



Dimitrios Papadimoulis

Vice-President of the European Parliament

Head of the SYRIZA - Progressive Alliance Delegation

To the attention of:

Ms. Ursula von der Leyen

President of the European Commission

Mr. Charles Michel

President of the European Council

Athens, 5 April 2021

Dear President von der Leyen,

Dear President Michel,

In view of your visit to Ankara and your meeting with the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, you should give a clear message of strong criticism of the policies of the Erdogan regime, both within the country and in the wider Eastern Mediterranean region.

As Presidents of the European Council and the Commission, you should underline, not only during your bilateral discussion with President Erdogan but also publicly, that the EU condemns the escalating authoritarian and anti-democratic practices of the Turkish President Erdogan.

The ongoing persecution and imprisonment of his political opponents, including the Kurdish politician S. Demirtas and the activist O. Kavala, and the escalating persecution of the HDP political party, undermine parliamentary democracy and respect for human rights.

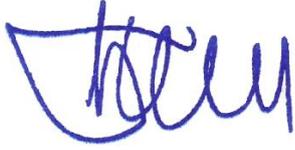
The Erdogan regime is also leading to social regression by withdrawing from the Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence. At the same time, the right of freedom of expression, the independence of the press as well as the independence of the judiciary, are being violated in the most obvious way, thus circumventing any concept of the Rule of Law.

At regional level, the Erdogan leadership continues to challenge and violate the sovereign rights of EU Member States, Greece and Cyprus, ignoring the warnings from the EU in this regard.

The EU continues to lack an effective deterrent policy against Turkish provocations.

As Presidents of the European Council and the Commission, you are urged to finally take concrete initiatives, as called for in the relevant European Parliament resolutions, which clearly condemn the practices of the Erdogan regime and urgently call on the Commission and the European Council to rise to the occasion, safeguarding European values, peace and stability in the wider Eastern Mediterranean region.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dimitrios Papadimoulis', written in a cursive style.

Dimitrios Papadimoulis