



***Permanent Representation
of Turkey
to the Council of Europe***

Strasbourg, 20 July 2016

**Mr Nils Muiznieks
Commissioner for Human Rights
Council of Europe**

Dear Commissioner,

I have seen your statement with regard to the situation in Turkey published on your website this morning.

I note your words “condemning in the strongest possible terms the contemptible attempt to overthrow the democratically elected government in Turkey”.

Yet, I deeply regret your prejudicial remarks based on unconfirmed assumptions and allegations. In your words you are “unable determine the veracity of such allegations”.

Turkey was faced with a military *coup d'état* against its constitutional order. The developments in Turkey was a *coup* attempt by a group of plotters in the military, linked to Fethullah Gülen Terrorist Organisation (FETÖ), to overthrow the democratically elected government in Turkey.

Those suspected to be part of this terrorist organisation will be duly investigated and prosecuted if necessary. The investigations are conducted in accordance with international obligations and the legislation in force against the terrorist organisation, which opened fire on the people, attacked the Turkish Grand National Assembly as well as other state institutions with aircraft, tanks and other heavy weapons.

Turkish judicial system continues to function in full observance of its obligations deriving from, inter alia, the UN Human Rights Convention, European Convention on Human Rights and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights.

May I request that my reply be also published on your website.

I will convey your statement to my Government together with my reply.

Yours sincerely,

**Erdoğan İçsan
Ambassador
Permanent Representative**