

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to the Council and Commission statements

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Hannes Swoboda, Giorgos Katiforis and Ozan Ceyhun

on behalf of the PSE Group

on democratic rights in Turkey, in particular the situation of HADEP

**European Parliament resolution on democratic rights in Turkey, in particular the situation of HADEP**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Articles 11 and 12 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
  - having regard to the Commission's 2001 Regular Report on Turkey's progress towards accession and to the European Parliament's associated resolution,
- A. whereas the HADEP party stands for greater cultural rights for ethnic Kurds in Turkey,
  - B. whereas HADEP has never advocated violence and denies any organic link with the PKK,
  - C. whereas HADEP mayors elected in South-East Anatolia complain of a lack of financial and political support,
  - D. whereas HADEP members have been prosecuted and have faced police harassment, arbitrary detention, threats, torture and even summary executions,
  - E. whereas HADEP is facing a possible ban for its alleged support of separatism,
  - F. whereas the Turkish Attorney-General has called for the party to be banned,
  - G. whereas HADEP is facing an exclusion order before the Turkish Supreme Court on 1 March 2002,
1. Welcomes the constitutional amendments aimed at a partial lifting of restrictions on the use of the Kurdish language, but deplores the fact that these have not been followed by the legal changes needed to enable the constitutional amendments to be implemented; deplores also the fact that citizens have been prosecuted because they have requested teaching of the Kurdish language; urges that this gesture be followed swiftly by others leading to a comprehensive acceptance of the cultural aspirations of the Kurdish population and to a resolution of the social, economic and political problems in South-East Turkey; hopes that the legitimate right to self-expression of all minorities in Turkey will soon be guaranteed by the Turkish state;
  2. Recalls that Turkish accession to the European Union cannot be contemplated unless and until Turkey embraces faithfully and in all respects the Copenhagen political criteria and the Charter of Fundamental Rights so that a pluralistic democracy can thrive, and dissent and non-conformism flourish;
  3. Calls for the litigation against HADEP to be suspended;

4. Supports the decision to send an ad hoc delegation to monitor the court case that is scheduled to start on 1 March 2002;
5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Council of Europe, its Assembly and the OSCE.