



THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION
Minister's Private Office

Mr. Thomas Hammarberg
Commissioner for Human Rights
Council of Europe
Strasbourg

Ankara, 15 April 2011

Dear Mr. Commissioner,

I sincerely thank you for your letter dated 21 March 2011, in which you refer to the policy developments facilitating the access to education of foreign nationals, especially of migrant children.

My Ministry has worked to further the situation of migrant children. As you have already appreciated and referred to in your letter, we have adopted concrete measures to address the needs of the children of legal migrant workers.

Concerning the situation of migrant children who wish to attend minority schools, I would like to inform you that minority schools in Turkey are regulated by the Law on Private Education Institutions no 5580. According to this Law, students who have Turkish nationality belonging to religious minorities can attend minority schools. The Lausanne Peace Treaty provides the necessary basis for the said law and relevant regulations. Efforts have been continuing in my Ministry to solve the problems of these children.

I would also like to bring to your attention that the children of legal migrant workers are able to exercise their right to education at any other school in Turkey.

On this occasion, I would like to reiterate our willingness for a continued cooperation with your office.

Sincerely yours,

Nimet ÇUBUKÇU
Minister of National Education