



12.03.2021, İzmir

Dear Members,

Cooperation between local and global authorities must become more strategic to survive in the 21st century. Covid-19 Pandemic shows that local and regional authorities have become protagonists in the international arena and mayors, local authorities should push this trend to become protectors of that cause. For this reason, as the Metropolitan Mayor of İzmir, I dedicate considerable time and effort in city diplomacy strategies. In this regard, I, once again 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 your valuable Council of Europe and it's important vision to 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. I am a member of the World Council and Executive Bureau of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). Lately, I have been elected to the Global Executive Committee of ICLEI which is a leading network on the field of sustainability.

İzmir 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. İzmir's regional value is increasingly important in order to current dynamics of Eastern Mediterranean.

I am highly motivated for the Vice-President 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 İzmir, 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



M. Tunç SOYER; Mayor of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality

Curriculum Vitæ



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

After graduating from Bornova Anatolian Highschool as a boarder, he completed his university degree at the Ankara University Faculty of Law. During this time, he worked as a correspondent in the Turkish News Agency. He has also translated a work on the tragedy of women in immigrant camps into Turkish.

Tunç Soyer has a Master's Degree on “International Relations” from Webster College in Switzerland and on the “European Union” from Dokuz Eylül University. Being a fluent English and French speaker, in 1991, he founded a holiday village in Seferihisar that is still in operation. He was an active manager in the tourism sector for nine years.

In 2003, he became a Consultant of the Mayor of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality Ahmet Piriştina on the obtainable financial resources of the European Union and has strengthened his experiences on the economy and social life of İzmir within this period. From 2004 to 2006, he served as the Director of Foreign Relations of the İzmir Chamber of Commerce. In 2006, he was appointed as the General Secretary of EXPO İzmir.

In 2009 he was elected as the Mayor of Seferihisar and carried on this task for two terms. He has implemented the international local-scale development model Cittaslow (Slow City) first to Seferihisar and then introduced it to the seven geographical areas of Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

In 2013, he was appointed the Vice President of the Cittaslow Unity centered in Italy, became the Chairman of the Board of SODEM (Social Democrat Municipalities Association) in 2014, was elected as a Board Member of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) in July 2019, and in October 2019 he was elected Vice President of the Chamber of Regions of Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

In 2019, he was elected as the President of the Union of Aegean Municipalities which brings together 122 Municipalities across Aegean Region, Turkey.

Again in 2019, he was elected as the President of the Board of SODEMSEN (Social Democrats Public Employers' Union).

In January 2021, Mayor Soyer was elected to the Global Executive Committee (GexCom) of ICLEI which is a leading network on the field of sustainability.

During his Office, he has been elected as the alternate member representing MedCities in ARLEM (Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly) in 2021.

Along with these duties, he has been elected as the Mayor of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality at the local elections held in March 2019. He is married and has two daughters.