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Exonyms

Turkish exonyms (2002-2007)

Submitted by Turkey**

Summary

The compilation of Turkish exonyms on the basis of maps and other documents has been an ongoing process for several years. Recently, the list of Turkish exonyms for country names and their capitals, and undersea and maritime features was updated. There are now two new lists on exonyms, namely, the “Concise list of exonyms of major world cities and physical features” and the “List of exonyms of Europe and neighbouring regions of Turkey”. The latter list was compiled by examining both contemporary and old Turkish maps and documents.

1. Previous documents on Turkish exonyms

A list of Turkish exonyms of Aegean islands, and a short list of standardized names of undersea and maritime features around Turkey, had been submitted to the session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in 1986 (as WP.29), and in 1987 (as E/CONF.79/INF/58), respectively. A new gazetteer of “Standardized names of undersea and maritime features around Turkey” was prepared by the Department of Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography in 1992.

2. Turkish exonyms for country names and their capitals

The list of exonyms of countries and their capitals compiled in accordance with ISO 3166 are determined and registered after a joint assessment by the Turkish Language Society, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the General Command of Mapping. Although a draft version is available and has already been published in the website of the Board, the document needs to be approved by institutions represented

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** Prepared by the Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey (BEGeoN_T), Turkey.



on the Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey. A compilation of legally approved and standardized Turkish equivalents of country names and their capitals is carried out in parallel with the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

3. Concise list of exonyms of major world cities and physical features

The World Political and Physical Map at the scale of 1:30 million was produced by the General Command of Mapping in May 2007. The digital files thereof contain local and Turkish exonyms for political boundaries, main rivers and lakes, major regions, coastal features, major cities, and water bodies, including seas and oceans. This work may provide a list of variant geographical names (exonyms) in the world for Turkish map users and publishers to a certain extent.

4. List of exonyms of Europe and neighbouring regions of Turkey

The work on the “List of exonyms of Europe and neighbouring regions of Turkey” has recently been started by a working group of cartographers, historians, linguists and geographers supported by the representative institutions of the Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey. The work entails an examination of both contemporary and old Turkish maps and documents directed towards the compilation of Turkish exonyms.
