



Motion adopted by CEMR Policy Committee members gathered in Maastricht on 13 December 2016

Gathered together in Maastricht, the members of the CEMR Policy Committee wish to express their strong sentiment following the tragic events that have occurred in Turkey over the past several months.

They strongly condemn the terrorist acts and express their solidarity with the Turkish people.

CEMR is deeply concerned about the detention of a number of Turkish mayors and local elected officials, in particular the co-mayors of the City of Diyarbakir including Mrs. Gültan Kışanak, member of the Executive Bureau of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), upon her return from the world Congress in Bogotá.

These arrests arouse strong emotion and we call for the imprisoned elected representatives to be freed, with respect for pluralism, for the rule of law and for fundamental freedoms.

We recall our commitment to the preservation of local democracy and the protection of local representatives having received a democratic mandate, and this, respecting the fundamental principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government.

The replacement of legitimately elected representatives by officials from the central government, as is the case currently in several Turkish cities, does not conform to these fundamental principles.