



Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2016/2935(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on the situation of journalists in Turkey		
Subject		
6.10.04 Third-country political situation, local and regional conflicts		
6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general		
Geographical area		
Turkey		

Key players	
European Parliament	

Key events			
26/10/2016	Debate in Parliament		
27/10/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		
27/10/2016	Decision by Parliament	T8-0423/2016	Summary
27/10/2016	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2016/2935(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 132-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Motion for a resolution		B8-1158/2016	26/10/2016	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1162/2016	26/10/2016	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1163/2016	26/10/2016	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1167/2016	26/10/2016	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1168/2016	26/10/2016	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1170/2016	26/10/2016	EP	

Motion for a resolution		B8-1171/2016	26/10/2016	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1172/2016	26/10/2016	EP	
Joint motion for resolution		RC-B8-1162/2016	26/10/2016		
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0423/2016	27/10/2016	EP	Summary

Resolution on the situation of journalists in Turkey

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation of journalists in Turkey.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the EPP, S&D, ECR, ALDE, GUE/NGL, Greens/EFA and EFDD groups.

Members recalled that according to the European Federation of Journalists and the Turkish Journalists Association, following the coup attempt of 15 July 2016 the Turkish police have arrested at least 99 journalists and writers, most of whom have had no charges brought against them to date, bringing the number of media workers detained on charges believed to be related to their exercise of the right to freedom of expression to at least 130, as of 20 October 2016.

Parliament strongly condemned the attempted coup in Turkey of 15 July 2016 and gave its support to the legitimate institutions of Turkey. It stressed, however, that the failed military take-over cannot be used as an excuse for the Turkish Government to further stifle legitimate and peaceful opposition and to prevent journalists and the media in their peaceful exercise of freedom of expression. Members called on the Turkish authorities to release those journalists and media workers being held without compelling evidence of criminal activity. They recalled that a free and pluralistic press is an essential component of any democracy, as are due process, presumption of innocence and judicial independence.

Expressing concern about the closure of more than 150 media outlets, Parliament called for these to be reopened, their independence restored and their dismissed employees reinstated in accordance with due process. It also called on the Government of Turkey to narrow the scope of the emergency measures, so that they can no longer be used to harass family members of journalists who have fled abroad or gone into hiding. It condemned the attempts by the Turkish authorities to intimidate and expel foreign correspondents.

Whilst stressing that Turkey faces a real threat from terrorism, Parliament reiterated that the broadly defined Turkish anti-terrorism legislation should not be used to punish journalists for exercising their right of freedom of expression.

The European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Member States should continue monitoring the practical implications of the state of emergency closely and to ensure that all trials of journalists are monitored.