Dear Presidents, Dear Chairman of AIPH, Secretary General, Members of the Board of Directors, my dear governor, my dear deputies, my dear mayors, my ambassadors, my dear participants.

We are pleased to welcome you in our distinguished city at the opening ceremony of Expo2021 Hatay. Hatay, the crossroads of civilizations and cultures, welcomes you. Expos bring diverse geographies and cultures together by making economic, political, and cultural contributions to the countries and places where they are hosted in our globalizing society, when distances have lost their meaning. Horticultural Expos, on the other hand, bring nature and people together as they have in our history. It also plays a critical role in jointly addressing the issues raised by intense and rapid urbanization. Expo’21 will be one of the most significant and unique undertakings that our city of Hatay has undertaken since its founding. The Garden of Civilizations is the subject of our Expo. Hatay, as you may know, is one of Anatolia’s oldest settlements. Many civilizations have flourished in these territories throughout history. Different faiths and civilizations have coexisted in peace and tolerance and will continue to do this in the future. The Expo’s integration with this geography, where distinctions are perceived as richness, is also significant. Our project, which was developed with the help of all of our stakeholders, comprises of a 220,000 m² Antakya display area and a 100,000 m² Arsuz exhibition area. Thematic city gardens where our country’s cities will exhibit their own cultures and histories, the Hatay civilizations garden that brings together different languages, religions, and nations, our mosaic of common existence reflecting the multicultural structure of life, our Archeopark, where 2000 years of history is exhibited, many medical and horticulture greenhouse areas, and herb gardens where aromatic plants and seeds will be exhibited are all in the Antakya exhibition area where we are. Furthermore, our gastronomy academy, which will serve our people for many years, and our gastronomy village, which caters to a wide range of preferences, are also located in this region. The international city gardens where the participating countries will transmit their cultures, the international gastronomy centre where all the world cuisines will come together, and our expo botanical centre are all located in the Iskenderun region of the Arsuz exhibition area. With its exhibition spaces, show pools, ponds, culture and art streets, indoor and outdoor fairgrounds, children’s playgrounds, and helpful structure, Antakya and Arsuz are intended as big attractions and attraction centres that will strengthen the brand value of our city. In addition to the Expo 2021 Hatay horticulture concept, it will bring economic development by hosting sectoral meetings and fairs with different Expo cities and participating countries, and with this great event, it will have positive effects on our city, our country, and neighbouring geographies, thanks to international cooperation agreements. Finally, to the project team, all of my colleagues, Hatay Metropolitan Municipality staff and stakeholders, and all of our contractors, whose support we have always felt behind us, who put all of their efforts and hearts into the project’s success day and night by fighting the negative effects of the covid’19 global pandemic. To our Hatay compatriots, the AIPH President and Board of Directors, and our Metropolitan Mayor, the true architect of this initiative, we thank you for your support and understanding. I’d want to express
my gratitude to Assoc. Lütfü SAVAŞ on behalf of myself and my team for his faith, trust, and support in us. I express my deep gratitude to all of our distinguished visitors for sharing this joy with us, and I wish everyone a pleasant evening.

