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**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DRAFT REPORT  
ON THE 2022 COMMISSION REPORT ON TÜRKİYE (2022/2205(INI))**

Dear Sir/Madam,

ASSEDEL (L'Association européenne pour la défense des droits et des libertés) is a non-profit association governed by its statutes. Its objective is to disseminate, promote, and defend human rights and fundamental freedoms in the spirit of the European Convention on Human Rights, both within the Council of Europe system and at the local, national, and international levels.

ASSEDEL welcomes the draft report on the 2022 Commission report on Türkiye and has the honor to share its proposed amendments.

### Draft Report Resolution

1. Takes note of the results of the recent presidential and parliamentary elections in Türkiye and considers them a sign foreboding political continuity in the country; acknowledges the peaceful manner in which the Turkish people conducted this process and applauds the high turnout; regrets, however, that, as reflected by the OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission, the elections did not take place on a level playing field and were impacted, among other things, by essential freedoms being heavily hindered by the current legal framework and practice, and by the unjustified advantage enjoyed by the ruling parties;

### Proposed amendment

1. Takes note of the results of the recent presidential and parliamentary elections in Türkiye, **considering them a sign foreboding political continuity in the country; urges the Turkish government to meticulously review and amend the existing legal framework governing elections to enhance the independence and impartiality of electoral institutions, foster a climate of transparency and accountability, and ensure equitable opportunities for all candidates and political parties to actively engage in the electoral process; emphasizes the importance of ensuring transparency, accountability, and equal opportunities for candidates and political parties; it is crucial to establish an independent mechanism to investigate electoral irregularities; acknowledges the findings of the OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission, the absence of a level playing field and significant obstacles imposed on essential freedoms due to the prevailing legal framework and practice;**

6. Considers that, in terms of human rights and the rule of law, the desolate picture painted in its resolution of 7 June 2022 on the 2021 Commission Report on Türkiye remains valid, and reiterates the content of that resolution; fully endorses the resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe of 12 October 2022, and the related report by its Monitoring Committee, on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Türkiye;

**6. Commission highlights the ongoing importance of upholding human rights and the rule of law in Türkiye, in line with previous resolutions of June 7, 2022, and October 12, 2022; emphasizes the need for concrete actions and reforms to address concerns raised by the European Union and the Parliamentary Assembly; reaffirming the vital role of human rights and the rule of law as fundamental pillars of a democratic society, particular attention is given to non-discrimination and the avoidance of undue restrictions; Commissions report calls on Türkiye to undertake comprehensive reforms, implement international recommendations and court judgments, engage in constructive dialogue, and ensure an environment conducive to open discussions on human rights; Commission is requested to continue monitoring Türkiye's progress, including engaging in consultations with civil society and independent experts, while providing regular comprehensive reports on the implementation of reforms and the effectiveness of measures taken by Turkish authorities;**

7. Is dismayed by the fact that, far from the negative trend stopping or being reversed, the democratic backsliding in Türkiye has continued in the last year, with new legal reforms and a relentless crackdown on any critical voice, particularly ahead of and during the recent elections; affirms with regret that Türkiye has now become a global showcase for all kinds of authoritarian practices;

**7. Urges the Turkish authorities to halt legal reforms undermining democratic principles and fundamental rights; emphasis the need for comprehensive legal reforms aligned with international human rights standards; it calls for an immediate end to the crackdown on critical voices, promoting a vibrant civic space for diverse opinions; advocates the establishment of an independent electoral commission to ensure integrity and fairness, preventing undue influence and harassment; condemns the authoritarian practices and urges Türkiye to address issues promptly, including ending arbitrary detentions, upholding due process, and respecting freedom of assembly; underlines the International observers and regular monitoring are essential to assess democracy and human rights, providing specific recommendations to counter democratic backsliding;**

8. Remains deeply concerned about the lack of independence of the judiciary, the continued breach of the obligation to abide by the landmark rulings of the European Court of Human Rights, the serious restrictions on fundamental freedoms – particularly freedom of expression and of association – and the constant attacks on the fundamental rights of members of the opposition, lawyers, journalists, academics and civil society activists in Türkiye; is particularly worried by the continued crackdown on Kurdish politicians, journalists, lawyers and artists; expresses concern about the deterioration of the rights of women and the constant targeting and harassment of LGBTI+ people, both of whom could see their rights further curtailed by the possible amendments to Türkiye’s constitution;

8. Remains deeply concerned about **the situation following the elections serious concerns due to a significant increase in unfounded terrorism accusations against dissidents and individuals who have been victims of human rights violations; such labelling violates international law and established international institutions; active engagement in international cooperation, involving independent experts and fostering collaborative solutions, is needed by Türkiye to effectively address this complex issue in line with international and European law standards; the misapplication of the internationally accepted definition of terrorism, coupled with accusations against groups that do not meet this definition, has led to the victimization of numerous individuals during subsequent legal proceedings; these practices not only cause damage to Türkiye's international reputation but also reflect a disregard for the core values of human rights that Türkiye is committed to upholding; therefore, aligning Türkiye's approach with international and European law standards, and demonstrating a genuine commitment to safeguarding human rights, is of utmost importance, the concerns outlined encompass the lack of judicial independence, the persistent violation of landmark rulings by the European Court of Human Rights, the severe restrictions on fundamental freedoms (especially freedom of expression and association), and the continuous targeting and attacks on the rights of individuals and groups who are erroneously labeled as terrorists, such as Gulenist movement members or Decree-law victims, opposition members, lawyers, journalists, academics, and civil society activists in Türkiye; of particular concern is the ongoing crackdown on Kurdish politicians, journalists, lawyers, and artists; additionally, there is alarm regarding the deteriorating rights of women and the targeted harassment faced by LGBTI+ individuals; these rights could be further curtailed if potential amendments to Turkey's constitution are enacted; these issues necessitate the utmost attention and adherence of Türkiye to international and European law standards.**

10. Concludes that the Turkish Government has no interest in closing the persistent and growing gap between Türkiye and the EU on values and standards, as it has shown, for the past few years, a clear lack of political will to carry out the necessary reforms to address, in particular, the serious concerns about the rule of law and fundamental rights that continue to negatively affect the country's EU accession process;

**10. Highlights the need for a sincere commitment from the Turkish Government to the EU accession process, including comprehensive reforms aligned with European standards; calls for a renewed EU-Türkiye dialogue based on trust and respect to address concerns related to the rule of law and fundamental rights; emphasizes the urgency for tangible progress in areas such as judicial independence, freedom of expression, media freedom, minority rights, and anti-corruption measures; advocates to assess and monitor reforms, the establishment of a joint EU-Türkiye working group, providing assistance and expertise; emphasizes the importance of civil society engagement, media pluralism, and academic freedom, as well as the necessity of an independent judiciary free from political interference; requests continued EU support, including financial assistance, to strengthen democratic institutions and provide support for civil society organizations and independent media; acknowledges the lack of political will in recent years to address concerns about the rule of law and fundamental rights, which has resulted in a hindrance to the progress in closing the gap between Türkiye and the EU on values and standards while Türkiye's EU accession process is reaffirmed;**