

# Media Advisory

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05.02.2010

## Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland to undertake official visit to Turkey

**Dates:** 6 to 9 February 2010

**Location:** Ankara and Istanbul

**Description:** The Council of Europe Secretary General, Thorbjørn Jagland, will be undertaking an official visit to Turkey to meet the country's political leaders, representatives of civil society and academics. Following the recent election of a Turkish MP as President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe ([see our press release](#)), and with Turkey due to take over the Chairmanship in the Committee of Ministers, the pan-European organisation's decision-making body (November 2010 - May 2011), this visit will be an opportunity for the Secretary General to discuss with his Turkish hosts his programme of reforms designed to enhance the Council of Europe's role in the European political architecture.

The Secretary General will be received on 7 February by the President of the Republic, Abdullah Gül. He will then have talks with the Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the Minister for Justice, Sadullah Ergin, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ahmet Davutoğlu, as well as meeting the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, and the members of the Turkish delegation to the Assembly.

Thorbjørn Jagland will also be meeting representatives of Turkish NGOs and academics. On this occasion he will give a lecture at Bilkent University in Ankara on "Turkey and Europe: Turkey in Europe". **Open to the press** - 10:30, Auditorium of the Faculty of Economics (Ekonomi Fakültesi), Bilkent University campus – Ankara.

**A press conference** will be held on Tuesday 9 February from 10.30 to 11 am following the meeting between the Secretary General and the Minister for Foreign Affairs (residence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs - Dışişleri Konutu, Atatürk bulvarı - Ankara)

Individual meetings with journalists may be arranged upon request, on Monday 8 February after 5.00 pm, time allowing (Hotel Sheraton, Ankara).

**Press contact:** Flemming Kjerschow, Spokesperson of the Secretary General, tel. +33 (0)6 63 48 55 76

For further information, please consult the [Secretary General's website](#).

To receive our press releases by e-mail, contact: [Council.of.Europe.Press@coe.int](mailto:Council.of.Europe.Press@coe.int)

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