



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council N° 1191  
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**EU Statement on the Rule of Law and Human Rights  
Defenders in Turkey**

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The European Union would like to express our concern over the continued detention of the Head of the Amnesty International office in Turkey, Mr Taner Kilic. Mr Kilic has been in detention for over one year, since his arrest on 6 June 2017. We first raised our concerns over the detention of Mr Kilic on 22 June 2017, and have subsequently spoken on this matter on 2 November 2017, 15 February 2018 and 12 April 2018.

On 21 June, Mr Kilic attended court for the third hearing of his case. It is with deep regret that we note that Mr Kilic was remanded in custody until a further hearing on 7 November, a further five months. As we said in November, any alleged wrongdoing should be subject to due process and pre-trial detention should be used only as a measure of last resort.

As we set out in our statement a year ago, we call on the Turkish authorities to ensure that its actions are in line with Turkey's OSCE commitments on human rights and the rule of law, stemming from the Helsinki Final Act, through Vienna in 1989 and onwards, as well as in line with the European Convention on Human Rights and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights.

In particular, we highlight the extensive OSCE commitments made in Copenhagen in 1990, including the presumption of innocence until the individual is proved guilty by law, and the right of any person arrested to a fair trial.

We also remind the Turkish delegation of our statement of 15 February, in which we expressed our deep concern over the reversal of the court decision to release Mr Kilic, which was an example of the worrying developments undermining the rule of

law and independence and impartiality of the judiciary in Turkey.

Active and free civil society is a key pillar of democracy. As we all agreed in Helsinki in 2008, “human rights are best respected in democratic societies, where decisions are taken with maximum transparency and broad participation. We support a pluralistic civil society and encourage partnerships between different stakeholders in the promotion and protection of human rights”.

The EU will continue to follow very closely the on-going procedures against Mr Kilic, both the criminal case against him and ten other human rights defenders who were arrested separately in July 2017, and the circumstances of his continued detention.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, SERBIA\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as ARMENIA and CANADA align themselves with this statement.

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.