

TÜRKİYE CUMHURİYETİ
AVRUPA BİRLİĞİ BAKANLIĞI



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY FOR EU AFFAIRS

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY MINISTRY FOR EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS



Arguments Compiled Based on the Statements by
the Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Ömer Çelik
No: 3

FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM and EXTREMIST MOVEMENTS

ARGUMENTS

COMPILED BASED ON THE STATEMENTS BY
THE MINISTER FOR EU AFFAIRS
AND CHIEF NEGOTIATOR ÖMER ÇELİK



**FIGHT AGAINST
TERRORISM**

and EXTREMIST MOVEMENTS

*We must fight terrorism together.
We must always emphasize that terrorism
has no nationality, religion or identity.*

Ömer Çelik



FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM





“

Turkey has never compromised on the balance between freedoms and security, while also ensuring security under the harshest conditions. It has never allowed the freedom-security balance to turn into securitization in a way that would harm freedoms and suffocate democracy. Yet, it is essential that Turkey's security needs be met. There can be no compromise on that.

*Visit to Belgium- Press Conference at the EU Permanent
Representation-Date: 01/06/2016, 15:17*

”





“

The fight Turkey is putting up is also a fight to protect the security of the region, democracy in the region, as well as European democracy.

Reception of the President of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Pedro Agramunt-Date: 07/06/2016, 14:01

”

“

The reforms we have made so far and the reforms we are committed to pursue, as well as our sensitivity to protect the freedom-security balance, even when targeted by this massive terrorist attack, are noteworthy. In this context, we would like to see all our friends, and primarily our friends in the European Union, stand with Turkey in its fight against terrorism; we expect their strong support in this matter.

Reception of the President of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Pedro Agramunt-Date: 07/06/2016, 14:01

”



“

Some radical terrorists exploit Islam and Muslims. That is the main point. Saying ‘Muslimhood and Islam are turning into radical terrorism’ means that one is missing that main point. Because some terrorists exploit a religion and the symbols of that religion, that religion must not be linked with terrorism. If you do not fight Islamophobia sufficiently, what comes after is anti-Semitism, xenophobia and hostility directed against the European Union.

Visit to Slovakia-Press Conference-Date: 14/06/2016, 16:14

”

“

The hate spread and the values targeted by the organizations using this radical terrorist argument, and the values targeted by the far-right and racist elements in Europe are the same. They share the same genetic blueprint; they are identical twins. If these are not confronted adequately and strongly through mainstream political values and if they are given credit for the sake of elections or for other reasons, then they will at some point dominate the main political arenas.

Visit to Slovakia-Press Conference-Date: 14/06/2016, 16:14

”



“ If Turkey did not engage in a high-capacity fight against terrorism, then Europe would have to face this phenomenon of terrorism directly. As such, Turkey must be commended for its efforts.

”

Joint Press Conference with Minister for Foreign Affairs Paolo Gentiloni in Italy -Date: 21/06/2016, 19:43

“ If Turkey’s counter-terror capacity is compromised, this will have as many repercussions for European Union as it will for the Turkey.

”

Joint Press Conference with Minister for Foreign Affairs Paolo Gentiloni in Italy -Date: 21/06/2016, 19:43



“ Just as we feel an obligation to fight terrorist organizations like Daesh in our region, we will also continue to fight the far-right, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and antagonism towards Turkey, which is placed right at the centre of these issues. This fight is for the future of the region, continent, and the world at large.

”

Press Conference on Current Issues at the Ministry for EU Affairs-Date: 24/06/2016, 15:06

“ We are confronted by substantial challenges. The migrant crisis, followed by the fight against Daesh and similar terrorist organizations, and the fight against far-right movements in Europe, which share the same anti-humanitarian attitude as Daesh and similar terrorist organizations... All these need to be tackled as aspects of a single issue. When we consider all of these, Turkey emerges as a key country.

”

Press Conference on Current Issues at the Ministry for EU Affairs-Date: 24/06/2016, 15:06



“**W**ith the migrant crisis, we have witnessed how the European Union and Turkey, acting in shared wisdom and with a joint action plan, managed to solve a global problem. Therefore, we should also create a joint action plan against terrorism, which has become an even greater issue that threatens European values, as well as the fundamental values of humanity. Solidarity alone is not enough, a common discourse alone is not enough; we need to create a joint action plan.”

Visit to Belgium-Press Briefing-Date: 29/06/2016, 16:35

“**T**urkey is putting up its own fight against Daesh, which 65 countries are having difficulty fighting. That is why Turkey’s fight for its national security is also a fight for the security of the Mediterranean, Europe, and the world; this is why it is commended by everyone.”

Visit to Belgium-Press Briefing-Date: 29/06/2016, 16:35

“**I**f we are to assume responsibility for a fairer and a more humanitarian world, then we need to meet at a common point in terms of our position against terrorism, without double standards, and we need to put joint action into practice.”

