



**AMENDMENT PROPOSALS**  
on the 2026 Commission report on Türkiye (2025/2256(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

**February 2026**

Draft report: PE781.407v01-00  
**(Rapporteur: Nacho Sánchez Amor)**

Proposal for a resolution	Amendments
<p><b>Art.7</b> - Expresses grave concern at the continuing serious erosion of the rule of law and judicial independence in Türkiye, in the framework of a deeply entrenched authoritarian interpretation of the presidential system;</p>	<p>Expresses grave concern at the continuing serious erosion of the rule of law and judicial independence in Türkiye, in the framework of a deeply entrenched authoritarian interpretation of the presidential system;</p> <p><b>Further notes the persistent failure to respect the binding nature of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, undermining both domestic constitutional guarantees and Türkiye’s international obligations.</b></p>

<p><b>Art.8</b> - Deplores the extensive use of double standards in the judiciary;</p>	<p>Deplores the extensive use of double standards in the judiciary;</p> <p><b>Expresses serious concern in light of communication AL TUR 9/2025 issued by several United Nations Special Rapporteurs and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which raised allegations of arrests and detentions based on family ties, amounting to practices of “guilt by association,” including the targeting of individuals for alleged affiliation solely through their relatives, specifically in connection with alleged affiliation to the Gulen Movement; recalls that such practices undermine the principle of individual criminal responsibility and legal certainty.</b></p> <p><b>Calls on Türkiye to align its counter-terrorism legislation and judicial practices with European and international standards, ensuring an enabling and safe environment for civil society.</b></p>
<p><b>Art.9</b> - Urges Türkiye once again to fully implement all judgments of the ECtHR, in line with Article 46 of the ECHR and in line with the unconditional obligations derived from Article 90 of the Turkish Constitution;</p>	<p>Urges Türkiye once again to fully implement all judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, in line with Article 46 of the ECHR and the unconditional obligations derived from Article 90 of the Turkish Constitution;</p> <p><b>Stresses in particular the pilot judgment in <i>Yalçınkaya v. Türkiye</i>, given its relevance for a large number of pending and repetitive cases and its importance for restoring legal certainty.</b></p>
<p><b>Art.12</b> - Is gravely concerned by the further deterioration of local democracy in Türkiye; strongly condemns the dismissals and arrests of 28 elected mayors from opposition parties and dozens of local officials, as well as the replacement of 11 mayors with trustees appointed by the government;</p>	<p>Is gravely concerned by the further deterioration of local democracy in Türkiye;</p> <p><b>Strongly condemns the dismissals and arrests of elected mayors from opposition parties and local officials, as well as their replacement by government-appointed trustees;</b></p>

	<p><b>Highlights the need to safeguard fundamental rights and freedoms, including freedom of expression, association, and the right to a fair trial, as essential elements of democratic governance and societal resilience.</b></p>
<p><b>Art.13</b> - Continues to deplore the ongoing prosecution, censorship and harassment of journalists and independent media;</p>	<p>Continues to deplore the ongoing prosecution, censorship and harassment of journalists and independent media;</p> <p><b>Expresses serious concern over the increasing suppression of freedom of expression in Türkiye, including the closure or restriction of social media accounts belonging to journalists, politicians and private citizens who adopt a critical stance towards the government;</b></p> <p><b>Notes with alarm that well-known journalists and public commentators remain imprisoned on charges widely perceived as linked to their professional activities and public criticism, contributing to a climate of self-censorship and intimidation;</b></p> <p><b>Stresses that the targeting of individuals for peaceful expression of opinions, including through digital platforms, undermines media pluralism, democratic accountability and the free exchange of ideas;</b></p> <p><b>Calls on the Turkish authorities to immediately ensure the protection of freedom of expression and media freedom, to refrain from arbitrary blocking of social media accounts, and to guarantee that no individual is deprived of liberty solely for the peaceful exercise of their fundamental rights, in line with international human rights obligations.</b></p>

