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17 September 2020

The resolution on the "dangerous escalation and the role of Turkey in the Eastern-Mediterranean", adopted at the European Parliament session on 17 September in preparation for the European Council to be held next week, contains important points that could have a bearing on the future of the relations between Turkey and the European Union.

The most significant aspect of the European Parliament resolution is that it tackles the Eastern Mediterranean issue on the basis of political solidarity with member states in contravention of the principle of equity, which is the most important principle of international law. It is concerning that Turkey's just and legitimate arguments are not taken into consideration at all. We cannot accept this position.



It is clear that among the reasons why the European Union acts this way is the partisan stance it has adopted, stimulated by a reflex to protect the collective integrity of the union. However, it is also true that this outcome is also the result of Turkey's arguments not having been explained in European capitals in a clear and convincing manner, with all their legal legitimacy. The fact that the government has failed to exert such an effort is a shortcoming of our foreign policy.

We deeply regret that, at this extraordinary time when Turkey's economy, democratic rights and freedoms, and foreign policy are backsliding, the government officials still do not work to address these shortcomings and make genuine efforts to prove Turkey's rightful arguments but would rather question the Treaty of Lausanne, the founding document of our country, and would try and belittle the successes achieved by the founders of our Republic. Such actions, unfortunately, play into the

hands of anti-Turkish circles and encourage them further to engage in acts that would undermine our rightful arguments.

While we are approving of the call on the parties for a resolution of the Cyprus issue within the framework of UN resolutions, we believe that the European Union has a larger responsibility as regards this issue than all the other parties concerned. This is because the most poignant development that formed an obstacle to the resolution of the issue is the fact that the Greek Administration of Southern Cyprus was considered the sole representative of the island and was made an EU member state without a resolution to the Cyprus issue. It is clear under these circumstances that a search for a resolution without taking into account the rights of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus would certainly not be a sincere attempt at peace.

The European Parliament resolution announced today stands as a documentation of the declining reputation and the negative perception in the eyes of the international community of Turkey during the AKP reign. Our foreign policy, bankrupt after successive errors, showcase a Turkey that is increasingly isolated in the international arena.

The resolutions to the Eastern Mediterranean issues must be sought in dialogue and diplomacy. It is not possible for Turkey's rightful arguments to be accepted if the government fails to avail itself of the language and style of diplomacy. Necessary preparations and attempts must be made post-haste for our sovereign rights, upon which these arguments are based, to be explained to our counterparts in perfect clarity. At a time when we need to embrace and defend our Republican values as a nation, the attempts at igniting disputes concerning these values, motivated by schemes oriented towards domestic politics, must be ended at once.