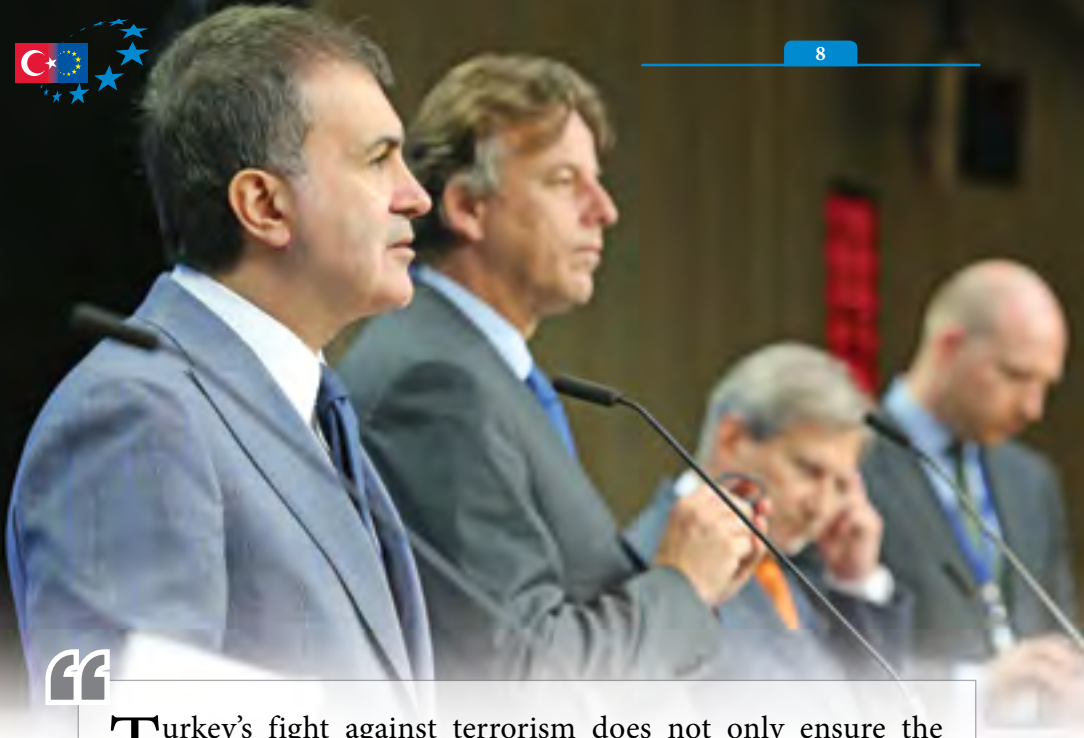
Visit to Belgium-Press Briefing-Date: 29/06/2016, 16:35

“**I** explain clearly to my counterparts that there is a need for a joint action plan that does not discriminate or prioritize among terrorist organizations such as Daesh and the PKK, and targets them altogether. This is as much important for Turkey’s security as it is for European security, and the security of the world at large.”

Visit to Belgium-Press Briefing-Date: 29/06/2016, 16:35

“**I**n terms of solidarity, we now need to start creating joint action plans. By creating these action plans, we must build the foundations on which we will fight these terrorists together.”

Visit to Belgium-Press Conference following Meeting with Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs-Date: 29/06/2016



Turkey's fight against terrorism does not only ensure the security of our own country but also ensures the security of the region and contributes to the security of European democracies.

TRT News-Press Briefing before the Opening of Chapter 33 on Financial and Budgetary Provisions -Date: 30/06/2016, 10:18



If we separate the security of one place from another, if we regard the security of one place as different from another, then we become weaker in terms of protecting democratic values.

TRT News-Press Briefing before the Opening of Chapter 33 on Financial and Budgetary Provisions -Date: 30/06/2016, 10:18



Terrorism is terrorism; it has different offshoots. One such offshoot is Daesh, another is the PKK, another is DHKP-C, or any other terrorist organization anywhere in the world.

Visit to Belgium- Opening of Chapter 33 on Financial and Budgetary Provisions Date: 30/06/2016, 11:36



There is no difference between terrorist organizations; Daesh is no different from the PKK, and the PKK is no different from DHKP-C. Therefore, whenever we see that a PKK tent is allowed to be put up in a European capital, we see this as no different from allowing Daesh to put up a tent.

Visit to Belgium- Opening of Chapter 33 on Financial and Budgetary Provisions Date: 30/06/2016, 11:36



There can be no 'but' or 'yet' when we talk about terrorism. We cannot make compromises in our approach against a terrorist organization. A principled approach must be developed against them.

Reception of British Ambassador Richard Moore-Date: 14/07/2016



We must destroy the social as well as the political and ideological roots of terrorism. As long as the political instability in Syria goes on, terrorism will become stronger and more globalized. Thus, physically fighting terrorism without politically solving the Syrian issue means fighting the outcomes of terrorism alone; this cannot be an effective fight.

Reception of British Ambassador Richard Moore-Date: 14/07/2016



It is as important to fight the outcomes of terrorism as to fight its root-causes; more effort must be made in solving this major international problem.

Reception of Spanish Ambassador Rafael Mendivil Pedro Date: 14/07/2016, 18:14



The ideological dimension of the fight against terrorism must be taken at least as seriously as its physical dimension.

Reception of Spanish Ambassador Rafael Mendivil Pedro Date: 14/07/2016, 18:14



“

It is important that the international community understands very well that terrorists, whichever organization they may be affiliated with, cannot be heroes and can only be enemies of humanity.

Reception of the Turkey-EU Joint Advisory Committee Delegation-Date: 15/07/2016, 16:43

”

“

We must fight terrorism together. We must always emphasize that terrorism has no nationality, no religion and no identity.

Reception of the Turkey-EU Joint Advisory Committee Delegation-Date: 15/07/2016, 16:43

”

“

When Turkey fights Daesh, it fights terrorism. When it fights the PKK and PYD, it fights terrorism too. Hence, commending one of these but criticizing the other would be to employ a double standard in terms of terrorism. We see it very clearly: the PYD has a hidden agenda that could in no way contribute to peace in the region, Turkey's security, or Europe's security; this hidden agenda is filled with terrorist links.

Anadolu Agency Special Interview-Date: 24/08/2016

”



“

There is no difference between the terrorist organizations Daesh and the PKK. If countries fighting against Daesh allow the PKK to put on exhibitions and put up tents, this leads to a double standard in terms of fight against terrorism.

Joint Press Conference with German Minister for Europe Michael Roth-Date: 25/08/2016, 13:14

”

“

Daesh is one of the darkest organizations that humanity has ever seen and threatens fundamental values such as democracy and human rights, as well as human life. Therefore, the elimination of this organization is among Turkey's priorities.

