

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE- 1 October 2015

Contact: Esra Elmas, Senior Advisor eelmas@democraticprogress.org

ROUNDTABLE MEETING: 'GETTING A PROCESS BACK ON TRACK – INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES'

Ankara, Turkey, 3 October 2015

The Democratic Progress Institute (DPI) will hold a roundtable meeting this weekend in Ankara, on the subject of 'getting a process back on track' in times of crisis. Invitees in this event include members of Turkey's wise persons commission; some of Turkey's most renowned journalists and media personalities; representatives from civil society including from women's organisations, human rights associations and others; senior academics; and key individuals from the art and literature worlds.

Panel speakers at the roundtable will include international conflict resolution experts and key actors from the peace processes of Ireland and Philippines, such as former Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs Demort Ahern, and MILF Peace Panel Secretariat and of the Socio-Economic Office of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission in the Philippines Engr. Mohajirin T. Ali.

A number of speakers from Turkey will also participate, including renowned journalist Ali Bayramoğlu, Constitutional Law expert Sevtap Yokuş and Wise Persons Commission Southeast Chair Yilmaz Ensaroğlu. Participants include, among others, Wise Persons Commission members Kadir Inanir, Kezban Hatemi, Oral Çalışlar and Vahap Coşkun.

DPI's Chief Executive Officer Mr Kerim Yildiz said of the forthcoming roundtable meeting: 'we hope that this meeting will provide participants from across Turkey's society with the opportunity to engage in valuable discussion'.

Previous DPI activities in this series have seen participants visit London, Belfast, Edinburgh, Dublin, Cardiff, South Africa and the Philippines, and take part in roundtable discussions on diverse subjects including conflict resolution, constitutional arrangements, devolution in the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish contexts, language and identity issues across the United Kingdom, and democratic transition in South Africa. Other roundtable meetings throughout the regions of Turkey have focused on issues relating to media, civil society and gender's role in conflict resolution. The response to these activities has been highly positive, with extensive media coverage and a continuation of discussion occurring as a result.

Other DPI future activities and ongoing roundtable meetings are planned within Turkey and elsewhere. Future studies are intended to take place in numerous relevant parts of the world.

Records of all of DPI's Comparative Studies visits have been published and are available via the Institute's website. A record including all of the discussions in this roundtable meeting will be published and made available on DPI's website. For any further information please contact DPI's Director of Programmes Eleanor Johnson at ejohnson@democraticprogress.org or DPI's Senior Advisor Esra Elmas at eelmas@democraticprogress.org