

Delegation to the EU-Türkiye Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)  
The Chair

**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR OF THE DELEGATION TO THE EU-TÜRKIYE JOINT  
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE (JPC) MEP SERGEY LAGODINSKY**

*Brussels, 8 May 2023*

"Sunday's violent incidents, including the ruthless assault on a vehicle used by the Green Left Party (YSL) in Mersin and the brutal attack against the Nation Alliance's Vice-Presidential candidate Ekrem İmamoğlu in Erzurum are outright attacks on democracy. My thoughts are with those who got injured. My solidarity is with Turkish people whose democratic right to vote is threatened by such attacks. The upcoming elections in Türkiye are of crucial importance for the country, the region and the EU, and their fairness will be an indicator for the Turkish democracy's chances of survival and state of resilience. I strongly condemn these acts of violence and all other attempts to disrupt, obstruct or otherwise influence the upcoming elections. I call on the authorities to do whatever it takes to guarantee both the safety of the elections and a level playing field for all political competitors."