

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 24 October 2022

Dear Ms Zeller,
Dear Mr Sessa,
Dear Ms Trotman,
Dear Mr Marques,

Thank you very much for your letter of 17 October regarding Mr Murat Arslan and, more generally, the situation of the rule of law in Türkiye.

Please kindly note that the European Court of Human Rights has not yet delivered a judgment in respect of Mr Murat Arslan and that the Secretary General cannot intervene in individual cases pending before the judicial authorities of its member states.

However, I would like to reassure you that the Council of Europe – through its different organs and bodies – pays particular attention to the rule of law which, as you indicate, is of utmost importance for the protection of the rights of individuals, including judges and prosecutors. For the Council of Europe, the independence of the judiciary plays a key role in this respect.

.../...

Ms Edith Zeller,
President of the Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ)

Mr Duro Sessa,
President of the European Association of Judges (EAJ)

Ms Tamara Trotman,
President of Judges for Judges

Mr Filipe César Marques,
President of Magistrats Européens pour la Démocratie et les Libertés (MEDEL)

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Moreover, the full, swift and effective implementation of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights is crucial, as underlined on a number of occasions by the Committee of Ministers in its supervisory function under the European Convention on Human Rights. Under the so-called "Alparslan Altan group of cases", the Committee of Ministers continues to closely examine the general measures that could be taken with respect to the unlawful detention of judges without sufficient evidence after the 2016 coup attempt. You may obtain further information on the Committee of Ministers' examination of this issue on the website which provides for a database of the documents of the Department for the Execution of Judgments (<https://hudoc.exec.coe.int/ENG?i=004-52779>).

The above-mentioned principles will continue to guide the action of the Council of Europe with respect to Türkiye, as with any other member state.

Yours sincerely,


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