Joint Press Conference with German Minister for Europe Michael Roth-Date: 25/08/2016, 13:14

”





“

The lie that the PYD fights Daesh has fallen apart. This is because the PYD's fight against Daesh is not a fight against terrorism. It is just a case of one terrorist organization fighting another to gain its own ground and establish its own de facto administration. They are claiming that we are against Kurdish gains or that we are intervening in Kurdish regions. The Republic of Turkey is not against any of the gains made by Kurds, Turkmens or Arabs in Syria.

Joint Press Conference with Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister Bert Koenders-Date: 29/08/2016, 16:00

”

“

A weakness in Turkey's fight against Daesh, the PKK, or FETÖ would not only threaten the security of Turkey but also that of the European Union. Therefore, we underline that the support of our friends in our fight not only against Daesh, but also against FETÖ and the PKK is highly important.

Joint Press Conference with Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister Bert Koenders-Date: 29/08/2016, 16:00

”



“

The logic that the PKK stops being a terrorist organization because it does not conduct attacks against you in Europe, but that 'everybody must fight against Daesh' because it attacks you is a distorted one. Turkey is a sovereign country and does not see any difference between Daesh and the PKK in terms of its national security, which is the right approach.

Press Briefing following the Informal Meeting of EU Foreign Affairs Ministers in Bratislava- Date: 03/09/2016, 14:44

”

“

Turkey's borders are naturally the borders of Europe and NATO. Therefore, the security measures Turkey takes have direct relevance for Europe's and NATO's security.

Press Briefing following the Informal Meeting of EU Foreign Affairs Ministers in Bratislava- Date: 03/09/2016, 14:44

”



“

Remember how Afghanistan used to be, remember what Rusing one terrorist organization against another did to Afghanistan. Unfortunately, the same mistake is being made right beside the Mediterranean, right next to Turkey, in a country so close to Europe. A terrorist organization is pitted against another. To think that a terrorist organization is going to conduct a genuinely principled fight against another terrorist organization, with which it shares the same genetic blueprint, is highly objectionable in the modern world.

Visit to Portugal-Press Conference-Date: 07/09/2016, 13:43

”



“

Turkey is going to continue its fight against terrorism with the greatest resolve. This is humanity's fight against barbarism.

Joint Press Conference with British Foreign Affairs Secretary Boris Johnson-Date: 26/09/2016, 19:22

”

“

There is a great deal we have to do together against the rising far-right movements and xenophobia in Europe, the terrorist organizations in our region, and Islamophobic and anti-Semitic movements. The same goes for the fight against terrorism.

Joint Press Conference with British Foreign Affairs Secretary Boris Johnson-Date: 26/09/2016, 19:22

”



“

Physically defeating terrorist organizations is in fact secondary. They are doomed to be defeated physically eventually. However, the real issue here is that the sources which ideologically feed the terrorist organizations must be dried out. The rising far-right, racism and Islamophobia in Europe are among the ideological sources for terrorist organizations.

Joint Press Conference with Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister José Manuel García-Margallo-Date: 07/10/2016, 15:24

”

“

Our fight is also about the protection of values that we share with Europe. It is a fight for human rights, rule of law and democracy.

Joint Press Conference with Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister José Manuel García-Margallo-Date: 07/10/2016, 15:24

”

“

The issue of terrorism is not an issue of political preference. Whether or not to support terrorism has nothing to do with ideological preferences. This is a clear line between humanity and barbarism.

Joint Press Conference with Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister José Manuel García-Margallo-Date: 07/10/2016, 15:24

”

“

Every step that Turkey takes as a sovereign state in order to ensure its security also ensures the security of Europe, of which we are a natural part, and NATO, of which we are a member.

Joint Press Conference with Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Paolo Gentiloni-Date: 07/10/2016, 10:08

”





As important as getting Daesh out of Mosul is the question of how to do that. It is also important to protect the organic composition of Mosul after Daesh is taken out. If the organic structure of Mosul is ruined by artificial and synthetic powers such as Hashd al-Shaabi, we will be faced with a more substantial crisis than during the time when Daesh dominated the city.

A Haber Special Interview-Date: 19/10/2016, 16:08



If certain groups try to seize Turkmen, Arab and Kurdish lands in the name of others that will lead to the creation of colossal sociological fault lines between these ethnic or sectarian groups. Even if Daesh is destroyed, the ideology that made Daesh possible will live on even stronger.

A Haber Special Interview-Date: 19/10/2016, 16:08



What enabled Daesh's creation was the lack of strategic planning for what was to happen after the military operation in Iraq; the limited thinking that only focused on the military operation but not on what was to come after.

A Haber Special Interview-Date: 19/10/2016, 16:08



Leppo and Mosul are no longer only a concern for the Middle East but have become an EU and even a transatlantic matter. All these developments affect the global system. All the powers in the world, the powers that actively engaged in the First World War and the Second World War have military elements in place in Syria and Iraq. We must not allow a chaotic turn of events that would inflict further suffering upon the global system to take place here.

A Haber Special Interview-Date: 19/10/2016, 16:08





“

We must not allow the conditions which in the past led to the creation of Daesh, which does not represent Sunnism, to lead to the creation of radical Shiite groups, which would not represent Shiism.

A Haber Special Interview-Date: 19/10/2016, 16:08

”

“

Some of our allies make this mistake: they do not think about security sociology while they ponder their own security. Territorial loss is not of great importance to Daesh. Daesh has frequently lost territory and regained it. Daesh knows that if sectarian groups take over the territories it leaves, they will persecute the people and that it will only be a matter of time until the local people will come to think of elements like Daesh as stabilizing actors. That is why those territories are frequently left so that a vacuum is created, which favours their return.

A Haber Special Interview-Date: 19/10/2016, 16:08

”

“

Especially during al-Maliki's term, the demography and sociology of the Iraqi military changed. The issue is not simply a Shiite-Sunni one. When the Iraqi military was first formed after the removal of Saddam Hussein, 24 percent of the military was Kurdish; now it is only 3 percent. If you confine a police force or the military to a single ethnic or sectarian group, then this does not lead to a reaction that provides security; on the contrary, it leads to a sectarian reaction.

