

*Council of Europe*  
*The Secretary General*

Strasbourg, 17 May 2017

Dear President,

Thank you for your letter of 7 April 2017 with the enclosed joint statement of the European Association of Judges, the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe and the European Association of Journalists, which addresses concerns on the situation of judges, lawyers, prosecutors, journalists and media workers in Turkey.

As you are aware, the Council of Europe has undertaken multiple actions regarding the situation in Turkey and continues to follow this situation closely. As you will have seen, the issues you refer to are highlighted in my recently published Report on the "State of democracy, human rights and the rule of law" in Europe.

Furthermore, following a request by the European Association of Judges and the Association of European Administrative Judges as regards certain aspects of the legislation in Turkey concerning judges and prosecutors, the Council of Europe's Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) expressed its opinion in November 2016. Sharing fully the concerns expressed by its members and observers, the CCJE encouraged all judges' associations, observers and entities entitled to submit information and requests concerning the situation of the judiciary in Turkey to do so, in order to co-ordinate efforts and information.

I have forwarded your correspondence to the CCJE and the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE) so that they may take account of it when preparing their situation reports on judicial independence and impartiality and on the status of the public prosecution services in the member states of the Council of Europe, in the context of the tasks entrusted to them by the Committee of Ministers.

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