



Motion nr. 9

Name of the person introducing the motion: Lorena Lopez de Lacalle Arizti and Flemming Meyer

On behalf of the party: Eusko Alkartasuna, SSW, BNG, CHA and Aralar.

**Motion:** Humanitarian and Political crisis in Turkey

The present situation in Turkey is most critical. Turkey is engulfed by violence and repression against Kurds and other minorities. Erdogan's government has unleashed an undeclared war in several Kurdish provinces and its regime is drifting towards authoritarianism.

Currently, 3 Kurdish cities, Ciske, Silopi and Sur (300,000 inhabitants) are under siege and 180 districts have been declared "security zones" by the Turkish army. The Turkish army and special police forces are using heavy artillery and are bombarding the area. Many Kurds have been forced to leave their homes and have become refugees in their own country. Most of the casualties are civilians. 245 Kurdish civilians, including women and children, have been killed by the Turkish army since January 5, 2016. Indeed, women are being directly targeted. Moreover, the Turkish authorities are blocking assistance to the wounded and preventing the residents from retrieving and burying the dead. The HDP parliamentary group Deputy Chair, as well as two HDP members of the Turkish National Assembly, are on hunger strike to condemn the state of war declared against the Kurdish population in Turkey.

The HDP, The Peoples' Democratic Party, has been suffering continuous attacks by the security forces and ultranationalist mobs in recent months. It nevertheless relentlessly advocates peace, democracy and freedom in Turkey.

Dozens of journalists and academics have been jailed or prosecuted for expressing their criticism of Erdogan's authoritarianism.

In view of the above, the human rights of the Kurdish population in Turkey must be restored, the Copenhagen criteria for minorities must be fully implemented, and peace negotiations with the Kurds must be reopened.

Furthermore EFA:

1. Calls on the Government of Turkey to lift the "state of emergency" that entails military and police interventions, curfews, arbitrary arrests and so forth declared in most of Eastern Turkey against the Kurdish population.
2. Condemns the criminalisation of HDP (third political party in the Turkish National Assembly) by Erdogan's regime, especially for comparing it to Daesh.
3. Calls on the Government of Turkey to abide by international and humanitarian law to assist the wounded and retrieve the dead.
4. Calls on the Government of Turkey to put an end to war and start negotiations in order to establish a truly sustainable peace in Turkey.

5. Calls on the Government of Turkey to put an end to censorship and respect Freedom of expression as a fully democratic right.
6. Asks the European Commission and Council, the Council of Europe, OSCE and the United Nations to investigate the extreme violence committed against the Kurdish people in Eastern Turkey.
7. Urges the EU institutions to establish direct and closer relations with the Turkish political opposition and the civil society.
8. Expresses its solidarity to HDP and the civil society organisations that strive for peace and democracy in Turkey.

The European Free Alliance will keep on supporting the HDP as the driving force of the struggle for an autonomous and peaceful Kurdistan in a democratic and tolerant Turkey.

**ENDS**