A Haber Special Interview-Date: 19/10/2016, 16:08

”



“

Beyond the question of which power will prevail over the other or which power will conduct a proxy war, we need to stand for Iraqi interests in Iraq and for Syrian interests in Syria. We need to develop an attitude that respects the territorial integrity of these countries. Otherwise, no-one can stop this vicious circle.

A Haber Special Interview-Date: 19/10/2016, 16:08

”

“

We need to see the bigger picture. We need to fight terrorism in such a way as to protect the territorial integrity of Iraq and Syria, and the organic structure between the ethnic and sectarian elements there.

A Haber Special Interview-Date: 19/10/2016, 16:08

”

“

The people must not be forced into making a choice between sectarian groups, terrorist organizations or groups engaged in ethnic nationalism.

A Haber Special Interview-Date: 19/10/2016, 16:08

”

“

FETÖ is more dangerous than Osama Bin Laden; for Turkey, it is an Al-Qaeda, a Daesh. Indeed, it was the author of an atrocity even more severe than the atrocities committed by Daesh, shown via social media all over the world.

TGRT Haber Special Interview-Date: 26/10/2016, 21:00

”

“

The rising far-right movements and similar movements in Europe threaten our shared democratic values. In the same vein, the rising terrorist wave to the south of our country, perpetrated by terrorist organizations such as Daesh, the PKK, and PYD also threaten our common values, territory of Europe, European security, and European values seem to have gotten stuck in brackets. As with the migrant issue, a rapprochement between Turkey and the European Union and the building of closer links will break those brackets and change this vicious circle.

*Visit to Greece-Press Conference
Date: 03/11/2016, 11:10*

”

“

Nazis were amateurs compared to the FETÖ terrorist organization. They would be elementary school students compared to FETÖ. This is an organization that massacred its own people with fighter jets, tanks, battleships, and helicopters. Nobody should think that we will back down from fighting against them.

*Press Conference following a Working
Breakfast with EU Ambassadors in Ankara
Date: 07/11/2016, 11:58*

”





“

The fight against the FETÖ terrorist organization is not merely a political decision of our Government. It is an existential decision for our country, for our state. It is out of the question to give up on that resolve.

*Press Conference on the Turkey
Progress Report by the European Commission
Date: 09/11/2016, 16:09*

”

“

We are fighting against a structure that wishes to build an autocratic regime and abolish the secular, democratic legal order in Turkey for the sake of a deviant religious belief.

*Press Conference on the Turkey
Progress Report by the European Commission
Date: 09/11/2016, 16:09*

”

“

The FETÖ terrorist organization expresses hostility to democracy, society and state institutions. Hence, we do not accept the claim that this is turning into an investigation of legitimate personalities as judges, academics and journalists. This terrorist organization is the author of atrocities that are inimical to humanity and to the nation, and which would even outdistance the Nazis in European history.

*Press Conference on the Turkey
Progress Report by the European Commission
Date: 09/11/2016, 16:09*

”



“

There is sympathy in some parts of Europe for members of the PKK terrorist organization. In reality, there is no difference between Daesh and the PKK. Some terrorists, while they are members of Daesh, may act like PKK members and some PKK terrorists may act like Daesh members to conceal their own identity. We see the emergence of a more hybrid definition of terrorism and terrorist methods. In this respect, we are advancing through a period during which new dangers arise for those that make distinctions between terrorist organizations or terrorists. We must have more intense cooperation in this regard.

Visit to Belgium-Press Conference
Date: 30/11/2016, 18:35

”

“

The world is about to create in Syria an Afghanistan that is ten times as dangerous as the old Afghanistan. Firstly, and strangely, many countries that fought in the First and Second World Wars have military presence in Syria and Iraq; but this is not for the future of the Syrian people. They are doing this in order to undermine each other's positions by way of proxy wars.

Bloomberg HT Special Interview
Date: 13/12/2016, 14:11

”

“

The main point regarding Daesh is that its ideology must be fought and its attraction must be undone. When Western states say this about Daesh, Daesh can easily place this in a distorted Crusaders-Islam conceptualization. But when a Muslim country such as Turkey says this, this is the greatest blow to Daesh's ideology.

Bloomberg HT Special Interview
Date: 13/12/2016, 14:11

”



“

Identity politics does not do any good for any democracy. And if identity politics has built a subtle relationship with terrorism and is employed in a way to legitimize a terrorist organization, that would mean disaster for a country's democracy.

Speech Made during the Plenary Session of the TGNA on the 2017 Budget for the Ministry for EU Affairs-Date: 13/12/2016

”

“

The fight against terrorism cannot solely be conducted with rhetoric; it requires action. We are awaiting these actions. This action can only be put into practice with Turkey, which has historical experience in protecting democracy, the democracy-security balance, and the freedom-security balance while fighting terrorism.

Visit to Germany- Press Conference following the Meeting Organized by Körber Foundation-Date: 14/12/2016, 18:04

”

“

The understanding of Islam in Turkey is always peaceful as expressed by Rumi and Yunus Emre. Turkey has an understanding of Islam that does not allow the ideologies of such organizations as Al-Qaeda and Daesh to flourish.

Visit to Germany- Press Conference following the Meeting Organized by Körber Foundation-Date: 14/12/2016, 18:04

”



“

While 65 countries cannot effectively fight against Daesh, thanks to Turkey's initiative, for the first time, NATO borders are cleared of the terrorist organization; this also means that the natural borders of Europe are rid of this terrorist organization as well.

Visit to Germany-Meeting with Turkish and German Businessmen-Date: 15/12/2016, 12:43

”

“

Far-right movements and anti-migrant and anti-refugee movements are on the rise in Europe. In the face of all these, we have to think together about the future of Europe and develop new policies for our common future. We believe that we must work together, not only for the management of the refugee issue, but for the fight against terrorist organizations such as Daesh and Al-Qaeda and others, and also for the advancement of a Europe, based on values and protected from far-right racist movements.

