

## RESOLUTION

of the

Committee of the Regions

of 11 March 1999

on

**The arrest of Mr Öcalan and the need to find a political solution to the Kurdish problem**

### THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

**Encourages** the Turkish Government to work for a political solution to the Kurdish problem and calls on the PKK and the other Kurdish organizations to show respect for law and order;

**Trusts** that the Turkish Government will draw a distinction between cultural autonomy, to which the representatives of the local and regional authorities of the European Union are particularly attached, and separatism, which jeopardizes the unity of the Turkish State;

**Calls on** Turkey to implement the requisite socio-economic reforms to allow the Kurdish minority to express its cultural identity within the context of the Turkish State;

**Reminds** the Turkish authorities that all applicants for membership of the European Union must fulfil the criteria laid down by the Copenhagen Summit calling for stable institutions which guarantee democracy, the primacy of the law, human rights, respect for and the protection of minorities;

**Expects** the Turkish authorities to provide the requisite guarantees that **Mr Öcalan** will be treated humanely and will be given a fair trial in open court, in keeping with the international obligations to which Turkey has subscribed, inter alia, by virtue of its membership of the Council of Europe;

In this context, **invites** the Turkish authorities to make the appropriate arrangements to allow international observers to attend the trial and insists that **Mr Öcalan** be judged in open court, with the assistance of defence counsel of his own choice;

Absolutely **condemns** all acts of violence, hostage-taking and attacks on the embassies of EU Member States;

**Endorses** the Council Declaration of 22 February 1999 and the European Parliament Resolution of

25 February 1999.

Brussels, 11 March 1999.

The President

The Secretary-General

of the

of the

Committee of the Regions

Committee of the Regions

**Manfred Dammeyer**

**Dietrich Pause**

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