


Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2021/2506(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on the human rights situation in Turkey, in particular the case of Selahattin Demirtaş and other prisoners of conscience		
Subject		
6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general		
6.10.09 Human rights situation in the world		
Geographical area		
Turkey		

Key players	
European Parliament	

Key events			
21/01/2021	Debate in Parliament		
21/01/2021	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T9-0028/2021	Summary
21/01/2021	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2021/2506(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Urgent debate or resolution
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 144
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Motion for a resolution		B9-0072/2021	20/01/2021	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0073/2021	20/01/2021	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0074/2021	20/01/2021	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0080/2021	20/01/2021	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0083/2021	20/01/2021	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0084/2021	20/01/2021	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0086/2021	20/01/2021	EP	
Joint motion for resolution		RC-B9-0072/2021	20/01/2021		
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0028/2021	21/01/2021	EP	Summary

The European Parliament adopted by 590 votes to 16, with 75 abstentions, a resolution on the human rights situation in Turkey, in particular the case of Selahattin Demirtaş and other prisoners of conscience.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the EPP, S&D, Renew, Greens/EFA, ECR and the Left groups.

Since mid-September 2020, Turkish police have been carrying out large-scale dawn raids across Turkey in which dozens of politicians, political activists, lawyers, and other civil society actors have been detained under terrorism related charges. Mr Selahattin Demirtaş, former member of the Turkish Parliament between 2007 and 2018, former co-chair of the Turkish Peoples Democratic Party (HDP) and presidential candidate during the elections of 2014 and 2018, has been detained for more than 4 years on unsubstantiated charges and despite two European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) rulings in favour of his release.

Condemning the treatment of Mr Demirtaş, Parliament called for his immediate and unconditional release from detention and to drop all charges against him. The Turkish authorities must let him exercise his democratic mandate independently and free from threats and impediments.

Parliament reminded the Turkish authorities that their failure to release Mr Demirtaş constitutes a direct violation of the European Convention on Human Rights and of its domestic law, an unjustifiable prolongation of the violation of Mr Demirtaş's rights and a blatant breach of Turkey's obligation to implement the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights. Members called on the EU Delegation to the Council of Europe to redouble its efforts in ensuring the implementation of the ECtHR judgments on Turkey.

Turkey should also:

- ensure full compliance with the provisions of the ECHR and the decisions of the ECtHR;
- fully cooperate with the Council of Europe in strengthening the rule of law, minority rights, democracy and fundamental rights;
- put an end to its judicial harassment of human rights defenders, academics, journalists, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community.

Lastly, the resolution took note of Turkey's intention to turn a new page in its relations with the EU, its determination to implement reforms and its full commitment to the accession process. However, Parliament underlined that better and deeper relations are fully dependent on, inter alia, tangible improvements in respect for democratic principles, the rule of law and fundamental rights within Turkey.