

## **OPENING SPEECH OF WAPES PRESIDENCY AT PARIS WORKSHOP (7-8 September 2017)**

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Dear WAPES members and distinguished guests,

First of all I would like to welcome you all on behalf of myself, my Agency and the Presidency. I would like to state that it is a pleasure for me to come together with you at this precious event that will be held here, in Paris and I hope that it will give acceleration to public employment policies.

İŞKUR holds WAPES presidency since 2015 with the support and contributions of Executive Board, Board of Directors, Vice Presidents and the Secretariat within the vision of making WAPES a reference point in global employment policies. I would like to announce that Mr. Cafer Uzunkaya who opened WAPES event in Seul and contributed to the administrative and policy making processes of WAPES since the beginning of our presidency, assigned as Director General of İŞKUR. Unfortunately he couldnt participate because of his program with our Minister much as he would like to but he requested from me to convey his sincere greetings and regards and special thanks to our European Region Vice president who gathered us under the roof of this event, Pôle Emploi and you, for your participation.

Dear guests,

Public Employment Services take on important tasks regarding struggling against unemployment, with the services they render. In order to fulfil their tasks, Public Employment Services should develop the quality of their services within a permanent transformation and via effective governance and common sense. As we all know, after the global crisis, recovery in the labour markets is slower than expected; unemployment and underemployment exist as fundamental problems. In the meantime, technological change cycles,

conclusions that may be affected by economic globalisation and industrial and demographic changes are inclined to create problems for world economies and labour markets in the short and long terms. At this point through policies and practices on employment that will support economic growth, we should increase our joint works and efforts to promote innovative, sustainable, inclusive and decent employment models.

Industrial transformation and its reflections makes essential to make radical changes in socio-economic policies of countries. As an example from my country, according to a survey carried out in Turkey by a private institute, half of jobs in Turkey have the potential of automation. Whether this potential would create opportunities or problems in our national labour market, as it happens throughout the world, will acquire a quality via employment policies to be implemented in national level and the performances of public employment services.

Therefore we constantly revise İŞKUR services in line with the changing conditions; within this scope;

Insurance contribution to the employers in new recruitments,

-Income support in case of the bankrupt of craft and the trades workers

-Half time working benefit after the birth or adoption,

-Activities regarding the establishment of Job Clubs

In addition, we are hosting nearly 3 million Syrian people who left their country because of the civil war. We are implementing programs and policies based on skills development for their adaptation to our labour market.

With regards to WAPES, 23 activities 10 of which were regional workshops have been organized to develop global employment policies and to closely recognize different approaches to similar problems and the opportunity for information and experience exchange in various fields has been provided.

The subject of transformation in labour markets will be one of the focus issues of the World Congress to be organized in Marrakech in April 2018. We know that esteemed Vice President of MOPA (Middle Eastern and Arabian Countries) has speeded up the preparations for the activity. At this point, our task is to realize a General Board meeting which has high standards and is in line with WAPES' global vision.

Dear guests,

Through this WAPES event starting with the vision of being the only global information network for policy makers in the field of public employment services, we will discuss how we could make current practices better on interactions between Public Employment Services and their users, new roles Public Employment Services would have and probable changes in their services consequently. We will witness valuable works related to the issue and share examples of good practices.

Following this meeting, tomorrow the European Region Meeting in which the 2018 European activities are to be planned and what is new in our agencies is to be introduced, and then the Long-Term Strategy Meeting in which the 10-year future of the Public Employment Services and WAPES is to be discussed will be held. We hope that the events we are organizing today and will organize tomorrow will lead to higher levels of the cooperation that we have established under the roof of WAPES.

I wish you all a fruitful workshop programme and would like to extend my gratitude to you for your participation on behalf of myself, the President of WAPES and our Director General.

Best regards