

## Conservative Friends of Turkey

*For immediate release*

### **Conservative Friends of Turkey attends Party Conference, signs 150 members, parliamentary group now 20-strong**

London, 7 October 2008 - Conservative Friends of Turkey (CFT) exhibited at the Conservative Party Conference 2008, held during 28 September – 1 October in Birmingham. The event was the largest gathering of Conservatives in history, drawing more than 10,000 delegates. In its first ever presence at the Conference, CFT attracted considerable interest and increased its membership base by 150, now including 20 members from the House of Commons, House of Lords and European Parliament.

CFT volunteers distributed hundreds of brochures throughout the conference, providing brief facts about Turkey and CFT's objectives. More than a thousand delegates stopped by the CFT stand, discussing various topics about Turkey while tasting Turkish wine and Turkish delight. Party Chairman Caroline Spelman MP and Shadow Foreign Secretary Rt Hon William Hague MP were among the visitors.

With 8 more MPs joining as founding members during the Conference, CFT now has a parliamentary group of 20, including Shadow Home Secretary Dominic Grieve MP and Shadow Minister of Justice David Burrowes MP from the front bench, as well as Vice Chairman of the Party Richard Spring MP and Deputy Chairman Alistair Burt MP. Members of the European Parliament Daniel Hannan, Geoffrey van Orden and John Bowis will be supporting CFT activities in Brussels.

CFT promotes strong ties between Turkey and the Conservative Party at all levels. Many parliamentary candidates, councillors and officials from Conservative Future (the youth wing of the Conservative Party) have also signed up to support CFT. CFT aims to be constantly in communication with its broad membership base, acting as an impartial source of information on many topics concerning Turkey.

CFT will be officially launched on 28 October 2008 with a cocktail reception in Westminster. Shadow Foreign Secretary Rt Hon William Hague MP will be the guest speaker.

#### **For further information:**

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Or visit our website: [www.cfot.org.uk](http://www.cfot.org.uk)



CFT co-founder Cllr Ertan Hurer, Shadow Foreign Secretary Rt Hon William Hague MP and CFT co-founder Dr Onur Cetin