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PRESS RELEASE

IMBRIOTES FROM ABROAD MEETING WITH PRESIDENT GÜL ON IMVROS (GÖKÇEADA)

**Delegation of Imvrian associations traveled to the island of Imvros for attending
the official visit of the President of the Turkish Republic Mr. Abdullah Gül**

03/05/2012

A delegation of Imvrian Associations from around the world attended the welcome ceremony of the President of Turkey Mr. Gül at the village of Agioi Theodoroi (Zeytinli) where a Greek minority school is due to reopen after 48 years since the banning of Greek minority education on the islands of Imvros and Tenedos.

The Imvrian delegation was given the opportunity to relay to President Gül personally the gratitude of all Imvriotes for the recent decision of the authorities to allow the re-opening of a school within the context of the on-going important reforms in favour of Turkey's minorities.

The delegation handed to the President of the Turkish Republic a memorandum signed by all Imvrian associations briefing him of the continuing problems encountered by the Greek minority of Imvros relating, inter alia, to the right of citizens of Greek origin to inherit or otherwise establish their rights on the land of their ancestors, the protection of the environment of the island, the need to improve the infrastructures of the Greek traditional villages and, generally, all those conditions which would allow the Greek minority to respond to the invitation of the Turkish authorities and re-establish in their ancestral homes (cf. Annex hereto).

This pleasant meeting full of symbolisms adds up to the list of meetings with Turkish officials that the Imvrian associations have pursued during the last years and especially following Resolution 1625 (2008) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on Imvros and Tenedos in response to the stated intentions of the Turkish authorities to address the chronic problems encountered by the minorities of Turkey.

ANNEX: Memorandum of Imvrian associations to President Gül