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**COMMITTEE OF LEGAL ADVISERS ON PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW  
(CAHDI)**

**31th meeting  
Strasbourg, 23 - 24 mars 2006**

**EUROPEAN OBSERVATORY OF RESERVATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL TREATIES:**

**CONSIDERATION OF RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL  
TREATIES APPLICABLE TO THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM**

Secretariat Memorandum  
prepared by the Directorate General of Legal Affairs



*Deputy Prime Minister  
and  
Minister of Foreign Affairs*

*Ankara, 2 November 2005*

*Dear Mr. Secretary General,*

*We studied carefully your letter dated 14 February 2005 inviting my Government to consider withdrawing our Declarations with regard to the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, New York, 15 December 1997. I would like to make some remarks with the hope that it would help to bring a better understanding of Turkey's position on this matter.*

*Turkey's Declarations upon signature and ratification of the Convention, underline its understanding that the term "international humanitarian law" referred to in Article 19 of the Convention shall be interpreted as comprising the relevant international rules, excluding the provisions of Additional Protocols to Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, to which Turkey is not a party.*

*It is stipulated in Article 19 of the "Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties" of 1969, that a state may when signing, ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to a treaty cannot make a reservation, if the content of the reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the treaty. Turkey's declaration with respect to the "International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings" is not incompatible with the object and purpose of the above mentioned treaty, since the main object and purpose of the Convention is to enhance cooperation between the States Parties for an effective fight against terrorist bombings. Turkey's declaration in no way would effect its obligations under the provisions of the Convention.*

*Furthermore as a country which has suffered for long from terrorism, Turkey has ratified all 12 UN conventions on terrorism and has always been resolute in countering terrorism which is a global threat. In its fight against terrorism, Turkey has shown the utmost care to comply with human rights law and has recognized the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights for almost 20 years.*

*Mr. Terry Davis  
Secretary General  
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