<p><b>Art.14</b> Remains deeply concerned about the situation of women’s rights, and particularly about the high level of gender-based violence and the high incidence of femicide in Türkiye;</p>	<p>Remains deeply concerned about the situation of women’s rights and the persistently high levels of gender-based violence and femicide in Türkiye;</p> <p><b>Draws attention to the disproportionate impact of current repressive practices on students and young people, and recalls the importance of protecting children’s rights and ensuring access to education in line with international commitments;</b></p>
--	---

Furthermore, **ASSEDEL** respectfully submits the following draft new articles for consideration and possible inclusion in the Report:

### **New Article – Children, Babies and Mothers in Detention**

Expresses deep concern over the staggering number of vulnerable individuals incarcerated in recent years, including tens of thousands of women and children, and notes with alarm that over eight hundred infants are currently residing in penal institutions with their mothers;

Notes with particular concern that in many facilities there are no dedicated units for babies and young children, that infants reportedly crawl on concrete floors, and that extremely young babies have been subjected to prolonged transfer journeys lasting up to 15–16 hours under poor conditions;

Expresses serious concern over reported cases involving the pre-trial detention of girls under the age of 18 (Minor girls trial) in politically sensitive proceedings; stresses that the deprivation of liberty of minors must remain a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible time, in full compliance with international juvenile justice standards, and calls on the authorities to prioritise child-sensitive, non-custodial measures.

Urges the Turkish authorities to prioritise non-custodial measures for mothers and minors and to ensure that the rights, safety and well-being of children are fully protected in accordance with international human rights standards.

## **New Article – Treatment of Severely Ill and Elderly Prisoners**

Strongly condemns the ongoing mistreatment and medical neglect of severely ill and elderly prisoners, including the failure to provide treatment to chronically ill detainees, the reported delays of months in transferring cancer patients for medical examinations, and the postponement of urgent hospital referrals; Expresses grave concern over cases in which extremely ill and elderly detainees, unable to meet even their most basic personal needs, were held in facilities lacking appropriate sanitary infrastructure, reportedly forced to rely on improvised arrangements created by fellow inmates due to the absence of adequate toilet facilities, and ultimately deprived of necessary medical care, resulting in deaths in custody;

Deplores practices whereby seriously ill prisoners are subjected to medical examinations while handcuffed, including the use of “double handcuffing” in which the detainee is physically restrained to a law enforcement officer during examination, rendering proper medical assessment impossible and seriously undermining human dignity;

Is further alarmed by reports of the use of force and ill-treatment during medical transfers and returns to prison facilities, as well as by the severe psychological toll and degrading conditions of detention, evidenced by over seven hundred reported prisoner suicides during the same period, affecting both women and men;

Calls on Türkiye to ensure that sentences for critically ill detainees are deferred, suspended or commuted on humanitarian grounds, and that all prisoners receive timely, adequate and dignified medical care without unnecessary restraints and in full respect of their physical integrity and human dignity.

## **New Article – Prison Conditions and Arbitrary Denial of Release**

Draws attention to the harsh conditions in high-security and so-called rehabilitation facilities, including heavily isolated prison complexes frequently described by inmates as 'water well-type' prisons; Deplores the systematic and arbitrary denial of probation and supervised release to inmates who meet all legal requirements for good behaviour, often justified by vague and subjective assessments such as being 'not ready for society';

Demands transparency and objective criteria in parole board decisions and calls for full compliance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

## **New Article – Severe Prison Overcrowding and Inhumane Conditions**

Is deeply alarmed by the critical overcrowding in Turkish penal institutions, which currently hold approximately 428,000 inmates despite an official capacity of around 304,000;

Notes credible reports that cells designed for 10 persons are holding up to 40 detainees, and that in many facilities the number of beds is three to four times lower than the number of prisoners, forcing detainees to sleep in shifts or on the floor;

Stresses that such extreme overpopulation, combined with serious hygiene deficiencies and lack of adequate sleeping space, gravely undermines health, safety and human dignity;

Calls on the authorities to urgently address this systemic crisis through meaningful judicial reforms and by significantly reducing the overreliance on pre-trial detention and punitive incarceration policies.

