



Brussels, 23 April 2014

Štefan Füle
European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy
Rue de La Loi 200
B-1049 Brussel

Dear Commissioner Füle, Štefan,

Last week, the Turkish Parliament passed a law which gives new powers to the Turkish National Intelligence Organisation, Milli İstihbarat Teşkilatı or MIT. Under this legislation, the MIT is given the power to demand access to documents of government institutions and private companies, without a court order. Also, prosecutors seeking to investigate MIT would need permission from the organisation itself and journalists publishing classified documents could be given a jail sentence of up to twelve years. This expansion of MIT's power, combined with seriously reduced accountability is a very worrying development, especially when seen in the context of the current political climate of deep division and crisis in Turkey and the run-up to the presidential elections in August.

The MIT law has severe implications for the rule of law and the separation of powers in Turkey. Through Turkey's status as candidate member of the European Union, it has obligations to fulfil the Copenhagen Criteria, as set by the EU. My question is whether this new law is in line with the Copenhagen Criteria.

I look forward to receiving your answer.

Sincerely,

Marietje Schaake