

**RESOLUTION
OF THE PRESIDENT OF TURKMENISTAN**

22 April 2005

No. 7197

Ashgabat

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**on the formation of a Commission for reviewing materials
on the registration of religious organizations and public associations
at the Ministry Adalat (Ministry of Justice) of Turkmenistan**

(Collection of Acts of the President of Turkmenistan
and Decisions of the Government of Turkmenistan, 2005, No. 4, Art. 96)

(with the amendments introduced by Resolution No. 7526 of the President of Turkmenistan of
19 September 2005)

In the aim of improving the procedure for the registration of religious organizations and public associations, **I hereby resolve:**

1. To form a Commission for reviewing materials on the registration of religious organizations and public associations at the Ministry Adalat of Turkmenistan (Ministry of Justice), consisting of: **(Provision pertaining to the composition of the Commission repealed by Resolution No. 7526 of the President of Turkmenistan of 19 September 2005)**

To entrust the Commission with ensuring that legality is observed in the registration of religious organizations and public associations.

2. To approve the appended Regulations on the Commission for reviewing materials on the registration of religious organizations and public associations

**President
of Turkmenistan**

**Saparmurat
Turkmenbashi**

Approved
by Resolution No. 7197 of the President of
Turkmenistan of 22 April 2005

**REGULATIONS
on the Commission for reviewing materials on the registration
of religious organizations and public associations
at the Ministry Adalat (Ministry of Justice) of Turkmenistan**

(with the amendments introduced by Resolution No. 10717 of the President of Turkmenistan
of 2 December 2009)

1. These Regulations govern the working procedures of the Commission for reviewing materials on the registration of religious organizations and public associations at the Ministry Adalat of Turkmenistan (Ministry of Justice) (hereinafter ‘the Commission’) and define its key operational priorities.

2. The Commission is an interdepartmental body whose key operational priorities are to ensure that legality is observed in the registration of religious organizations and public associations.

3. The Commission’s activities are to be governed by the Constitution of Turkmenistan, the laws of Turkmenistan, regulatory acts of the President of Turkmenistan, Decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, the international treaties of Turkmenistan and these Regulations.

4. The composition of the Commission is to be approved by the President of Turkmenistan. The Commission is to consist of representatives of the Ministry Adalat of Turkmenistan (hereinafter ‘the Ministry of Justice’), the Council on Religious Affairs under the President of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, the Prosecutor General of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of National Security of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan and the State Migration Service of Turkmenistan.

5. The chief responsibilities of the Commission are:
reviewing materials received in connection with the registration of religious organizations and public associations;
ensuring that citizens can realize their constitutional rights to exercise freedom of religion and to establish public associations;
co-ordinating the activities of the relevant ministries, departments and agencies in reviewing materials relating to religious organizations and public associations.

6. In furtherance of the responsibilities entrusted to it, the Commission is to fulfil the following functions:

authorizing the registration of religious organizations and public associations;
analysing circumstances regarding the registration of religious organizations and public associations.

The Commission may also, within the limits of its competence, consider additional matters relating to the registration of religious organizations and public associations.

7. The Commission is entitled:
to commission expert theological assessment of materials relating to the registration of a religious organization;
to request and receive information from competent bodies, which it needs in order to fulfil the responsibilities entrusted to it.

8. The Head of the Directorate for International Legal Relations and Registration of

Public Associations at the Ministry of Justice is to prepare materials for review at meetings where the Commission will consider authorizing the registration of religious organizations and public associations.

9. Meetings of the Commission are to be held as and when documents are received. The Chair of the Commission is to preside over its meetings. Decisions are to be taken by simple majority vote of the Commission's members. Each ministry, department or agency representative on the Commission is to inform the meeting of that department's opinion concerning authorization to register the religious organizations and public associations concerned.

If one of the departments has objections on specific points, the representative of the department concerned is to state the content of the objections orally, and a written note of the decision taken is to be made on the materials. Where necessary, the Commission is to request additional materials to enable it to take a final decision within the time limits prescribed by law. Information considered at the Commission's meetings is to remain confidential.

10. Upon completing its review of materials on the registration of religious organizations and public associations, the Commission is to make a decision:

to authorize registration of the religious organization or public association concerned;
or

to refuse to authorize registration of the religious organization or public association concerned.

In individual cases, the Commission may postpone its review of the materials and send them to relevant ministries, departments or agencies for further study (or approval).

11. The Commission's decisions to authorize registration of religious organizations and public associations are to be recorded in minutes drawn up in the prescribed format and signed by the members of the Commission. Materials which have been reviewed form an essential part of the minutes and are to be appended to them. The minutes are to be passed to the Directorate for International Legal Relations and Registration of Public Associations at the Ministry of Justice and, in conjunction with the materials reviewed, provide the basis for authorizing or refusing registration of religious organizations and public associations. The materials are to be kept at the Ministry of Justice throughout the period of operation of the religious organizations and public associations concerned and for three years after termination of their operations.