

Remarks by

Vera El Khoury Lacoeyilhe
Chairperson of the Executive Board

**Gala concert on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of
the birth of Magtymguly Fragi**

24 April 2024

His Excellency Mr Gurbanmyrat Myradalyev, Deputy Minister of Culture of Turkmenistan,

His Excellency Mr Maksat Chariev, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Turkmenistan to UNESCO,

The representative of the Director-General of UNESCO,

Members of the high-level delegation of Turkmenistan who have travelled to France to participate in the TEIF 2024 Investment Forum,

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

If we are here today, it is not just to celebrate the verses of a poet.

What truly sets Magtymguly Fraghi apart is his ability to encapsulate the essence of Turkmen culture, history and spirituality within the rhythmic cadence of his poetry. His verses not only reflect the beauty of the Turkmen language but also resonate with universal themes of love, freedom, and human dignity.

Moreover, Fraghi's work served as a catalyst for social and cultural change, empowering generations to embrace their identity and heritage while striving for a better future. His impact transcends borders, echoing through the annals of literature as a testament to the enduring power of words to uplift, inspire, and unite humanity.

He was described as the lyrical luminary of Turkmenistan, enriching the canvas of literature with verses that danced like desert winds, stirring the souls of generations with his timeless wisdom and passionate advocacy for freedom and justice.

Through his eloquent quatrains, he wove tales of love, and the boundless beauty of the Turkmen landscape, immortalizing his name as a beacon of inspiration for all who seek the melody of truth in the symphony of life."

The work of this prominent representative of the Eastern world classical literature inspires the human soul.

The dreams of this great thinker about building a powerful independent state, and a friendly, peaceful and prosperous life for his people are absolutely topical today.

I hope many of you have already had the opportunity of visiting the exhibition in the Salle des Pas perdus, which showcases the diversity of the Turkmen culture with its vibrant art works and writings by Magtymguly Fragi.

Let's continue the commemoration of his life with what I am sure will be a beautiful cultural gala.

Thank you.