



**TURKISH GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
TURKISH GROUP TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF OSCE**

12th June 2005

Dear Colleague,

I have been informed that the Parliamentarians from the Republic of Armenia are lobbying for the inclusion of a paragraph on the so-called "Armenian genocide" in the Declaration of the 14th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly which will be held on 1-5 July 2005 in Washington D.C.

I would like to bring to your kind attention that this issue is a matter of high sensitivity for the Turkish public opinion as well as for the Turkish Parliamentarians. The Armenian claim labeling the events of 1915 as "genocide" is a total misrepresentation, distortion of historical facts and unethical political exploitation of human conscience.

Turkey has always maintained that parliaments and other political institutions are not appropriate fora to discuss or pass judgments on issues concerning history. History is a discipline and past events should be left to the historians for evaluation. In order to shed light on such a disputed historical issue, the Turkish Government has already opened its archives to all researchers. Furthermore, we encourage historians, academicians, and researchers to discuss this historical issue in every platform.

In this respect, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has made a joint declaration with Mr. Deniz Baykal, the leader of the main opposition party on 8 March 2005. The declaration proposes the establishment of a group of Turkish and Armenian historians to study together the developments and events of 1915, not only in the archives of Turkey and Armenia but also in the archives of all other relevant countries and to share their findings with the international public. Prime Minister Erdoğan has officially conveyed this proposal to Mr. Robert Kocharian, President of the Republic of Armenia, through a letter. The letter also emphasized that acceptance of this proposal would constitute a step towards contributing to the normalization of relations between the two countries. The Turkish Grand National Assembly on the other hand adopted a declaration on 13 April 2005, stating that it approves and fully supports this historical proposal. President Kocharian replied Prime Minister's letter on April 26, 2005. It is being favorably evaluated by the Turkish Government.

I wish to stress that the adoption of a Declaration by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly which refers to the so-called "Armenian genocide" will deeply offend the Turkish nation and run counter to the principles, norms and commitments that we cherish in the OSCE.

Therefore, I am confident that You will use your influence not to allow the Armenian parliamentarians to use the 14th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for their political purposes.

Please accept, dear colleague, the assurances of my highest consideration.



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Vice President of
the OSCE PA and Head of
the Turkish Delegation