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## Istanbul Named Best Meeting Destination by Kongres Magazine

 JANUARY 27, 2015 BY [PIRANHA PRESSE & PR GMBH](#)  LEAVE A COMMENT

**LONDON (21 January 2015) – Istanbul has won the Meetings Star Award 2014, being named Best Meeting Destination by Kongres Magazine after it visited and evaluated no less than 45 destinations.**

Istanbul was judged to be the **Best Meeting Destination as part of the Meetings Star Award 2014** after 45 destinations were compared taking into account natural and cultural factors, general and transport infrastructure as well as tourist infrastructure.

The Meetings Star Award 2014 was presented to Istanbul at a gala reception at Slovenia Convention Bureau's Conventa 2015 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 21 January, with Istanbul Convention & Visitors Bureau – ICVB's Vice President Bahadır Yasik and General Manager Ozgul Ozkan Yavuz in attendance.

Ozgul Ozkan Yavuz, General Manager of ICVB, says: "We are thrilled that Istanbul has been selected as the best meeting destination – a city of both historical and natural beauties dating at least 8500 years. As a historical meeting point between East and West and spanning two continents, today's **Istanbul is a Top 10 Meeting & Congress destination offering unique and exciting venues**. The city has the **capacity to host every type of event, from bespoke incentives to meetings for up to 30,000 for corporate and leisure visitors alike**. Combined with **Istanbul's historic venues, palaces, cisterns** and the like, it offers meeting planners a variety of remarkable options to create truly outstanding events."

Easily accessible from around the world, **Istanbul is served by nearly 300 international airlines** at its two airports. Turkish Airlines, named 'Best Airline Europe' by Skytrax for four years running, has a network of more than 260 direct flights and flies to more countries than any other airline in the world. With an almost 94,000-bed capacity, **accommodation in the city offers a selection across the spectrum**.

Istanbul was ranked **8<sup>th</sup> in the world by the International Congress and Convention Association** in its 2013 Rankings for Cities and Countries and **1<sup>st</sup> for large congresses of 300-500 guests**.

### Istanbul Convention & Visitors Bureau

Founded in 1997 as Turkey's first destination marketing bureau, the Istanbul Convention & Visitors Bureau (ICVB) is a non-profit organisation that offers a wide range of services designed to:

- Help promote Istanbul as a congress, meeting & incentive destination
- Assist organisers in creating fabulous events in the city
- Arrange site inspections for association representatives & meeting planners
- Support the congress candidature process of Istanbul by preparing official bids
- Provide promotional materials
- Coordinate the support of local and national authorities

ICVB's main goal is to represent Istanbul around the world and to seek international associations and corporations planning high-profile international congresses and events. To date ICVB has played a key role in Istanbul's rapid rise in popularity as a congress destination in line with International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) statistics. Istanbul was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the world by the ICCA in its 2013 Rankings for Cities and Countries and 1<sup>st</sup> for large congresses of 300-500 guests.

ICVB works in close collaboration with the Turkish Ministry of Culture & Tourism, the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and Turkish Airlines. ICVB has members which cover the full spectrum of the meeting industry, including purpose-built congress centres, state-of-the-art exhibition centres, Istanbul's top hotels, experienced service suppliers, PCO/DMCs and other miscellaneous venues.

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*Meetings Star Award – Top 3 meeting destinations, © Istanbul Convention & Visitors Bureau*

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