Bernard Oosterom: President of AIPH

It is a great honour for me to be here today for the opening of Expo’21 Hatay. AIPH is an international association of horticultural producers. We are world champions in the power of plants. we have been approving international horticultural exhibitions for 62 years, but despite all the special events of the past, what happened today is a more special moment than all of them. for 2 years the world has been struggling with a global epidemic, it has taken many lives. It has caused a lot of sadness and damaged the hopes and livelihoods of many people. However, here in Hatay, we are among those who trust in a brighter future and that things can improve. In the previous ten years, this region has demonstrated its concern for people by sheltering thousands of refugees fleeing war zones in order to give them with a future. They're also focusing on establishing a worldwide horticulture fair that serves the requirements of our global community in order to make the world a better place. We live in a world that has been wounded by human tragedy and suffering. However, here in Hatay, we are among those who trust in a brighter future and that things can improve. In the previous ten years, this region has demonstrated its concern for people by sheltering thousands of refugees fleeing war zones in order to give them with a future. They're also focusing on establishing a worldwide horticulture fair that serves the requirements of our global community in order to make the world a better place. Today, we live in a world that has been wounded by human tragedy and suffering. However, as we face the realities of climate change tomorrow, we will face new obstacles. We must create a world that is fit for human habitation. Cities will continue to grow in population, and it is our obligation to ensure that they are healthy, safe, and profitable. Cities divide people from nature, yet through this Expo, we can demonstrate that green cities are possible. We can demonstrate the beauty of plants and scenery, thereby inspiring towns all around the world to become more environmentally friendly. The gardens of civilisation will demonstrate how plants and gardens have been utilized to bring people and civilizations together for ages. It should also be in the centre of our plans for the future. Green living has been proven to make people healthier and happier by research, and the epidemic has taught us all to give more. Today I would like to congratulate Mayor Lütfü SAVAŞ and the General Secretary of Expo’21 Hatay. And many thanks to their working teams for making this Expo the most difficult time ever seen by the world. His leadership and determination will be extremely memorable and will never be forgotten. This Expo will show itself on historical shelves as green sprouts sprouting from the hard dusty floor of the pandemic. This is a wonderful community and I couldn't have imagined a more perfect celebration. My best wishes to everyone. I would like to thank everyone who plans, organizes, cooks, transports, serves, speaks, performs, dances, takes selfies, smiles and welcomes us with such warmth. I warmly encourage all Hatay residents, as well as individuals from all across Turkey and the world, to visit Hatay and take in the Expo's sights and sounds. I congratulate you on this amazing achievement on behalf of every
member of AIPH, including our Honourable Board Member İsmail YILMAZ, and wish you prosperity now and in the future generations of Hatay people. I'd like to express my gratitude to this city, which has a beautiful vision for the future, for taking the time to listen to me.

Uğur Poyraz, Secretary General of the IYI Party:

Dear Presidents, notable political party representatives, distinguished deputies, representatives of foreign embassies, our state officials, and distinguished guests: I am here today to represent our IYI party leader, Mrs. Meral Akşener, and I convey all of your warmest greetings and affection.

The 40-century-old Turkish homeland of Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk cannot be left captive in the hands of the enemy. My honour is Hatay. He got out of the patient's bed and handed it over to us, adding, "I'll absolutely get the Hatay." It has hosted many civilizations in the past and present, where people of all cultures and religions exist; it is a source of great pride and joy for our country to host such an important international institution in Hatay, a city of peace, brotherhood, and tolerance.

Expo'21, which is a fantastic chance for Hatay's tourism, trade, and future, is one of the most essential steps done by our Mayor, Mr. Lütfü Savaş, on the route to making Hatay a brand city, especially in these difficult days. We saw once again with this organization that in a process that strives to mainstream being indifferent to the truth by disregarding the truth for the sake of safeguarding their own political interests, they sadly ignore the particular qualities of Hatay in a global and Turkish process. Mr. Lütfü Savaş, our Metropolitan Mayor, has realized the Expo, which is regarded as one of the three largest organizations in the world, and will bring many benefits not only to Hatay, but also to Turkey, without the assistance of any public institution, relying solely on the capabilities of the metropolitan municipality and all other metropolitan cities that support him in this process. We thank the municipalities for their assistance. Dear guests, sentimentality is another thing, sensitivity is another. Sentimentality does not inspire action; it is content to feel sorry for itself. Sensitivity brings responsibility. Despite all the negativity at work and despite those who ignore us, Lütfü Savaş and his team have created the remedy themselves with great sensitivity. They brought this organization to Hatay. I sincerely congratulate Mr. Lütfü Savaş and all the metropolitan municipality management, employees and you, dear residents of Hatay, who contributed.