



NEWS & VIEWS

A perspective from CHP

24 May 2021, Issue: 29



REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY
Foreign Relations Department



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PRESS RELEASE BY ÜNAL ÇEVİKÖZ, CHP ISTANBUL MP AND CHP GROUP SPOKESPERSON AT GNAT
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ON EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S (EP) RESOLUTION ON 2019-2020
REPORT ON TURKEY3

Press Release by Ünal Çeviköz, CHP Istanbul MP and CHP Group Spokesperson at GNAT Committee on Foreign Affairs, on European Parliament's (EP) Resolution on 2019-2020 Report on Turkey

We have learned with deep concern that the European Parliament (EP) adopted its resolution on 2019-2020 Report on Turkey by 480 votes in favour, 64 against and 150 abstentions during the EP Plenary held on 19 May 2021.

The resolution, which is the 11th that has been adopted on Turkey, includes rather unjust accusations against our country. Through a motion submitted prior to the EP Plenary session, our country was called upon to recognise the tragedy of 1915, which left a deep trauma in the collective memory of Turkish and Armenian people, as genocide. As the Republican People's Party, we once again emphasise that we do not accept this call. The fact that the term in question entered the report after the US President's statement on April 24 is a result of current Turkish government's inability to defend our rightful claims before the international community.

Although Turkey is mentioned as a candidate country in the report, the growth in scope and size of the foreign-policy-related evaluations in the resolution indicate, as we have repeatedly stressed before, that the ruling party is incapable of representing Turkey's interests in the EU capitals.

The inclusion, on the other hand, of member countries' maximalist positions about the Aegean and the Mediterranean in contravention of international law, is totally unacceptable. Such expressions do not contribute to reducing the tension in the Eastern Mediterranean; in fact, they only make the EU's nonegalitarian perspective on the settlement of this issue more visible.

The report lists examples such as the deterioration in rule of law and fundamental rights and freedoms in Turkey, the weakening in separation of powers due to the presidential system of government, the state of freedom of speech and media, and incarceration of journalists as reasons why our country has gradually distanced itself from the EU. Resolutions on these matters, which have been dismissed and underplayed by the ruling party up until now on the grounds that they are not binding, is affecting the outlook on Turkey in all spheres.

Despite the positive agenda that had been formed between Turkey and the EU, this resolution by the European Parliament has shown that the bilateral relations have been hanging on by a thread and are no longer sustainable.

As we have also pointed out before, the AKP government, who is mainly responsible for this unfavourable state of affairs that Turkey has been dragged into, destroyed not only the all-round achievements of the Republic but also Turkey's European future. The other actors in this situation are some European leaders and politicians who even veto the negotiation of chapters regarding fundamental rights and freedoms and judicial independence, and who turn bilateral matters into EU's institutional problems.

As CHP, we see Turkey's full membership of the EU as a fundamental goal in line with the fundamental values of the Republic and a cornerstone where our citizens will be equal individuals of the modern world. We do embrace the prospects of full EU membership. We once again emphasise that full EU membership is an essential element that cannot be neglected in Turkey's resolve to be a part of the modern world.