



Copenhagen, 16 December 2020

The Honorable Ms. Eva Kjer Hansen
Chairperson of the European Affairs Committee
The Danish Parliament

Dear Ms. Hansen,

It has come to my attention that a letter was sent to the European Affairs Committee (EUU) of the Danish Parliament by a formation called "International Initiative" and it was published on the EUU's official website.

The said letter contains baseless allegations regarding the conditions of prisons in Turkey with reference to reports of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), which is the monitoring mechanism within the Council of Europe for the implementation of the "European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment".

In this regard, I would like to bring the following to your kind attention.

The CPT realized its 7th periodic visit to Turkey on 10-23 May 2017 and an "ad hoc" visit on 6-17 May 2019. The CPT published its report about those visits on 5 August 2020.

As you can see in that report, which was attached to the International Initiative's letter, there are positive observations and assessments regarding physical conditions of Turkey's prisons including İmralı prison, as well as treatment of prisoners and their access to health services in my country.

Turkey provided her response to the said report on 5 August 2020 and the CPT published it upon the request of Turkey. I am attaching herewith my country's response with a view to providing you accurate information against those false allegations.

Turkey attaches utmost importance to the independent monitoring mechanisms of the Council of Europe and also to various means of cooperation with them in accordance with the conventions to which she is a party. The publication of the said CPT report along with my Government's responses reflect this understanding.

I would be delighted if Turkey's response to the report of the CPT was taken into consideration during your evaluations and it was also published on the EUU's website.

Taking this opportunity, Madam Chairperson, I would like to convey my best regards to you.

U. Kenan İpek
Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey

Encl.