



May 2023

Dear Colleague,

For quite a while, it has been widely recognized by those who pay even the slightest attention to events in Turkey that the judiciary has been the area most affected by political developments in Turkey. Instead of serving as a safeguard for democracy, the rule of law, and essential rights and freedoms, regrettably, the judiciary has transformed into a realm where systematic violations are attempted to be legitimized under the guise of law. This radical transformation of the judiciary is the continuation of the long-standing and established administration practice in Turkey and is directly related to the official stance on the Kurdish issue.

It is crucial to acknowledge that legal and political developments within Turkey have a profound impact on European society and politics, and they are intricately interconnected. Both the EU-Turkey refugee statement and the initiation of infringement proceedings resulting from Turkey's failure to comply with ECtHR rulings are among the initial instances that readily come to mind. Hence, we, as ELDH, MAF-DAD and political groups from the European Parliament, aim to convene a conference at the European Parliament to facilitate a comprehensive discussion on these matters, emphasizing their diverse aspects.. We think a discussion around these themes has become much more crucial, especially after the recent elections in Turkey.

We present the program of our conference, which will be held in Strasbourg on 13 June 2023, in the appendix. We will be very honoured if you can attend the conference.

Only the accommodation and subsistence of the audiences who would attend the conference will be covered by us. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide travel expenses for our guests, excluding the speakers.

We kindly ask you to **send us an e-mail by 5 June 2023** (registration@eldh.eu) or (info@mafdad.org) about whether you will attend the conference and whether you want our support regarding accommodation.

As the event will be held within the European Parliament, we kindly request that you include the following information along with your participation, as pre-registration is necessary.

Family Name

First name

Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY)

Nationality

Type of ID card

N° ID card

On behalf of ELDH

Thomas Schmidt

On behalf of MAF-DAD

Heike Geisweid