



CENTER FOR
DEMOCRACY RESEARCH

The Grand National Assembly of Turkey and Municipal Councils in May 2021

Arda Sirkeci
Yusuf Şerali
Görkem Savaşeri
Hilal Yılmaz
Selin Ongan

June 7
volume 1
issue 4

The Grand National Assembly of Turkey and Municipal Councils in the Previous Month

Turkish Grand National Assembly, which had to take a break until 17 May due to the complete lockdown that started in Turkey at the end of April, was able to continue its work only in the last days of the month. In the last week of May, the agenda of the Turkish Grand National Assembly focused on discussions about the mob boss Sedat Peker. The gang boss, who has been posting videos to support the allegations on the engagements between the government and the mafia, deeply affected the political atmosphere of May. Apart from the corruption allegations, the opposition's proposals on employment, the environment, and women's poverty were also among the debates that filled the agenda.

Bills:

Legislative proposal no. 260, which was approved in the last week of April, was adopted just before the closure. Some of the prominent items of proposal no. 260, also known as the proposal for amendments to the Tax Procedure Law and some laws, were as follows:

- Fuel distributors should not be able to sell the fuel they bought from a distributor to another distributor.
- Those whose fuel licenses have been revoked due to cheating or making false statements against the law should not be allowed to re-enter the market.
- Retirement Holiday Bonus payments should be increased from 1000 TL to 1100 TL. (The proposals made by the opposition that suggested increasing the bonus to 1500-1550-1800 TL were rejected.)
- The Ministry of Treasury and Finance should be able to reduce the 7-day billing period.

Another bill that started to be discussed with the start of the meetings in May was legislative proposal no 262. This proposal, which was recorded as "Bill to Amend the Laws on Insurance and Some Other Fields and a Decree-Law" in the official records, was also accepted and became law. The prominents of the bill were as follows:

- Political parties should also add movable properties with a value of 1500 TL or more to their final accounts.

The Grand National Assembly of Turkey and Municipal Councils in the Previous Month

- The coverage of compulsory liability insurance should be reduced. Damages incurred by third parties such as loss of income, loss of profit, business interruption, or deprivation of rent due to traffic accidents should not be paid by insurance companies.
- Persons under the age of 18 should also be able to participate in the private pension system.
- The public debts of entrepreneurs in the tourism sector should be postponed until 30/11/2022.
- A “Special Risks Management Center” should be established to provide coverage for risks that cannot be covered by insurance or reinsurance from domestic or international markets, or for risks that are difficult to provide coverage for, such as nuclear risks, and risks that are in the public interest to be insured.

Motions:

The process of parliamentary inquiries were rejected by the government votes after their submission to the General Assembly in the last weeks of May. The full list of proposals that were refused to be discussed was as follows:

- Motion of Parliamentary Inquiry by Hüseyin Örs to carry out plans to open new employment areas and to take necessary measures for the solution of socio-economic problems
- Motion of Parliamentary Inquiry by Filiz Kerestecioğlu to investigate women’s poverty
- Motion of Parliamentary Inquiry by Feridun Bahşi for the determination of staffing, illegal appointments, and non-qualification-based personnel recruitment; ensuring equity in appointments, identification; and solution of problems in personnel recruitment and appointments during the AKP government
- Motion of Parliamentary Inquiry by Engin Altay, Özgür Özel, and Engin Özkoç to detect the politicians who have financial relations with organized crime organizations, especially the politician who is stated to receive a salary of 10 thousand dollars from the mob boss Sedat Peker

The Grand National Assembly of Turkey and Municipal Councils in the Previous Month

- Motion of Parliamentary Inquiry by Engin Altay, Özgür Özel and Engin Özkoç to investigate the allegations that the former Minister of Commerce Ruhsar Pekcan used her influence arising from her duties, authority, and office for the commercial interests and purposes of the company, which she is a partner and her husband is both a partner and Chairman
- Motion of Parliamentary Inquiry by Meral Daniş Beştaş and Hakkı Saruhan Oluç to reveal the corrupt relations between politics, bureaucracy, mafia, crimes, and those responsible
- Motion of Parliamentary Inquiry by Ayhan Altıntaş to investigate the root causes of violence and murders, and to determine the measures to be taken
- Motion of Parliamentary Inquiry by Tulay Hatımoğulları Oruç to investigate the increased sexist and arbitrary practices after withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention
- Motion of Parliamentary Inquiry by Mehmet Bekaroğlu to investigate the extent of the damage that the urgent decision of expropriation in order to build a quarry in the Eskencidere Valley in Rize İkizdere can cause to the region

Istanbul

On the agenda of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipal Council in May were the elections of the deputy chairman of the council, council clerks, members of the council members, the members of the specialization committees, the Audit Committee, and activity reports for 2020, and the proposals from the Presidency and the Commissions. Activity reports were not accepted as a result of the vote of the City Council.

Izmir

Izmir Metropolitan Municipality Council was also a Municipal Council that continued its work in May. The proposals that entered the agenda of the City Council and were accepted were as follows:

- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the size of the lands where livestock activities are carried out in İzmir should be limited to 5 decares, and the animal wastes to be generated should be delivered to the nearest biogas facility to be able to give licenses to the facilities.

The Grand National Assembly of Turkey and Municipal Councils in the Previous Month

- A protocol should be signed between the Izmir Metropolitan Municipality and the Aegean Agricultural Research Institute for the dissemination of local wheat varieties.
- A protocol should be signed between the Izmir Metropolitan Municipality and the Orange Association to be the basis for the work on equality between men and women and the empowerment of women.
- Due to the borrowing foreseen in the Multi-Annual Budget for the 2021-2022-2023 Fiscal Years, Izmir Metropolitan Municipality should apply for a cash loan of 20.000.000,00 Euro within the scope of “Fahrettin Altay - Narlıdere Engineering School Light Rail System Line Project” and 55,000,000.00 Euro under the “Çiğli Tram Line Project”, and Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Mustafa Tunç Soyer should be authorized for these loan agreements.

Ankara

There were proposals presented this month on the agenda of the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality Council. These proposals were accepted by voting in the City Council. The highlights of the accepted proposals were as follows:

- An international online panel on “Global Warming, Greenhouse Gas Increase and Local Action Plan” should be organized by the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, Climate Change and Adaptation Branch Directorate.
- Packages of products needed for mothers and newborn babies should be distributed by ABB.
- Free brochures should be distributed to raise awareness of citizens living in Ankara about human rights.
- ABB should organize motivating programs for the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 9th, 10th, and 11th grades, whose face-to-face classes are suspended due to the pandemic.



CENTER FOR
DEMOCRACY RESEARCH

Center for Democracy Research (CDR) strives to bolster political expression in Turkey and enhance its effects on political power structure through forming inclusive and democratic public spheres.

info@demokra.si
cdr.org.tr

Kocatepe Mahallesi,
Topçu Caddesi No:8/9
Beyoğlu, Istanbul