



RESOLUTION:

Condemning President Erdogan's abusive practices

Adopted at the YEPP Council, Bucharest, Romania on the 21st of May 2016

Recognising:

- Turkey is known for its critical treatments towards both Turkish as well as foreign journalists;
- According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, Turkey has the fourth largest amount of imprisoned journalists in the world, after China, Egypt and Eritrea¹;
- President Erdogan has been threatening or suing European criticsers, such as the:
 - Dutch-Turkish entrepreneurs who have gotten secret visits from the Turkish consulate in the Netherlands, warning the entrepreneurs to stand behind the regime of President Erdogan or it will harm their businesses in Turkey²;
 - German comedian Jan Böhmermann, who read out a satirical poem about president Erdoğan, consisting of harsh, but clearly exaggerated accusations, on air³;
 - Dutch journalist Ebru Umar, who has been arrested in her vacation home in Kusadasi, Turkey, after naming President Erdogan the most megalomaniac dictator that Turkey has known since the founding of the Turkish republic in 1923⁴.

Acknowledging:

¹ <https://cpj.org/imprisoned/2015.php>

² <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36104691>

³ <http://nos.nl/artikel/2099416-beledigende-komiek-bohmermann-kan-tot-wel-vijf-jaar-cel-krijgen.html>

⁴ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36124329>

- The importance and necessity of good ties between the European Union and Turkey, especially considering the migrant crisis;
- The sovereignty of each nation;
- Our fundamental right of freedom of speech;
- Our values, and some of the EU Member States' national laws, not to insult (foreign) Heads of States.

YEPP calls on:

- The European Commission to condemn the actions of President Erdogan whilst letting the courts decide about potential insults made towards President Erdogan;
- The EU Member States to limit the influence of President Erdogan within their own borders;
- Turkish officials and the Erdogan administration to respect and uphold the freedom of speech and thought;
- The European Commission to pause the Turkey accession negotiations, if the Erdogan administration continues its violation of the rights of journalists and its attempt to influence and incite Turkish nationals living in the EU.