



EUA Statement condemning the forced resignation of 1577 university deans

21/07/2016

19 July 2016 -- Following Friday's coup attempt in Turkey the education sector, including the higher education sector, has been targeted, as have many other public sectors.

15,200 education staff have been suspended while Turkey's Hurriyet reports that the Higher Education Council (YÖK) has ordered the resignation of all Deans from both Turkey's Public and foundation universities, 1176 from state universities and 401 from Foundation universities. EUA condemns strongly and unconditionally this action against universities and university staff, and expresses its heartfelt support for the higher education community in Turkey at this time.



While there has been global and unanimous support for the democratically elected government of Turkey in reaction to the military coup, the measures introduced to-day go in the wrong direction. More than ever Turkey needs freedom of speech, public and open debate, as advocated by its strong university sector, committed to internationally recognised university values, the principles of academic freedom, free expression and freedom of association.

EUA calls on all European governments, universities and scholars to speak out against these developments and to support democracy in Turkey, including institutional autonomy and academic freedom for scholars and students.