### **New Article - Degrading Search Practices and Ill-Treatment of Women Prisoners**

Expresses serious concern that the practice previously known as “strip search” continues under the renamed procedure of “detailed search”, without substantive change in its implementation, and underlines that a change in terminology cannot conceal practices that may amount to degrading treatment;

Is deeply alarmed by reports of humiliating treatment of women prisoners, including being taken to gynaecological examinations under male police escort, being examined while handcuffed, subjected to “double handcuffing”, and denied full medical privacy, with restraints reportedly maintained during examinations;

Condemns reports that medical professionals requesting the removal of handcuffs are threatened with investigation;

Calls on the Turkish authorities to immediately end all practices that violate human dignity, ensure confidential and unrestrained medical examinations, and fully respect the prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment.

### **New Article – Prolonged Hunger Strikes in Prisons**

Expresses serious concern over reports of ongoing and prolonged hunger strikes in several prisons across Türkiye, involving detainees who have reportedly been sustaining themselves for extended periods through the consumption of sugared and salted water;

Notes with alarm that participants in these hunger strikes are described as being in a severely weakened physical condition and, in some cases, refusing medical interventions such as intravenous treatment;

Stresses that prolonged hunger strikes are indicative of serious structural grievances within the prison system and pose acute risks to life and health;

Calls on the Turkish authorities to urgently engage in dialogue, ensure independent medical monitoring in line with medical ethics, and take immediate steps to address the underlying concerns giving rise to such extreme forms of protest.

## **New Article - Obstruction of Correspondence, Violence and Impunity in Prisons**

Expresses grave concern over persistent allegations of obstruction and censorship of prisoners' correspondence, noting that a substantial number of letters reporting rights violations are believed to be withheld, thereby preventing effective oversight and access to remedies;

Is deeply alarmed by reported incidents of physical violence against detainees by prison staff, including cases of serious injury, and by subsequent prosecutorial decisions not to pursue accountability;  
Stresses that censorship of correspondence, violence in detention and the absence of effective investigations contribute to a climate of impunity and undermine the rule of law;

Calls on the Turkish authorities to guarantee the confidentiality and delivery of prisoner correspondence, ensure prompt, independent and impartial investigations into allegations of ill-treatment, and hold those responsible fully accountable.

## **New Article – Discriminatory Application of Amnesty Laws**

Strongly condemns the discriminatory nature of recent amnesty and early release discussions, which exclude individuals targeted for alleged political affiliations, including those associated with the Gülen movement;

Expresses serious concern that legislative leniency is reportedly extended to perpetrators of severe violent crimes, including rape and femicide, while political detainees remain excluded;  
Stresses that such practices represent a clear policy of discrimination and undermine equality before the law;

Urges Türkiye to uphold the absolute principle of equality before the law and to cease the politically motivated weaponisation of its penal system.

## **New Article – Enforced Disappearances and Transnational Repression**

Expresses grave concern over the systematic use of enforced disappearances and abductions, including reports of individuals being detained by unidentified persons and vehicles, held in undisclosed locations and subjected to prolonged ill-treatment or torture;

Strongly condemns escalating transnational repression targeting Turkish nationals abroad through intimidation, forced returns, surveillance, and the misuse of international cooperation mechanisms;  
Underlines that such practices constitute severe violations of the right to liberty and security, due process guarantees, and the absolute prohibition of torture.

## **New Article – Institutional Discrimination and 'Civil Death' of Decree Victims**

Expresses grave concern over the systematic 'civil death' of individuals dismissed by emergency decrees (KHKS), who face pervasive institutional discrimination, including passport cancellations and bans from both public and private sector employment;

Notes with alarm that affected individuals are frequently denied essential services, including the ability to open bank accounts or access social assistance, effectively excluding them from economic and social life; Condemns the prosecution and detention of individuals for routine, non-criminal acts such as opening bank accounts, school enrolments or newspaper subscriptions, contrary to principles of legal certainty;

Calls on Türkiye to cease these collective punishment practices and restore fundamental rights and freedoms in line with international human rights standards.