Distinguished Member of the Parliament,

I regretfully would like to inform that Turkey has faced an attempt of a bloody coup d’état on 15 July 2016.

During this coup attempt, which was initiated outside of chain of command of Turkish Armed Forces by a group of soldiers from various classes and ranks who are members of the Fethullah Gülen Terrorist Organization (FETÖ), villainous attacks were carried out on strategic locations in Ankara such as the Headquarter of the Turkish Armed Forces General Staff, premises of the General Command of Gendarmerie, the campus of the National Intelligence Organization, several buildings of the National Police, the Office of the Presidency and the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT).

Our President Mr. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN and our Prime Minister Mr. Binali YILDIRIM have called upon the Turkish Nation to convene at public squares in order to stand out against the coup plotters and to take possession of her state and democracy.

Throughout the night, our Nation, getting her hands on her country and her future with firm stance against the coup plotters, have written countless legends. Until the morning, our citizens who remained defiant against the traitors attempting the coup d’état, did not abandon their locations even though dozens of people beside them were injured and fell martyr due to gunshots. Fire was opened and bombs were dropped on the civilian population and the Grand National Assembly of Turkey from helicopters and civilian people were run over by tanks commanded by the group attempting the coup.

While the GNAT was being bombed, our Assembly, chaired by Mr. İsmail KAHRAMAN, the Speaker of the GNAT and a group of deputies, including myself, from the Justice and Development Party, the Republican People’s Party and the Nationalist Movement Party extraordinary conveyed by sole hearth and sole body with great courage and glorious presence and within the way of putting their stamps on history displayed resistance against the coup attempt. As can be seen within the attachment of this letter, all four parties (Justice and Development Party, Republican People’s Party, Nationalist Movement Party, Peoples’ Democratic Party) have come together on 16 July 2016 and signed a Joint Declaration. The resolve shown by the GNAT against this coup attempt is of great value to the further cementing and development of democracy in Turkey.
During these incidents 246 people fell martyr, 1537 people were injured, of whom 232 with badly wounded. It is worried for the number of the martyrs to increase.

The coup attempt was failed in the face of our nation’s taking possessions of her country and her will in a decided tone, and Chief of the General Staff’s, police organization’s and media’s firm stance against the coup attempt and the resolve of the state with its all institutions. While our whole nation continues to proceed their everyday life, every segment of the community is keeping the democracy watch at nights.

Upon these incidents, with the recommendation of the National Security Council and the decision of the Council of Ministers, both chaired by our President Mr. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN on 20 July 2016, a state of emergency has been declared. The state of emergency has been declared not to interrupt the democracy, on the contrary, it has been declared to further carry and develop the democracy. The long term state of emergency call which was declared following by the terrorist attacks in Europe has only been declared in Turkey for a duration of 3 months following the terrifying coup attempt which took place in the country-wide. With the declaration on the state of emergency the fundamental rights and freedoms in no wise will be interrupted, indeed it will be struggled to prevent the actions of the terrorist organization restricting the fundamental rights and freedoms. In short, the state of emergency has been declared in order to take necessary steps in a quick and efficient fashion to eliminate this threat against the democracy, rule of law, and rights and freedoms of our citizens in our country.

We condemn in the strongest terms the attempted coup d’etat against our democracy, our nation and the GNAT embodying the national will, and express our appreciation to all friendly countries which stood by Turkey and our beloved nation and conveyed messages of support in these difficult times. As the elected representatives of our nations and PABSEC members we wish to unite together against such attacks targeting our democracies.

Attached: Joint Declaration of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey dated 16 July 2016

(signed)
Ramazan CAN
MP from Kırıkkale
Head of the PABSEC Turkish Delegation