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## Erdoğan opens largest Turkish Embassy worldwide in Berlin

by Tutku Gülerüz



H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey

On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2012 in Berlin's Tiergarten a piece of history was reinstated as the new Embassy of the Republic of Turkey was formally opened. From 1918 to 1945, first the diplomatic mission of the Ottoman Empire and afterwards the representation of the Republic of Turkey were located at the same place. During World War II, however, the building was destroyed and has now been rebuilt for approximately EUR 30m.

On the occasion of the opening, **H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, paid a two-day visit to Berlin. With **H.E. Dr. Guido Westerwelle**, German Federal Foreign Minister, and about 2,000 invited guests in attendance, the Turkish prime minister inaugurated the new building. Prior to this, in his wel-

coming speech, H.E. Dr. Guido Westerwelle had stressed Turkey's impressive success story in the past decade. H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan spoke out for a close Turkish-German exchange and hailed the new embassy as a symbol of the deep-rooted German-Turkish relations. Cutting the red tape together, the prime minister, the Turkish foreign minister and the German federal foreign minister opened the building officially. With this the world's largest Turkish representation, Turkey has sent a signal for the importance that it attaches to its historically good relations with Germany.

These good relations are necessary to be maintained, as H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan assured at the opening of the embassy as well as afterwards at the "Europa nach der Krise" (Europe

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