



Brussels, 2 September 2016

We, as members of the Friends of Turkey group in the European Parliament, want to repeat our strong condemnation of the recent coup attempt and show our solidarity and support for Turkey's secular, democratic institutions. We wish to express our solidarity with the people of Turkey and send our deepest condolences to the families of the 265 people killed in the attempted coup.

We sincerely hope the political unity following the coup will lead to a stronger democracy by reinforcing the rule of law. We are concerned that the handling of the aftermath of the coup, resulting in mass dismissals and arrests, could lead to further polarisation and division within the society. Respecting the rule of law, human rights and human dignity is the only way to heal the wounds caused by the coup attempt.

As Turkey is going through one of the most difficult times in its history, engaging in a sincere and constructive dialogue with the Turkish government, all opposition parties and civil society organisations, becomes more important than ever. The EU and Turkey should work together effectively to tackle shared challenges in the field of migration, security and energy, among others. We strongly support Turkey's role as a long-standing and reliable member of the NATO alliance.

We urge EU leaders and high-level EEAS and European Commission officials to visit Turkey at their earliest convenience in order to discuss and better understand the impact and consequences of the failed military coup in Turkey.

We would also like to call on the chairmen of the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee to reconvene its parliamentary activity as a matter of urgency with an early meeting with an open agenda and free-ranging exchange of views.

As the European Parliament was already in recess when these events occurred, we only had the opportunity to discuss the coup attempt in an extraordinary Foreign Affairs Committee meeting held on July 19th. We would like to invite a cross-party delegation from Turkey's Grand National Assembly to visit Brussels and meet Members of the European Parliament and EU officials.

We reiterate our commitment to continue engaging in constructive dialogue and building relations with Turkey and its people in these difficult times.

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