



20th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "THE EUROPEAN UNION, TURKEY, THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE KURDS"

Brussels, European Parliament
Wednesday 14th October 2026 17.00 - 19.00
Thursday 15th October 2026 09.30 - 18.30

PATRONS

SHIRIN EBADI

Human Rights Lawyer
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Iran

BIANCA JAGGER

Council of Europe Goodwill Ambassador
Chair of the Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation, UK

LEYLA ZANA

European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought,
Rafto Prize Laureate, Turkey

The EUTCC commemorates with gratitude and respect the deceased patrons Archbishop Desmond Tutu, playwright Harold Pinter, and screenwriter and playwright Vedat Turkali.

IMPORTANT TECHNICAL INFORMATION
"HOW TO PARTICIPATE AND ENTER THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT"

An official "European Parliament personal badge/pass" will be available for all ALREADY REGISTERED participants to the Conference.

Your "personal badge / pass" will be available at the main entrance of the European Parliament (Place de Luxembourg - main European Parliament's building "Altiero Spinelli")

- Wednesday 14th October 2026, 16.00 - 16.30**
- Thursday 15th October 2026, 08.00 - 08.30**

All participants must take care of their own "EP badge / pass" during both days; if someone lose the "pass / badge", it will be impossible for the conference's organizers to replace it, according to the E.P. internal rules.

For any additional information, please contact the conference's secretariat:
brusselsconferenceep@gmail.com

Wednesday, 14th October, 17.00-19.00
RECEPTION, ASP 00 G LE GRAND CAFE SPINELLI

Opening Speeches

- Ms. Kariane Westrheim, Chair of EUTCC, University of Bergen, Norway
- Mr. Martin Schirdewan, MEP, Co-Chair, The Left, Germany
- Mr. Andreas Schieder, MEP, Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, Austria

Thursday, 15th October 2026, 09.30-10.30

Opening session

Interpretation in
English, Farsi and Turkish

- Ms. Kariane Westrheim, Chair of EUTCC, University of Bergen, Norway
- Ms. Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, UK
- Ms. Leyla Zana, European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, Turkey
- Mr. Doğu Ergil, Ankara University, Turkey
- Ms. Manon Aubry, MEP, Co-Chair The Left, France *tbc*
- Mr. Leoluca Orlando, MEP, The Greens/EFA, Italy *tbc*
- Ms. Evin Incir, MEP, Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, Sweden

Two decades of dialogue and controversy: The EUTCC conferences in the context of European and Middle Eastern developments

- Prof. Joost Jongerden, Wageningen University, Netherlands

Questions and Discussion with Moderators and Speakers

Thursday, 15th October 2026, 10.30-13.00

Panel I – Room

Turkey between the peace process and a democratisation crisis: prospects for dialogue, the rule of law and political participation

Moderator: Ms. Dilek Odabaşı, journalist, Turkey

Interpretation in
English, Turkish

- Ms. Pervin Buldan, DEM Party MP, member of the Imrali delegation, Turkey
- Mr. Mehmet Emin Ekmen, DEVA MP, Turkey
- Mr. Okan Konuralp, Yeni Party MP, Turkey
- Mr. Oğuz Kaan Salıcı, CHP MP, Turkey

Questions and Discussion with Moderators and Speakers

Thursday, 15th October 2026, 15.00-16.15

Panel II – Room

The European Union, Turkey and the Kurds: Between strategic partnership and democratic expectations

Moderator: Mr. Hişyar Özsoy, former HDP MP

Interpretation in
English, Turkish

- Ms. Li Anderson, MEP, The Left, Finland
- Mr. Thijs Reuten, MEP, Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, Netherlands *tbc*
- Ms. Eleonora Scala, International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, UK
- Ms. Raziye Öztürk, Asrın Law Office, Turkey

- Mr. Colin Starger, University of Baltimore, US ,

Questions and Discussion with Moderators and Speakers

Thursday, 15th October 2026, 16.15-17.45

Panel III – Room

Women Shaping the Future: Democratic Change, Kurdish Unity and Peace in the Middle East

Moderator: Ms. Arzu Yilmaz, political scientist, Turkey

Interpretation in
English, Turkish

- Ms. Atefeh Ramsari, University of Bielefeld, Germany
- Ms. Sebahat Tuncel, HDP former MP, Free Women's Movement, Turkey
- Ms. Asya Abdullah, PYD, Syria
- Ms. Özlem Alev Demirel, MEP, The Left, Germany *tbc*
- Ms. Hannah Neumann, MEP, The Greens/EFA, Germany *tbc*

Questions and Discussion with Moderators and Speakers

Thursday, 15th October 2026, 17.45-18.00

Closing Address

Interpretation in
English, Turkish

- Mr. Mehmet Gürses, Florida Atlantic University, US
- Mr. Amed Dicle, journalist, Belgium

Thursday, 15th October 2026, 18.00-18.30

Closing Session – Room

Conclusions, Recommendations and Final Resolution

Board of EUTCC

Interpretation in

English, Turkish