

Press Release

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Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis reacts to changes in Turkish Criminal Code related to freedom of expression

Strasbourg, 02.05.2008 - "The recent amendments to Article 301 of the Turkish penal Code which criminalises insults to the Turkish nation testify to the readiness of the Turkish authorities to review their legislation against the background of their obligations as a member of the Council of Europe and a party to the European Convention on Human Rights. This is to be welcomed. However, although an analysis of the new wording indicates some progress in this respect, it does not alleviate all concerns about excessive restrictions of the freedom of expression, as guaranteed by Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The decisive test of compliance with Council of Europe standards will be the interpretation of the new Article 301 by the Turkish courts, and we will follow the situation very closely."

Terry Davis, Secrétaire Général du Conseil de l'Europe, réagit aux modifications apportées au Code pénal turc concernant la liberté d'expression

Strasbourg, 02.05.2008 - « Les récentes modifications apportées à l'article 301 du Code pénal turc, lequel érige en infraction pénale les outrages à la nation turque, témoignent de la volonté des autorités du pays de revoir la législation à la lumière des obligations de la Turquie en tant qu'Etat membre du Conseil de l'Europe et Etat Partie à la Convention européenne des droits de l'homme. Il faut s'en féliciter. Cela étant, l'analyse du nouveau libellé indique certes quelque progrès à cet égard, mais elle ne dissipe pas pour autant toutes les craintes que suscitent les restrictions excessives de la liberté d'expression, telle que garantie par l'article 10 de la Convention européenne des droits de l'homme. L'interprétation que feront les tribunaux turcs du nouvel article 301 permettra d'en vérifier la conformité aux normes du Conseil de l'Europe. Ce sera le test décisif. Nous suivrons la situation de très près. »

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