

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Declaration of the European Union

The European Union reiterates its condemnation of all forms of terrorism. The legitimate fight against terrorism must be conducted in full respect of human rights, the rule of law and democratic norms. Legitimate interests must be expressed through a political process, not through violence.

The EU strongly deplores the fact that the arrest of Abdullah Ocalan has sparked massive unrest and violent acts which have resulted in death, hostage-taking, intimidation and extensive destruction. It reaffirms its position that such acts of violence are inadmissible and under no circumstance tolerable.

The European Union takes note of the assurance of the Turkish Government that Abdullah Ocalan will have a fair trial. It expects this to mean fair and correct treatment and an open trial according to the rule of law before an independent court, with access to legal counsel of his choice and with international observers admitted to the trial. It underlines once more its strict opposition to the death penalty.

The EU fully upholds the territorial integrity of Turkey. At the same time, the EU expects Turkey to resolve its problems by political means with full respect for human

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rights, the rule of law in a democratic society and in full accordance with Turkey's commitments as a member of the Council of Europe. In this context it welcomes all genuine efforts to separate the fight against terrorism from the search for political solutions and to promote conciliation. In support of this the EU stands ready to contribute, including through continued financial assistance.

Turkey's efforts in dealing with these problems in this spirit cannot but affect EU-Turkey relations positively.
