

Brussels, 16 MAI 2019
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To all MEP signatories of the letter on the ongoing hunger strike of Turkish MP Leyla Güven

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank you for your letter addressed to Commissioner Hahn and myself in which you share your concerns about the ongoing hunger strike of Turkish MP Leyla Güven and her critical condition.

I am concerned by the continuing hunger strike and deteriorating health condition of MP Leyla Güven and others and appeal for them to put an end to the hunger strike. The release of MP Leyla Güven is a first step. We will continue to follow the developments closely and raise our concerns as part of our continuous dialogue with the Turkish authorities.

As noted in the Commission's 2018 report on Turkey, overcrowding and deteriorating prison conditions are a source of deep concern. There have been many allegations of human rights violations in Turkey's prisons, including arbitrary restrictions on the rights of detainees and the use of torture, mistreatment and solitary confinement as disciplinary measures.

Turkey is a candidate country and a member of the Council of Europe. As such, the EU expects Turkey to follow the recommendations of the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to fully observe its own legislation and European standards against isolation.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini