



MAYOR OF LONDON

To the President of Turkey Dr Abdullah Gül

As the Mayor, on behalf of the people of London, I am delighted to offer the warmest of welcomes on your official visit to our city. I am sure you will have a hugely enjoyable stay here.

London is a dynamic and prosperous city, which is in no small part thanks to the many communities that make up its population. This includes a large and vibrant Turkish community, which for generations has made an enormous contribution to the economic and cultural life of the capital and underpins the warm links between our two countries.

As you may know I take great pride in my own Turkish ancestry, and of the contribution, however small, my family has made to the history of Turkey. Equally, I am sure that my great grandfather Ali Kemal Bey would be proud of the success that the Turkish community has had here in London.

We have of course been observing the impact of the recent earthquakes in eastern Turkey and our thoughts and prayers are with everyone affected. We will continue to offer whatever support we can.

As we approach 2012, London is looking ahead to hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games and I know this visit includes a tour of our Olympic Park. I am sure you will be impressed by the fantastic sports stadia, the athletes' village, the new Westfield shopping centre and of course the wonderful new park itself, but I hope you will be as delighted as I am by the ArcelorMittal Orbit, a new landmark, a red giant bestriding the park and the largest sculpture in the country.

We are immensely proud to be hosting the greatest show on earth – when we welcome athletes and visitors from around the world next year, we want them to experience a summer like no other in our superb venues and through the fantastic cultural celebrations we are creating. But we are at least as proud with the transformation being made to an area of high deprivation, with jobs being created, improved infrastructure, fresh opportunities and improved quality of life for local people, as well as a sporting legacy we want to last long after the Games are over.

I hope you enjoy your visit and that you will be inspired to come again for the Games themselves, joining us for that summer like no other.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Boris Johnson'.

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London