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**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

**Statement by Ambassador Naci Sarıbaş  
Permanent Representative of Turkey to the OSCE  
(786<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council, 17 December 2009)**

Thank you Madam Chairperson,

The statement made by the distinguished Ambassador of Sweden on behalf of the EU Presidency on the recent verdict of the Turkish Constitutional Court has been duly taken note of by the relevant authorities.

We welcome the interest that was displayed by the EU on recent legal developments in Turkey as well as its preference to reiterate its assessment in different settings in a short period of time.

Indeed, Democratic Society Party was closed by the decision of the Constitutional Court on 11 December. Since the judgment has yet to be issued, any preliminary reactions might lead to misleading considerations due to lack of detailed information regarding the legal reasoning as well as the evidences that the decision was based upon.

However, having carefully listened the statement of the EU, I would like to share with the Permanent Council some of the elements that were brought to the attention of the public by the President of the Constitutional Court at the time of the announcement of the judgment.

In this announcement, it is underscored that *“the activities and statements of the Party which are also assessed in conjunction with its links to the PKK, terrorist organization, made it the focal point for terrorism..”*.

It is further stressed that relevant case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, particularly its recent decision on a similar case where a political party was dissolved by a court decision in one of the EU member state, has been taken into account in this process.

As I pointed out earlier, the judgment, when issued, will eventually help us make sound and thorough analysis of the situation.

We also took note of the statement made by the US Delegation.

Before concluding, Madam Chairperson, let me express our appreciation to the EU for its strong position against violence and terrorism in the Council of Europe following the PKK terrorist attack of last week that cost the lives of seven Turkish soldiers. I would have expected the same in the OSCE as well.

Thank you.