

PUBLIC HEARING

VIOLATIONS OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN TURKEY UNDER THE STATE OF EMERGENCY: EUROPE HAS TO ACT

22 November 2017

10:00 - 12:00, room A5G315, Altiero Spinelli Building



CHAired BY MEP : **Kati PIRI**

SPEAKERS

Luca VISENTINI: General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

Ramazan GURBUZ: General Secretary of KESK (Confederation of Public Employees' Trade Unions)

Remzi ÇALISKAN: President of Genel-is (Public Services Employees Union of Disk)

Susan FLOCKEN: European Director of the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE)

Annie van WEZEL: Senior policy adviser international affairs at the FNV (Dutch TUC),
co-chair of EU-Turkey Joint Consultative Committee of the EESC



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In the last year, deep concerns were expressed several times about developments in Turkey after the failed coup of July 2016, strongly condemned by the trade union movement.

SIXTEEN months after that coup attempt, the state of emergency and the decrees adopted have gone far beyond what is necessary for security reasons: are being used to attack political opposition and strip away democratic rights; they violate the principles of legality, proportionality and necessity, due process guarantees and the presumption of innocence.

By the beginning of this November, more than 125,000 citizens – of whom several thousand are trade unionists – have been dismissed or suspended from their jobs without any prior investigation or evidence. More than 30.000 people are still imprisoned; 160 media outlets have been shut down; strikes were suspended; and elected parliamentarians have been imprisoned.

Those Decrees clearly breach not only International conventions but also the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Social Charter.

Europe has, up until now, been rather timid in its reactions: the rule of law, justice and fundamental rights must be given absolute priority. Europe has to act now against the violations of the human and trade union rights under the state of emergency.

