

Tunç Soyer

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## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

Born in Ankara in 1959, Tunç Soyer has been living in İzmir since his early childhood.

He completed his higher education at Ankara University Faculty of Law. During his university years, he has worked as an actor and an assistant director at the Ankara Art Theater. He worked as a correspondent at the Turkish News. He translated Ingela Bendt and James Downing's book 'We'll Come Back' to Turkish which tells the story of the drama of Palestinian women in refugee camps. He holds a master's degree in International Relations from Webster College, Switzerland.

His second master's degree was in the field of European Studies at Dokuz Eylül University. Tunç Soyer started his career in the tourism sector. He has been the general manager of the industry's leading hotels. With the skills gained from these experiences, he founded a holiday village in Seferihisar in 1991 and managed it for nine years.

He served at Bornova Anatolian High School Education Foundation as a board member for seven years, and as the President for three years. In 2003, he became counselor on external relations to the Mayor of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, Ahmet Piriştina.

From 2004 to 2006, he has served as the Director of Foreign Relations in the İzmir Chamber of Commerce. In 2006, he was appointed as the General Secretary of EXPO 2015 İzmir Steering Committee and Executive Committee by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Between the years 2009-2019, he has served two terms as the Mayor of Seferihisar Municipality.

He implemented the international local-scale development model, Cittaslow (Slow City) to Seferihisar and then introduced it to entire Turkey. Today, 15 municipalities implemented this development model. In 2013, he became the Vice President of the Cittaslow Association, headquartered in Italy.

In May 2014, he was elected as the Chairman of the Board of SODEM, the Turkish Social Democratic Municipalities Association. On 31 March 2019, he was elected as the Mayor of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality and in May 2019, as the President of the Aegean Region Municipalities Union.

He is married and has two daughters.

25.10.2019, İzmir

**Dear Members,**

Local and regional authorities are extending their capacity in orchestrating collective actions among local actors to deal with global challenges. In this way, we have the opportunity to contribute to the progress of more ethical, inclusive, transparent, fair, democratic, effective and legitimate local and global governance. For this reason, as the Metropolitan Mayor of İzmir, I dedicate considerable time and effort in decentralised trans-border cooperation. In this regard, I stand for the position of Vice-Chairmanship in the Chamber of Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. This post will allow me to better engage in the work of the Council of Europe on a variety of subjects critical for the citizens of my city and the citizens of Europe such as democracy, human rights, equality, youth participation, migration and integration.

I strongly believe in the benefits of cooperation between cities for attaining local legitimate and effective governance. With this vision, in 2009, I was among the founding mayors of the Association of Social Democratic Municipalities, Turkey (SODEM). In 2014, I was elected as the president of this organization and achieved to increase the number of member municipalities from 50 to 141. Today, SODEM is a financially viable organization which represents 18 million citizens. Recently, I was elected as the president of the Union of Aegean Municipalities which brings together 122 Municipalities. I was selected as the Champion of UCLG and I had the opportunity to promote the international cooperation activities among local authorities in my wider-region. In my previous post as Mayor of Seferihisar, I became a member of International network of Cittaslow (Slow City). I successfully implemented its local-scale development model aiming at healthier, fairer and more sustainable city. In 2013, I became the Vice President of the Cittaslow Association and promoted this development model in Turkey and in my wider international region. Lately, I am elected to the World Council and Executive Bureau of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) . Furthermore, I have applied for the Treasurer Post at the Presidency of UCLG and hopefully expecting to get a successful result at the elections to be held on the 15th of November.

Izmir is a city of 4.5 million inhabitants with 31 sister cities from all around the world. The geographical location and history of İzmir allow the city to build good economic, cultural and social interactions with cities from other countries. 8500-year-old İzmir is one of the largest port cities in the Mediterranean. Thanks to maritime and land routes, İzmir has become an open city to the rest of the world where Eastern and Western civilizations mingle. Its geographical location, history, demography and have empowered the city for successful economic, cultural and social trans-border cooperation.



I am highly motivated for the Vice-Chairmanship position in the Chamber of Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. I am confident that I and the City of Izmir, with all its assets, stakeholders and citizens, are capable of adding a great deal of value to the work of the Congress. I will work to overcome the challenges in effective implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in the member countries of the Council of Europe. In this regard, I would like to reiterate my commitment to the principals of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

  
**Tunç SOYER**  
**Mayor of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality**