



**Doc. 13109**

23 January 2013

## **To facilitate a peaceful, negotiated solution of the Kurdish issue in Turkey, Abdullah Öcalan should be released**

**Written declaration No. 534**

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This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

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1. The conflict around the Kurdish issue in Turkey has assumed alarming dimensions. Over the past three years several hundred people have been killed in numerous clashes and incidents. The number of, mostly Kurdish, political prisoners in Turkey has risen by several thousand. More than a hundred journalists are currently imprisoned. These developments seriously jeopardise democratic progress in Turkey. The conflict could even escalate into a civil war.
2. However, a peaceful resolution is not impossible. Important steps have already been taken. The negotiations between the Turkish authorities, the PKK and Abdullah Öcalan (the so-called "Oslo and Imrali process") between 2009-2011 generated hopes of an end to this decades-old conflict. The parties to these negotiations apparently came very close to an agreement.
3. Abdullah Öcalan's positive role in these talks is widely recognised. As a key figure for a peaceful, negotiated solution of the Kurdish issue in Turkey, he must be released and negotiations with him and the PKK must be restarted.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

MORIAU Patrick, Belgium, SOC  
ANDERSEN Karin, Norway, UEL  
BACKMAN Þuriður, Iceland, UEL  
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain, SOC  
DRAGASAKIS Ioannis, Greece, UEL  
HANCOCK Mike, United Kingdom, ALDE  
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL  
KANELLI Liana, Greece, UEL  
KONEČNÁ Kateřina, Czech Republic, UEL  
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL  
KÜRKÇÜ Ertuğrul, Turkey, UEL  
LOUKAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL  
MARQUET Bernard, Monaco, ALDE  
NESSA Pasquale, Italy, EPP/CD  
PAPADIMOULIS Dimitrios, Greece, UEL  
PETRENCO Grigore, Republic of Moldova, UEL  
ROCHEBLOINE François, France, EPP/CD  
ROSSI Alessandro, San Marino, UEL  
RUSTAMYAN Armen, Armenia, SOC  
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL  
WERNER Katrin, Germany, UEL

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Total = 21

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
SOC: Socialist Group  
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left