Visit to Germany-Meeting with Turkish and German Businessmen-Date: 15/12/2016, 12:43

”



CNN
TÜRK



“

When Daesh conducts a terrorist attack in Turkey, we receive very strong messages of alliance from our allies and friends but we do not see enough support when the PKK conducts a terrorist attack. This is a clear picture. A picture of double standards.

CNN Türk Special Interview
Date: 04/01/2017, 12:07

”

“

Turkey has a 1295 kilometre-long border with Iraq and Syria. Imagine Germany, the United Kingdom or France having that kind of border; imagine the measures that would have been taken.

CNN Türk Special Interview
Date: 04/01/2017, 12:07

”

“

As in the past, today, and since the time we were first faced with the phenomenon of global terrorism, unfortunately global terrorism has not been able to live without the patronage of states. Sometimes states turn a blind eye on such organizations or sometimes this patronage occurs in other ways.

CNN Türk Special Interview
Date: 04/01/2017, 12:07

”

“

Today, Turkey is fighting terror along its 1295 kilometre-long border with Iraq and Syria. Without a doubt, Turkey's fight against terror is to protect the borders and security of the Republic of Turkey. However, it must not be forgotten that the fight Turkey is conducting also protects the security of the borders of Europe and NATO.

*Joint Press Conference with Finnish Foreign Affairs Minister
Timo Soini-Date: 11/01/2017*

”

“

We do not accept a hierarchization or categorization of terrorist organizations. We believe that the West must assume the attitude that they take against Da'esh against the PKK and the FETÖ terrorist organizations as well.

A Haber Special Interview-Date: 09/02/2017, 12:05

”

“

Involved in accession negotiations, Turkey has a special relationship with the European Union. In the framework of that special relationship, the EU could have supported Turkey in the fight against Da'esh in Syria, thereby becoming part of that picture, but they have not done that. Thus, such a major union, a huge union which is economically colossal, is putting on a minor performance in terms of foreign policy.

*Press Conference at the Paris Embassy Residence
Date: 10/02/2017*

”

“

Where is the European Union in the fight against Da'esh? They are hard to come by. You need a magnifying glass to find them in the fight against Da'esh. But in their rhetoric, they say night and day that they are fighting Da'esh.

*Press Conference at the Paris Embassy Residence
Date: 10/02/2017*

”

“

Turkey's fight against terror is a struggle the price of which has been paid, is paid, and will continue to be paid. Nobody else pays as high a price as Turkey when it comes to fighting terrorism.

*Press Conference at the Paris
Embassy Residence
Date: 10/02/2017*

”





“

As a European democracy, a European state, with its outstanding performance in the fight against terrorism, Turkey not only ensures its own national security but also directly contributes to European security.

A Haber Special Interview-Date: 26/04/2017, 10:02

”

“

Especially in the last 10 or 15 years, the most prominent notion has been fighting terrorism together and waging a global fight against terrorism. We have witnessed that making distinctions between terrorist organizations, or the fact that while fighting terrorist organizations that threaten them, some states remaining silent about the terrorist organizations that threaten their allies has dire consequences. But now, the situation is even worse. We now see attitudes that are beyond remaining quiet; there are efforts to arm terrorist organizations, which undermines the notion of alliance.

NTV Special Interview-Date: 11/05/2017, 16:14

”

“

Turkey's fight against terrorism does not only ensure Turkey's security but also Europe's. Moreover, Turkey represents a rare case in which the European Convention on Human Rights is still in force and freedoms are not restricted despite the continuing fight against terrorism.

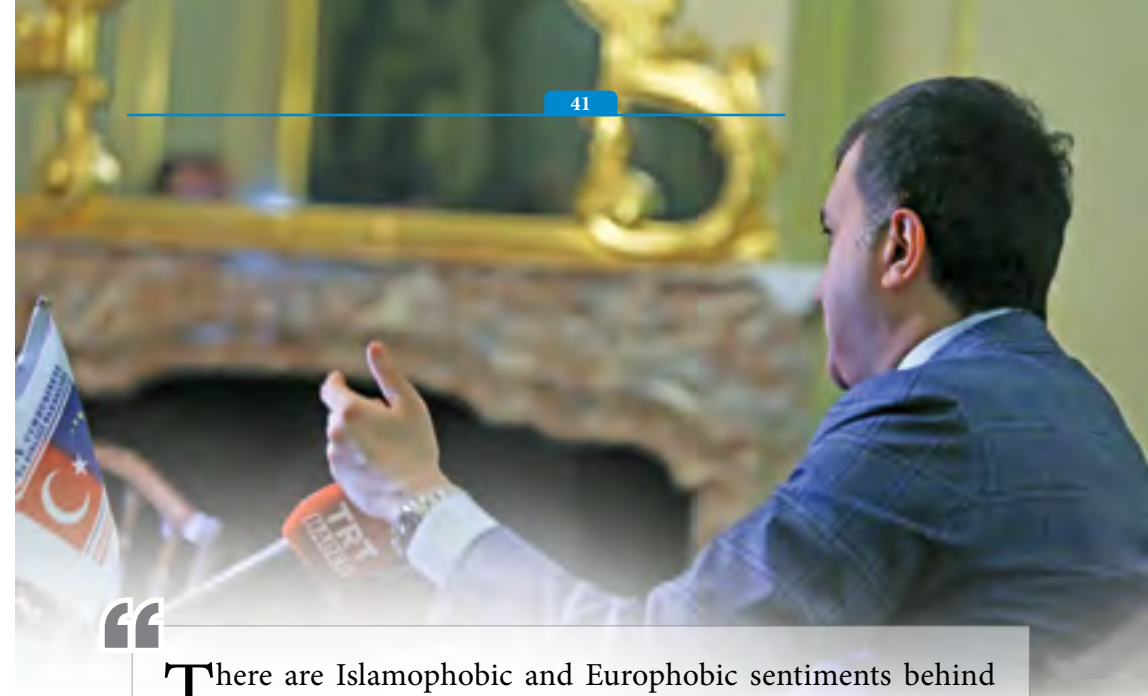
Joint Press Conference with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjorn Jagland- Date: 11/05/2017

”



EXTREMIST MOVEMENTS





“

There are Islamophobic and Europhobic sentiments behind many of the anti-Turkish actions in Europe.

