



The President

201228 27.02.2014

Mr Christophe Regnard
Vice-President of the International Association of Judges
33, rue du Four
F-75006 Paris

Dear Vice-President,

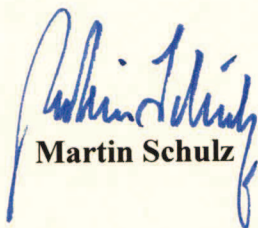
Thank you for your letter of 21 January 2014 drawing my attention to the difficulties encountered by the judiciary in Turkey and for the detailed report on the current situation which was attached to it.

As you may know, the European Parliament follows developments relating to the judicial reform in Turkey very closely and I would like to assure you that I will forward the information you provided to the relevant bodies.

Matters related, *inter alia*, to the judiciary reforms are addressed in the European Parliament's annual resolution on Turkey's progress in the negotiations with the EU, prepared by the Committee on Foreign Affairs. They are also regularly discussed with Members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly in meetings of the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee.

Please allow me to reassure you that the European Parliament will take due account of the concerns manifested by your organisation in its dialogue with the Turkish Parliament and other authorities.

Yours sincerely,


Martin Schulz

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 21 February 2014

Dear President,

Thank you for having forwarded to me the document prepared by the Turkish Association of Judges and Prosecutors (YARSAV) about the difficulties encountered by the judiciary in Turkey.

The Council of Europe attaches the highest importance to ensuring full respect by all its member States for the European standards as enshrined in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights as well as Recommendation (2000) 19 of the Committee of Ministers on the role of prosecutors in the criminal justice system and Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)12 of the Committee of Ministers regarding the independence, efficiency and responsibilities of judges.

The establishment of a High Council of Judges and Prosecutors through the 2010 constitutional amendments, broadly meeting European standards and guaranteeing the independence of the judiciary, was an important democratic achievement which was welcomed by both the Council of Europe and the European Union.

With this in mind, I wrote to the new Turkish Minister of Justice, Mr Bekir Bozdağ, and raised the concern that the draft law on the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors might compromise some of the key achievements of the 2010 reform.

I continue to be in close contact with the Turkish authorities on this point.

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President of the French Association of Judges
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I take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the co-operation of the European Association of Judges with the Council of Europe.

Yours sincerely,



Thorbjørn Jagland

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Cabinet of Vice-President Viviane Reding,
Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship
Head of Cabinet

Brussels, 5 February 2014
RS/mc Ares(2014)102326

Dear Mr Vice-President,

Thank you very much for your letter received on 17th January 2014 informing about the difficulties encountered by the Judiciary in Turkey.

Being sensitive to the issues raised by the YARSA, Vice-President Reding would like to assure that the situation in Turkey will be closely monitored.

The matter being relevant to the Portfolio "Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy", your correspondence will be transmitted to the Commissioner Füle Office.

Yours sincerely,



Martin SELMAYR

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