

The Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Türkiye Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)
The European Parliament Standing Rapporteur on Türkiye

**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR OF THE DELEGATION TO THE EU-TÜRKIYE
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE (JPC) MEP SERGEY LAGODINSKY AND
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT STANDING RAPPORTEUR ON TÜRKIYE MEP
NACHO SÁNCHEZ AMOR**

Brussels, 15 May 2023

"Yesterday Türkiye held presidential and parliamentary elections that will define the future of the country and its relations with the EU.

We acknowledge the peaceful manner in which the Turkish people conducted this process and applaud the high turnout. These are the proof of the citizens' strong democratic will. We regret however that, as reflected by the OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission in its statement on preliminary findings and conclusions, the elections did not take place on a level playing field. Essential freedoms, such as the freedom of expression or association, continue to be heavily hindered by the current legal framework and practice.

We express our hope that the next stages of the election process will take place peacefully and in a democratic manner, and that the authorities will take measures to align the elections with Türkiye's international commitments."