*Visit to the Netherlands-Press Conference
Date: 10/06/2016, 13:18*

”

“

Those who promote Islamophobia also trigger Erdoğan-phobia and at the bottom of this lies Europhobia. An issue that we have to take into consideration to protect regional peace and European democracy is the fight against Islamophobia.

*Visit to the Netherlands-Press Conference
Date: 10/06/2016, 13:18*

”

“

Behind the campaigns against our President, which we might call black propaganda, lies a single package containing antagonism towards Turkey, Turkey-phobia, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and xenophobia. And when you open that package, what you find is Europhobia; therefore, in its essence, this is hostility directed against European values.

*Visit to the Netherlands-Press Conference
Date: 10/06/2016, 13:18*

”



“

Those that create Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and xenophobia are the same elements in the far-right. However, when you pull up all the veils and look into the depths, you see that these are in fact Europhobic elements that are hostile towards Europe.

Visit to Slovakia-Press Conference
Date: 14/06/2016, 16:14

”

“

We need to separate criticism of Turkey and antagonism from one another. Any country can be criticized. Criticism is normal in a democratic, international order. But now, antagonism against Turkey is utilized as a cover for Islamophobia. It is used as a cover for such crimes against humanity as Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and xenophobia.

Visit to Slovakia-Press Conference
Date: 14/06/2016, 16:14

”

“

Those who march for antagonism towards Turkey by wrapping this concept around Islamophobia and anti-Semitism are in fact turning this into political ground for Europhobia. Any support granted to this movement by mainstream politicians without taking into consideration the sensitivities related to this issue, or any approach that prefers to turn a blind eye on this or allows this to happen due to domestic political considerations cause the far-right to gain even more power in their own countries and the values of the European Union to weaken.

Joint Press Conference with Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Paolo Gentiloni-Date: 21/06/2016, 19:43

”

“

When we lift the veil of antagonism towards Turkey, we find Islamophobia underneath, and underneath Islamophobia is anti-Semitism, and underneath that is Europhobia. Thus, the people who are involved in this are not Europhiles. On the contrary, they are those that have a hostile attitude towards the fundamental values of the European Union.

Joint Press Conference with Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Paolo Gentiloni-Date: 21/06/2016, 19:43

”





“

Criticism of Turkey and antagonism towards Turkey, or ‘Turkey-phobia’ as I call it, are two different things; we have to speak whilst being aware of the distinction between them. If that distinction cannot be made, and if the mainstream movements drift from criticism of Turkey to antagonism towards Turkey, this will not bode well for Europe.

Kanal 24 Special Interview-Date: 22/06/2016, 15:07

”

“

Rather than resisting the Turkey-phobic, Islamophobic and anti-Semitic attitudes of the far-right, mainstream politicians are trying to tolerate the discourse employed by these extremist groups. What happens as a result? Because mainstream movements simply try to tolerate or handle such far-right discourse, because they do not respond strongly to them, far-right movements continuously gain even more power. They are able to do that because, in this way, they pull mainstream politicians into their own sphere and they take hold of the backbone of political discourse.

Kanal 24 Special Interview-Date: 22/06/2016, 15:07

”

“

Believing that ‘one can safeguard European values and keep the European Union together through Turkey-phobia’ resembles a computer with no software inside; hardware without software. That does not work. That means you have excluded the fundamental values, the fundamental software from the system.

TRT Haber Special Interview-Date: 22/06/2016, 16:11

”



“

People who are promoting antagonism towards Turkey or Islamophobia are not doing this because they are Europhiles. They are doing it because they are against the values of the European Union. If Islam and Turkey were not the topic of the day in Europe, then there would be hate speech directed at other races and other elements within Europe.

TRT Haber Special Interview-Date: 22/06/2016, 16:11

”

“

Just as we feel a responsibility to fight terrorist organizations like Daesh in our region, we will also continue to fight the far-right, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and Turkey-phobia, which are placed at the centre of these issues. This fight is for the future of the region, continent and the world.

Press Conference on Current Issues at the Ministry for EU Affairs-Date: 24/06/2016, 15:06

”

“

If, in the face of extremist movements, mainstream movements do not react with common sense and do not adopt a reasonable approach, then this means that extremist movements become part of the mainstream discourse; which signals the end of the European project.

Press Conference on Current Issues at the Ministry for EU Affairs-Date: 24/06/2016, 15:06

”



“

Those who oppose President Erdoğan know very well that the most historical and revolutionary steps and the most important reforms that brought Turkey closer to the European Union were made under his leadership, especially during his term as Prime Minister; and now these steps are taken under his auspices. The reason why they still promote this antagonism is because they cannot resist Islamophobic arguments. They cannot see that behind this, an anti-Semitic wave is on the rise, going hand in hand with Islamophobia. They are tolerating the xenophobic political movements behind it. Moreover, they are reserved in terms of confronting and responding to Europhobic groups.

Press Conference on Current Issues at the Ministry for EU Affairs-Date: 24/06/2016, 15:06

”

“

Turkey-phobia is in its essence Europhobia. Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and antagonism towards the European Union are in fact different expressions of the same distorted mentality.

Visit to Belgium- Opening of Chapter 33 on Financial and Budgetary Provisions Date: 30/06/2016, 11:36

”



“

Throughout the history of the Republic of Turkey, the greatest momentum in terms of accession to the European Union and the launch of the accession negotiations, among many other developments, took place under the leadership of our President.

