



AB UYUM KOMİSYONU
EU HARMONIZATION COMMITTEE
LA COMMISSION D'HARMONISATION AVEC L'UE



Ankara, 21st July 2016

Dear Colleagues,

As you have already known, on the evening of July 15th, a faction of the Turkish Armed Forces attempted to stage a coup in various cities of Turkey, particularly in Ankara and Istanbul. It was understood in a short time that this coup attempt was staged in no uncertain terms by the Fethullah Gülen Terrorist Organization (FETÖ). Our Government has been constantly exposing the real motives of this terrorist group and its leader, Fethullah Gülen, to all allies and partners. The perpetrators fired at their own people, stabbed their commanders in the back and bombed the National Parliament and the Office of the Presidency. The failed coup is the latest criminal act revealing the danger posed by FETÖ.

From the very beginning, the command chain and vast majority of the Turkish Armed Forces stood up against the coup attempt. It was merely some elements of the Air Forces, Gendarmerie and armored units that joined the violent conspiracy. Both the police and public prosecutors immediately took necessary measures to foil the attempt.

Above all, it was the Turkish nation who thwarted the plot. Our citizens displayed a historic solidarity as they took to the streets and remained defiant. Men, women, elderly and even children stood bravely in front of the tanks and reclaimed their democratic rights. Throughout the process, all the political parties - the ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Parti), the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), and the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and members of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey stood firmly by democracy, democratic politics, democratic institutions and the Constitution. A Joint Declaration (Annex 1) in defense of democracy was issued during the extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly on the 16th of July.

During the operations held against the terrorist group, more than 6000 have been detained so far and more than 100 coup plotters were captured dead. Unfortunately, 248 of our citizens were left dead and more than 1500 wounded.

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Our President, Prime Minister, Government, members of the Turkish Parliament and the Turkish people all together defeated this coup attempt and stood by democracy and rule of law. The judicial process concerning the detained terrorists has already been started and we ensure they will be punished in accordance with the law.

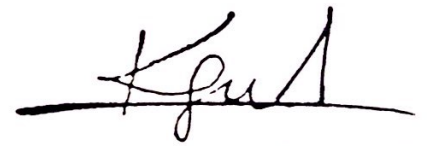
On the 20th of July 2016 Turkey's president Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has declared a state of emergency for three months which will be voted in the parliament today. I would like to point out that, this "State of Emergency" aims at protecting and strengthening the democracy and human rights and will not affect the daily life of the citizens. As you have already known the state of emergency has been in place in France for more than 3 months and France's National Assembly has recently voted to extend the country's state of emergency for six months more.

Dear Colleagues,

Turkey, as a country being in the process of EU membership for more than 50 years, believes, without any doubt, in democracy, democratic institutions and the rule of law. This is also the reason why we are going on the negotiation process with determination so far. Therefore, what we expect from our counterparts is their firm support against the foiled coup attempt since we all know that any instability happening in Turkey will also affect all the members of the EU as well as the whole region.

Last but not least, in the name of democracy, I would also like to stress that your solidarity towards my country and my elected government will certainly strengthen Turkey's deeply rooted ongoing process with the EU.

Sincerely yours,



Mehmet Kasım GÜLPINAR
Chairman