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**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY  
(PERMANENT COUNCIL, 14 FEBRUARY 2008)**

The conviction of seven members of the DHKP-C terrorist organization by the Belgian Brugges Court in November 2006, was overturned by the Belgian Higher Court on 19 April 2007. The members of the DHKP-C terrorist organization were retried in the Anvers Court of Appeals on 8 and 20 November 2007 for crimes committed in Belgium.

The Anvers Court of Appeals, by its decision of 7 February in this case, acquitted the accused of the charges of belonging to a terrorist organization or gang, convicted three of the terrorists for the crimes of forgery and possession of firearms, but deferred their sentences.

Among the convicted members of the terrorist organization, Fehriye Erdal is one of the perpetrators of the assassination carried out on 9 January 1996 which resulted in the murder of Özdemir Sabancı, a prominent Turkish businessman, and his co-workers.

DHKP-C terrorist organization directly targets the constitutional order and the democratic regime in Turkey.

It is the responsibility of all states, including Belgium, to fulfill their international commitments regarding the global fight against terrorism, first and foremost those stemming from the UN Security Council Resolutions 1373 and 1566.

We respect the principle of the independence of the judiciary. However, in this instance, the decision of the Anvers Court of Appeals illustrates that there is a gap between the international commitments that Belgium undertook and the corresponding national law in the same county.

We expect Belgium to take all necessary measures to put an end in her territory to the activities of DHKP-C which is also in the EU common list of terrorist organizations since 2002, and to ensure that its members will be punished by penalties consistent with the grave nature of their acts.