Anadolu Agency Editorial Desk-Date: 31/08/2016, 10:13

”

“

There exists a political matryoshka doll. I feel I must warn you about the future of Europe within the framework of the European vision. The outmost part of this matryoshka doll is Erdoğan-phobia; hostility directed against Erdoğan, antagonism towards Erdoğan. Everybody is focused on that; it is as though you could not talk without making some remark about opposing Erdoğan. But, let us continue, when we lift the first matryoshka doll, there appears Turkey-phobia underneath it. Promoting antagonism against Turkey is in fact helping the far-right within your own countries rise up. When you lift that, there appears Islamophobia. Under Islamophobia, you find anti-Semitism, and then racism. When you reach the innermost doll, you find Europhobia at the root. Therefore, Erdoğan-phobes, Turkey-phobes, Islamophobes and anti-Semites are not Europhiles but rather they are opposed to Europe. Although you are EU leaders, you are still lured into this narrative and eventually it is the far-right that profits from this; you should not do this.

Anadolu Agency Editorial Desk-Date: 31/08/2016, 10:13

”

“

You cannot deal with any sort of extremism by giving credit to it; you cannot weaken any extremism by giving credit to it. Giving it credit would definitely strengthen extremism. You need to judge this very carefully; this is what happened with Brexit.

Anadolu Agency Editorial Desk-Date: 31/08/2016, 10:13

”



I believe it is important that we take a clearer stand against the racist attitudes that threaten the values we share such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Visit to Greece-Press Conference-Date: 03/11/2016, 11:10



The racist movements, Islamophobic movements and xenophobic movements that are on the rise in Europe are dangerous for our common future. We have to fight them together. We have to be more persistent in protecting our common values, our democratic values.

Joint Press Conference with Greek Acting Foreign Affairs Minister for the EU Nikos Xydakis-Date: 03/11/2016, 15:11



We see it very clearly that whenever Turkey-phobia is employed in any election anywhere in Europe, the mainstream politicians lose the balance to far-right parties, and after a while they leave power. The same thing happened in Britain. We saw the rise of far-right parties in the local elections in Germany; and we can also see the same in France, the Netherlands, and Austria. This is something we have to watch very carefully.

Press Conference following a Working Breakfast with EU Ambassadors in Ankara- Date: 07/11/2016, 11:58



“

The discourse used against Turkey is unacceptable. In addition to being a Balkan state, Asian state, Mediterranean and Black Sea state, and a Middle-East state throughout its history, Turkey has also always been a strong European state and has been a strong European democracy for a hundred years. The acumen displayed by the Turkish people during the July 15 coup attempt is an example to be modelled by all the democracies in the world.

Visit to Belgium-Press Conference-Date: 15/11/2016, 17:31

”



“

As the fall of the Berlin Wall was a positive milestone in the past, today, the rise of the far-right and populist nationalism is a negative one. Tens of Berlin Walls are being built in Europe at the moment. To prevent this, we will warn the European people.

TV Net Special Interview-Date: 29/11/2016, 20:29

”

“

It is doubtless that the rise of the far-right, Islamophobic and Turkey-phobic racist movements in Europe restricts the mainstream politicians' room for manoeuvre.

A Haber Special Interview-Date: 29/11/2016, 16:11

”

“

Europe's drift into the far-right orbit goes against our interests and the values we defend.

A Haber Special Interview-Date: 29/11/2016, 16:11

”



“

It is not only Turkey-phobia that is on the rise, but antagonism towards such values as democracy and the rule of law in Europe is on the rise too. Indeed, there is a growing antagonism towards the United States as well. Therefore, in a way, we are now witnessing a process that is leading us towards the end of the concept of the West that was forged in the minds of the people after the Second World War.

Bloomberg HT Special Interview-Date: 13/12/2016, 14:11

”

“

There exists in Europe a politics of hate against migrants, refugees and Muslims. This is racism and sometimes escalates to violence. These politics of hatred will not be confined to Muslims, Turkey and migrants. When it finds the right ground, these politics of hate will take to the stage to resurrect the pain carved into the European memory during the Second World War. Thus, no-body should think that when they, in calculation of their own short-term interests, allow politics of hate against Turkey or Muslims or migrants to take place, that it is going to end there. It is sure to threaten, very soon, the European continent, the political structures in Europe, and the political map of Europe.

TRT Türk Special Interview-Date: 14/12/2016, 18:04

”

“

We want the European project to gain strength around democratic values, prosperity and peace. However, a Europe where the movements threatening this project, where far-right and racist movements are becoming stronger, is a cause for concern for all of us. For example, we are worried about such a European project that is entertained by Geert Wilders' party in the Netherlands, or the Golden Dawn Party or the Five-Star Movement, or the Pegida movement. We also find this worrying for our European friends and allies.

*Visit to Germany-Meeting with Turkish and German Academics
Date: 15/12/2016*

”





“

If a Europe will emerge, in which the far-right and racism have risen, if it is going to be a Europe such as the one envisaged by Nicolas Sarkozy, then we would not want to be a member of such a European Union. And we would not want our European friends to be confronted with such a picture.

Visit to Germany- Meeting with Turkish and German Businessmen-Date: 15/12/2016, 12:43

”

“

The existence of far-right and racist movements which are on the rise in Europe continues to be a threat for all of us.

Visit to Germany-Visit to the Berlin Office of the Union of European Turkish Democrats-Date: 16/12/2016

”



“

We have to be very careful to ensure that Islamophobic, anti-Semitic and anti-migrant movements do not take hold of the European continent.

Joint Press Conference with Finnish Foreign Affairs Minister Timo Soini-Date: 11/01/2017

”





“

We regret to see that Muslims in Europe are being discriminated against in social life and are subjected to verbal and physical attacks. This radicalization trend against Muslims is shifting towards the centre of politics day by day. This increases marginalization and radicalization, providing more space for terrorist organizations like Daesh to act.

Speech Made at the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI)- Date: 09/02/2017

”

“

The economic crisis, migrant crisis and security crisis we have been facing since 2008 have functioned as a catalyst for the rise of populism, far-right, xenophobia and Islamophobia in Europe. These developments have weakened the soft power that the European Union was effectively utilizing.

