



The Managing Director
EUROPE

Brussels,

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International Association of Judges/Union Internationale des Magistrats
Palazzo di Giustizia
Piazza Cavour
IT-00193 Rome

Dear Signatories, Representatives of the Platform,

Thank you for sharing your statement regarding the Turkish judiciary with the President of the European Council, Charles Michel. The President has asked me to reply to your letter.

The EU is concerned over the deterioration of the rule of law and the serious backsliding on judicial independence in Turkey, in particular over the systemic lack of independence of the judiciary, the large-scale dismissal and undue pressure on judges and prosecutors. Compounding this, as noted in the 11 July *Statement by the Spokesperson on ECtHR ruling against Turkey in the Kavala case*, Turkey's continued refusal to implement the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights increases the EU's concerns regarding the Turkish judiciary's adherence to international and European standards.

The EU has strongly urged Turkey to abide by its international commitments; rule of law and human rights are continuously raised with Turkish officials at all levels, as well as in various statements, the European Commission's annual country report for Turkey and in the conclusions by the EU leaders.

We will continue to urge Turkey to follow-up on the Council of Europe's recommendations regarding strengthening the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights, and implement the pending judgements of the European Court of Human Rights, in particular the ones that call for Mr. Osman Kavala's and Mr. Selahattin Demirtaş' immediate release.

Yours sincerely,

Angelina Eichhorst
(e-signed)

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