



# Tweede Kamer

DER STATEN-GENERAAL

Commissie BuZa

To: Mr Taha Özhan,  
Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of  
the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

Place and date: The Hague, June 18 2018  
Our reference: 2018Z11377/2018D34232

Your Excellency,  
Dear Colleague,

The committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives of Netherlands' Parliament has discussed the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections in your country. The parliament of the Netherlands attaches great importance to the principle of free and fair elections.

The members of the committee noted that one of the presidential candidates, Mr Selahattin Demirtaş, Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, is not able to participate in the campaign due to the fact that he has been in pre-trial detention since November 2016, after his immunity was lifted.

On behalf of the members of the committee on Foreign Affairs I call on you to urge the relevant authorities of your country to immediately release Mr Demirtaş, in order to give him at least a chance to participate during the last days before 24 June in the electoral campaign.

We also ask you to do your utmost to restore the inviolability of the Members of Parliament whose immunity was lifted.

It is of the benefit of both our countries that Turkey is part of the community of democratic nations.

Yours Sincerely,

Pia Dijkstra,  
Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
House of Representatives Netherlands' Parliament

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