Speech Made at the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI)- Date: 09/02/2017

”

“

So long as Islam is not regarded as a natural part of Europe, an effective, integration-based solution to radicalization, xenophobia and many other extremist movements will not be found.

Speech Made at the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI)- Date: 09/02/2017

”

“

The fall of the Berlin Wall is a milestone in European history. But today far-right movements, racists and fascists are building new Berlin Walls in Europe.

Speech Made at the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI)- Date: 09/02/2017

”

“

The politicians promoting Turkey-phobia are confronted with political problems because they are not able to see the Islamophobic, anti-Semitic and Europhobic hostility to European Union values, human rights, democracy and the rule of law promoted by far-right politicians. This is concealed behind Turkey-phobia, and the poisonous effect this has over European public opinion is clear.

*Press Conference at the Paris Embassy Residence
Date: 10/02/2017*

”



“

In the face of this situation, everybody has to do some soul-searching. How have the racist, far-right anti-refugee movements been able to rise this much? It is clear what the causes are. While these groups were engaged in anti-Turkey discourse, centre-right and centre-left movements did not resist them. Most important of all, they did not put up serious resistance in opposition to hostilities towards refugees.

*Press Conference at the Paris Embassy Residence
Date: 10/02/2017*

”

“

There is no difference between the radicalism that terrorist organizations like Daesh generates to the south of the country and the radicalism that the far-right generates to the north of our country, in Europe. Everybody will have to face the painful consequences of this and measures have to be taken against them.

Anadolu Ajansı Editör Masası-Tarih: 08/03/2017

”

“

Globalization envisages a world that is more easily managed and where peace can be provided more readily because people get to know one another, communicate more with another, and understand each other better. If people are trapped by their national identity and ethnic identity, then the micro-nationalisms that this would create would pose even more substantial dangers to the world.

Anadolu Agency Editorial Desk-Date: 08/03/2017

”

“

Some of Turkey's rivals want to see the crises happening during the process of Turkey's accession to the European Union lead to a rupture. We are aware that the far-right movements and racists within Europe want to turn the crises we experience with Europe to a disruption in relations. Therefore, we have to be extremely careful so as not to let these crises turn into ruptures in favour of the far-right, racist and neo-fascist movements in Europe.

*Meeting with the Ankara Correspondents of Media Outlets
Date: 13/03/2017*

”





“ If you use the far-right discourse to fight the far-right, that will only lead to a rise of the far-right. ”

*Meeting with the Ankara Correspondents of Media Outlets
Date: 13/03/2017*

“ Those who have not taken a stand against Islamophobia will see tomorrow that the far-right movements and racists within Europe will take over the whole political sphere and will take hard-earned freedoms back. ”

*Meeting with the Ankara Correspondents of Media Outlets
Date: 13/03/2017*

“ The migrant crisis is an important factor in the rise of Islamophobia. The fact that the majority of the people arriving in Europe or who are likely to migrate to Europe are mostly Muslims has created the perception in the ordinary European’s mind that Europe will be invaded by Muslims, and this has fuelled the fire of Islamophobia. ”

Speech at the SETA Foundation in Ankara-Date: 31/03/2017

“ Those who pronounce the words Islam and terrorism together are in fact playing into the hands of Al-Qaeda and Daesh in terms of ideology and are enabling them to make huge gains, because mentioning a religion together with terrorism means you are providing ideological fuel to those who exploit the religion and conduct terrorist attacks. ”

Speech at the SETA Foundation in Ankara-Date: 31/03/2017



“ This approach that associates radicalization with Muslims leads to Muslims being subjected to more discrimination and isolation, and triggers a radicalization process in Muslim youth and Islamophobes by deepening the divide between ‘us and them’. ”

Speech at the SETA Foundation in Ankara-Date: 31/03/2017

“ The racist and fascist political movements in Europe and movements like the terrorist organization Daesh are political twins. When one rises, so does the other; and they owe to each other their existence. ”

Speech at the SETA Foundation in Ankara-Date: 31/03/2017

“ The judgments made by the Court of Justice of the European Union will have a direct effect on the careers and work lives of Muslim women wearing headscarves who work in EU Member States. When it is a woman in question, there is double racism involved. First, because she is a Muslim, and second because she is a woman; a Muslim woman is subjected to such a threat. ”

Speech at the SETA Foundation in Ankara-Date: 31/03/2017

“ Whether they acknowledge it or not, those who regard Islam as a sub-culture and support ‘taming’ Muslims are behaving in a culturally racist way. ”

Speech at the SETA Foundation in Ankara-Date: 31/03/2017



“

We constantly emphasize the dangers of an Islamophobic discourse based on discrimination dominating mainstream politics in Europe. This judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union justifies, through legal means, this discourse in work life and drags Europe into a very dangerous path. In other words, it gives legal ground for Islamophobia.

Speech at the SETA Foundation in Ankara-Date: 31/03/2017

”

“

We make the same call upon Europe's progressives, Europe's real democrats, to those who remain loyal to the founding values of the European Union: we need to fight Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and hostility to migrants together so as to genuinely protect this pluralism.

Speech at the SETA Foundation in Ankara-Date: 31/03/2017

”

“

As Turkey, we are trying to accede to a union that is not dominated by the far-right discourse and where diversity, democracy and human rights are upheld. A European Union project in which democracy, human rights and diversity are upheld is a strategic goal for Turkey. However, a European Union that does not protect these values and that is sliding into this racist wave is not an option for Turkey.

Speech at the SETA Foundation in Ankara-Date: 31/03/2017

”



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY FOR EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

Mustafa Kemal Mahallesi 2082. Cad.
No: 4 06530 100.Yıl Çankaya / Ankara - TURKEY
Phone : +90 312 218 13 00
Fax : +90 312 218 14 64



/ABBakanligi

www.ab.gov.tr