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Political persecution of Ekrem İmamoğlu and the erosion of democracy in Türkiye

Written declaration No. 805

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.

We, the undersigned, declare the following:

- express grave concern over the politically motivated prosecution of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, aimed at preventing his candidacy in the 2028 presidential elections;
- recall Türkiye's obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights (ETS No. 5) to uphold democracy, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms, including the right to fair elections and political participation;
- denounce the misuse of judicial processes by the Turkish authorities to silence opposition and manipulate elections;
- express alarm at the increasing restrictions on protests, social media censorship, and arrests of journalists, opposition figures, and activists;
- emphasise that, in democratic systems, including Council of Europe member and observer States, judicial proceedings must not be weaponised to disqualify political candidates. Leadership shall be determined solely by voters;
- call on the Assembly to urgently examine the issue of Türkiye's democratic backsliding at the next plenary session;
- call on Türkiye to immediately release İmamoğlu, drop politically motivated charges against opposition leaders, and ensure free elections;
- urge Türkiye to restore judicial independence and end political prosecutions;
- invite the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to assess Türkiye's democratic deterioration and report with recommendations;
- call upon the Secretary General to engage with the Turkish authorities, invoking Article 52 of the European Convention on Human Rights if necessary.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

BAKOYANNIS Dora, Greece, EPP/CD
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
BERGAMINI Deborah, Italy, EPP/CD
BOROWSKI Marek, Poland, EPP/CD
BRICO Christophe, Monaco, EPP/CD
DALLE Benjamin, Belgium, EPP/CD
DIMIC Iva, Slovenia, EPP/CD
EDER-GITSCHTHALER Andrea, Austria, EPP/CD
EFTHYMIOU Anna, Greece, EPP/CD
EROTOKRITOU Christiana, Cyprus, SOC
ESTRELA Edite, Portugal, SOC
FRESKO-ROLFO Béatrice, Monaco, ALDE
GÖTHBERG Gustaf, Sweden, EPP/CD
HISPÁN Pablo, Spain, EPP/CD
KARAMANLI Marietta, France, SOC
KLUIT Saskia, Netherlands, SOC
KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJCHEVSKA Bisera, North Macedonia, SOC
LACROIX Christophe, Belgium, SOC
LEYTE Carmen, Spain, EPP/CD
LINDBERG Kristoffer, Sweden, SOC
LUCKS Max, Germany, SOC
MANTZOS Dimitrios, Greece, SOC
MARKOPOULOS Dimitrios, Greece, EPP/CD
OIKONOMOU Ioannis, Greece, EPP/CD
PAPANDREOU George, Greece, SOC
PASQUIER-CIULLA Christine, Monaco, EPP/CD
PILLER CARRARD Valérie, Switzerland, SOC
POLIDORI Catia, Italy, EPP/CD
RAČAN Ivan, Croatia, SOC
REGOL Sandra, France, SOC
ROBLES Gonzalo, Spain, EPP/CD
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHOU Ingjerd Schie, Norway, EPP/CD
STAMATIS Georgios, Greece, EPP/CD
STYLIANIDIS Evripidis, Greece, EPP/CD
SYRENGELA Maria, Greece, EPP/CD
TORNARITIS Nicos, Cyprus, EPP/CD
TSIPRAS Alexis, Greece, UEL
VERDUCCI Francesco, Italy, SOC
WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, ECPA

Total = 41

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
ECPA: European Conservatives, Patriots and Affiliates
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left