey, which is a concrete example of activities aiming to ensure health safety in Europe and in the world.
A three-day trainers’ training was organized at the Urla International Emergency and Disaster Health Training and Simulation Center on 14-16 October 2019, in order to increase professional competency of the healthcare professionals about hand hygiene in collaboration of Ministry of Health and World Health Organization. Deputy Minister of Health Prof. Dr. Emine Alp Meşe attended the program on occasion of which 38 personnel from the Ministry of Health and General Directorate of Public Health received training, and the trainings were provided by the experts from the Geneva University Hospital.
Officials from the British Embassy to Ankara visits General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs

Officials from the British Embassy to Ankara visited General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs on 9 October 2019 and had a meeting with Director-General Dr. Selami Kılıç in order to discuss details of the visit of United Kingdom Prime Minister’s Trade Envoy to Turkey Lord Robert Janvrin in November and the Turkey-UK Health Business Forum planned to be held in Istanbul in February 2020.

Representatives of the World Ahiska Turks Association visits General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs

Representatives of the World Ahiska Turks Association visited General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs on 10 October 2019 and had a meeting with Director-General Dr. Selami Kılıç. During the meeting, the Sides talked about the health service delivery for the Ahiska Turks living in Turkey and in other countries.
Officials from Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada visit General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs

Officials from Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada visited General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs on 10 October 2019 and had a meeting with Director-General Dr. Selami Kılıç.

During the meeting, the Sides exchanged views on the probable areas of cooperation in the field of medical training.

Preliminary Meeting for COMCEC Workshop on Maternal and Infant Mortality

Presidency Office, as the coordinating body, organized a preliminary meeting on 2 October 2019 prior to the (COMCEC)The Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation) Workshop on Maternal and Infant Mortality planned to be held on 6 November 2019. Representatives from the General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs and General Directorate of Public Health attended the meeting to evaluate the workshop agenda.

WHO Regional Committee for the East Mediterranean

WHO Regional Committee Meeting for the East Mediterranean (EMRO) – one of the six regions of WHO – was held in Tehran, Iran on 14-17 October 2019. Turkey holds the observer status in EMRO, and the meeting provided a platform for discussing important health issues which closely concern Turkey. Representatives from the General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs attended the meeting on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

3rd Steering Committee Meeting of Kilis Grant Agreement

Within the framework of the grant agreement signed between the Ministry of Health and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) on 1 June 2018, the European Union made a grant for the Health Infrastructure Strengthening Project under the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRIT). The grant will be used for construction of Kilis State Hospital with 300 bed capacity and procurement of medical equipment and furniture.

An Executive Board was created in order to deal with important issues for implementation of the Project in line with the grant agreement, provide effective coordination among all key partners and ensure proactive participation, and the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting was held on 17 October 2019. Officials from the General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs attended the meeting, which provided a platform for discussing the activities already executed and planned to be executed.
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