



**Doc. 14230**

13 January 2017

## The situation of foreign journalists in Turkey

**Reply to Written question<sup>1</sup>:** Written question No. 701 (Doc. 14003)  
Committee of Ministers

1. The Committee of Ministers reiterates its unwavering attachment to freedom of the media and the free exercise of journalism as key components of a democratic society. It recalls the obligation for all Council of Europe member States to respect the right to freedom of expression in accordance with Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. It also recalls its Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)4 to member States on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors.

2. During the Ministers' Deputies' examination of Mr Villumsen's written question, the delegation of Turkey indicated that Turkish legislation and practice complied with international law, including in respect of the "European Agreement on regulations governing the movement of persons between member States of the Council of Europe", whose Article 6 stipulates that "Each Contracting Party reserves the right to forbid nationals of another Party whom it considers undesirable to enter or stay in its territory", as well as in respect of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014) on the "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts". The delegation of Turkey also stressed that the legitimate decisions to deny entry are based on established facts and have no relevance to the status of the persons in question.

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1. Adopted at the 1274th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (11 January 2017).

