Basic information

2014/3011(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on freedom of expression in Turkey: recent arrests of journalists, media executives and systematic pressure against media **Subject** 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general **Geographical area** Türkiye	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/12/2014	Debate in Parliament		
15/01/2015	Decision by Parliament	T8-0014/2015	Summary
15/01/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
15/01/2015	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2014/3011(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B8-0036/2015	12/01/2015	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0040/2015	12/01/2015	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0041/2015	12/01/2015	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0042/2015	12/01/2015	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0043/2015	12/01/2015	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0044/2015	12/01/2015	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0045/2015	12/01/2015	

Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0014/2015	15/01/2015	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2015)132	13/04/2015	

Resolution on freedom of expression in Turkey: recent arrests of journalists, media executives and systematic pressure against media

2014/3011(RSP) - 15/01/2015 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on freedom of expression in Turkey: Recent arrests of journalists, media executives and systematic pressure against media.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the EPP, S&D, ECR, ALDE, GUE/NGL, Greens/EFA and EDD groups.

Parliament recalled that on 14 December 2014 the Turkish police arrested journalists and media executives. It stated that Turkey already holds a very large number of jailed journalists and journalists awaiting trial, and the pressure against the media has increased over the past few years.

Parliament condemned the detention of these journalists and stressed that these actions call into question respect for the rule of law and freedom of the media.

Pluralistic press: Members recalled that a free and pluralistic press is an essential component of any democracy, as are due process, presumption of innocence and judicial independence. They stressed, therefore, the need:

- to provide ample and transparent information on the allegations against the defendants,
- to grant the defendants full access to the incriminating evidence and full defence rights,
- to ensure the proper handling of the cases to establish the veracity of the accusations without delay and beyond reasonable doubt.

Turkey is urged to work on reforms which should provide for adequate checks and balances fully guaranteeing freedom, including freedom of thought, of expression and of the media, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Parliament underlined the importance of press freedom and respect for democratic values for the EU enlargement process. It stressed that the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) for the period 2014-2020 sees the introduction of enhanced coherence between financial assistance and the overall progress made in the implementation of the pre-accession strategy, including full respect for fundamental rights and freedoms. It called for increased attention to be paid to independent media within the framework of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.