

Dear Regional Sections of IVR,

The Turkish section of IVR has sent me a letter saying that in current circumstances they do not believe it possible to hold the XXVIIIth World Congress of the IVR in Istanbul as originally planned and that they therefore wish to be relieved of the duty to do so. The IVR EC has approved their request

While I completely understand the circumstances that led the Turkish Section of IVR to make their request, I deeply regret the necessity of making this change, as I know that they do also.

I have sent a message to Prof. Ioanna Kucuradi, chair of the World Congress organizing committee, and to Prof. Gulriz Uygur, a member of the IVR EC who has worked very hard on Congress preparations, to thank them for their hard work, express my sorrow for what has occurred, and assure them how eager we all are in our personal and institutional capacities to assist them in their battle to protect human rights and the rule of law in Turkey.

We now face the very difficult task of finding a new venue for the World Congress, if possible, on very short notice. The basic requirement is to find a University willing to donate the use of one large lecture hall and at least 25 smaller classrooms for one week at the end of July. I am actively seeking such a place and would be very grateful for any guidance or assistance that any of you can give me in finding one.

I shall also be working closely with Prof. Kucuradi and Prof. Uygur to accommodate those members of IVR who have already registered for the conference in Turkey.

We shall give you further details as soon as they are available.

best regards,

Mortimer Sellers
President of IVR