

OPEN LETTER

To the kind attention of
the High Representative of the European Union
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
FEDERICA MOGHERINI

President Erdogan, with the pretext of the coup d'état, is erasing democratic Turkey. The authoritarian drift of the Ankara government is not going to go away: persecutions, violences, suppression of rights and freedoms -little respected even before, are affecting the Turkish and Kurdish people and particularly women, deprived of their autonomy and dignity.

President Erdogan, through systematic purges, is eliminating whatever place of critical ideas' production, in the schools, in the universities, in the media, in the judiciary. He is trying to wrap and harness in a leaden shroud a lively and open society. The state of emergency declaration and the suspension of the European Convention of Human Rights open the door to catastrophic scenarios. The restoration of the death penalty has been invoked.

In front of the erasing of the most basic democratic rights imposed by President Erdogan to his country, European governments and institutions unfortunately have not provided till now the strong and unequivocal signals we, as European citizens, would expect to see.

Once more Europe, because of its deafening silence, missed an opportunity to ensure its vision of a free and democratic society has a weight in the international relations. Overall, Europe it's dramatically proving to be under the blackmailing power of the Turkish government, and not just from today.

It is well known that the strategic position in the region allows Turkey to have an unacceptable blackmailing power toward Europe, in the fields of migration flows management as well of energy supply - strengthened in recent time because of the smuggling of Iraqi oil managed by ISIS.

No "state reason", no economic partnership can make acceptable what President Erdogan is doing, by using indiscriminate purges and arrests.

We ask you to take in account these worries and to take all the possible measures to prevent President Erdogan from accomplish his authoritarian plan, by immediately suspending the European Union integration process of Turkey as well as the agreement on migration.

The democratic way by which President Erdogan has been elected cannot be used as a justification: already in the twentieth century similar mix-up opened the door to the most brutal dictatorships.

On our side, we commit ourselves to promote, in Italy and in Europe, solidarity with the Turkish people and to organize a European initiative in order to bring the European Union institutions to account their actions to prevent Erdogan to erase democratic Turkey, and to provide voice to the Europe of peoples we want.