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[Event](#) | 05.02.2020 | 14:30 - 06.02.2020 | 17:00

**The European Union, Turkey, the Middle East and the Kurds  
16th International Conference, supported by G/EFA, GUE/NGL, S&D**

**Brussels, The European Parliament**

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of February – 14:30 – 18:30**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of February – 09:30 – 17:00**

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**ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS DESMOND TUTU**

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, South Africa

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the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the USA

**LEYLA ZANA**

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

*Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of February, 13:00 – 14:00*

*Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of February, 08:00 – 09:00*

**Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2020, 14:30-15:30**

**The Opening Session, Room ASP 1G2 (Spinelli Building)**

Interpretation in

Kurdish, Turkish, French, English, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Greek

## **The Opening Speeches and Greetings**

- Ms. Kariane Westrheim, Chair of the EUTCC, University of Bergen, Norway
- Mr. Nikolaj Villumsen, MEP, The European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL), Denmark
- Mr. Andreas Schieder, MEP, The Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), Austria
- Mr. François Alfonsi, MEP, The Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA), France
- Mr. Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Vice-President of The European Parliament, Greece

**Wednesday, 05<sup>th</sup> of February 2020, 15:30-17:00**

Panel I – Room ASP 1G2, Altiero Spinelli Building (ASP)

### **Oppression and Resistance in Turkey**

**Moderator:** Mr. Joost Jongredon, University of Wageningen, EUTCC board member, The Netherlands

Interpretation in

Kurdish, Turkish, French, English, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Greek

Mr. Benoit Biteau, MEP, The Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA), France

### **The Centre of Power and The Opposition in Turkey**

- Mr. Yildirim Kaya, MP, The Republican People's Party (CHP), Turkey - *tbc*

### **Opposition Between Unity and Division**

- Mr. Cihangir Islam, MP, The Felicity Party (SP), Turkey

### **Turkey 2023: Dictatorship vs. Democracy**

- Ms. Gülistan Koçyiğit, MP, The Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), Turkey

## Questions and Discussion with the Audience

**Wednesday, 05<sup>th</sup> of February 2020, 17:00-18:30**

Panel II – Room ASP 1G2, Altiero Spinelli Building (ASP)

### **The EU - Turkey Relationship: Accession Talks, Refugee Crisis and The Kurds**

**Moderator:** Mr. Cengiz Aktar, Political Scientist

Interpretation in

Kurdish, Turkish, French, English, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Greek

#### **The Refugee Crisis and Europe's Response**

- Ms. Tineke Strik, MEP, The Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA), The Netherlands

#### **Accession talks - (Never) Ending Story?!**

- Mr. Udo Bullmann, MEP, The Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), Germany  
- *tbc*

#### **The Kurdish Question and Europe: Criminalization vs. Responsibility for Peace Building**

- Mr. Jan Fermon, Lawyer, Belgium

#### **Key Point Imrali: The Power of Freedom**

- Ms. Newroz Uysal, Lawyer, The Asrın Law Office, Turkey

**Thursday, 06<sup>th</sup> of February 2020, 09:30-10:30**

Panel III – Room ASP 1G2, Altiero Spinelli Building (ASP)

**The Middle East in The Context of Turkey's Invasion of North-East Syria / Rojava**

**Moderator:** Ms. Evin Incir, MEP, The Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), Sweden

Interpretation in

Kurdish, Turkish, French, English, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Greek

**Turkish Invasion of North-East Syria / Rojava**

- Ms. Leila Chaibi, MEP, The European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL), France

**On the Trials of Ottoman Empire: Turkey's Striving for Great Power**

- Mr. Gamal Soltan, The Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, Egypt

**The Kurds: The Gordian Knot or The Central Key**

- Mr. Søren Søndergaard, MP, Enhedslisten - The Red-Green Alliance, Denmark

**Turkey's Constitutional Genocide of the Kurds and Other Non-Turkish Ethnicities**

- Mr. Kirmanc Gundi, Tennessee State University, The USA

**Post-ISIS: Lines of Conflict with Ethnic and Denominational Impacts**

- Mr. Ferda Çetin, Journalist, Belgium

**Questions and Discussion with the Audience**

**Thursday, 06<sup>th</sup> of February 2020, 11:00-12:00**

Panel IV – Room ASP 1G2, Altiero Spinelli Building (ASP)

**The Turkish Invasion of Rojava and its Impact on Women and Gender Equality**

**Moderator:** Ms. Maria Eugenia Rodríguez Palop, MEP, The European United Left/Nordic Green Left

(GUE/NGL), Spain

Interpretation in

Kurdish, Turkish, French, English, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Greek

### **Interview with Representatives of the Democratic Federation of North-East Syria / Rojava**

- Ms. Siham Kirio, Co-Chair of the Legislative Council of the Self-Administration of North-East Syria
- Ms. Perwin Yusuf, Co-Chair of the Council of the Qamişlo Canton
- Ms. Cihan Hidro, The Executive Committee of Women of the Self-Administration of North-East Syria.

**Thursday, 06<sup>th</sup> of February 2020, 12:00-13:00**

Panel V – Room ASP 1G2, Altiero Spinelli Building (ASP)

**Europe and the Middle East: Self-Interest vs. Democracy**

**Moderator:** Mr. Jürgen Klute, Former MEP, Germany

Interpretation in

Kurdish, Turkish, French, English, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Greek

### **European Perspectives on The Complexity of The Middle East**

- Mr. Brando Benifei, MEP, The Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), Italy

### **Europe and The Kurdish Battle**

- Mr. Thomas Schmidinger, Political Scientist, University of Vienna, Austria

## **Transformation Process from The Kurdish Perspective in The Context of Democracy, Ecology and Gender Equality**

- Ms. Dersim Dağdeviren, KURD-AKAD, EUTCC Board Member, Germany

### **Questions and Discussion with the Audience**

**Thursday, 06<sup>th</sup> of February, 15:00-16:00**

Panel VI – Room ASP 1E2, Altiero Spinelli Building (ASP)

**There Are Alternatives!**

**Moderator:** Mr. Wladimir van Wilgenburg, Journalist, The Netherlands

Interpretation in

Kurdish, Turkish, French and English

## **Democracy in War Time: How a Society Reorganises Itself and Offers Perspectives Beyond the Middle East**

- Ms. Nazan Üstündağ, Sociologist, Germany

## **The Rise of Kurdish Women and Their Battle Against Femicide**

- Ms. Aviva Stein, The New World Summit, The Netherlands

## **Rethinking Democracy: Kurdish Perspectives For 2023**

- Mr. Amed Dicle, Journalist, Belgium

## **Local Solutions to Global Challenges - Living International Solidarity**

- Mr. Juan Carlos Guerra Moldonado, Historian, Ecuador

### **Questions and Discussion with the Audience**

**Thursday, 06<sup>th</sup> of February 2020, 16:15-17:00**

The Closing Session – Room ASP 1E2, Altiero Spinelli Building (ASP)

**Conclusions, Recommendations and The Final Resolution**

Board of The EUTCC

Ms. Dersim Dağdeviren, Germany

Mr. Michael Gunter, US

Mr. Joost Jongerden, Netherlands

Mr. Thomas J. Miley, UK

Ms. Estella Schmid, UK

Ms. Kariane Westrheim, Norway

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**Responsible MEPs**



François Alfonsi

Member



Benoît Biteau

Member



Tineke Strik

Member

**Venue**

Room ASP 1G2, European Parliament, Brussels

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