**TURKISH LAW PLATFORM**

**Discussion on the Decision of Europen Parliament on Daily Sabah newspaper**

**Press Release**

The Daily Sabah which is published within the Turkuvaz Media Group and distributed within the European Parliament (“EP”) only on Tuesdays has been prohibited by the EP with a scandalous ban.

While the EP expresses repeatedly that freedom of expression and free and independent media are the core values ​​of the European Union, it is a great contradiction that a Dutch EP member, Jeroen Lenaers, urges the EP to ban the distribution of the Daily Sabah and the EP accepts and acts in accordance with such request quickly. This incident is clear evidence that the EP’s belief in the European Union’s core values ​​is weak.

In its interpretation of Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (“ECHR”), the European Court of Human Rights (“Court”) has introduced a comprehensive case law, establishing a set of principles and rules that give the special status to the press in relation to the exercise of the rights and freedoms embodied in this article. The Court stressed in the Lingens case (1986) for the first time that the press was the guardian of political life. In this case the Court ruled, *“When the press is concerned, these principles are of particular importance. It is the duty of the press to disclose information and ideas in political matters, as well as in other areas related to public interest, although the press is obliged not to exceed the boundaries set out for the protection of the reputation of the person, along with the other things.* ***It is not only the press to disclose such information and ideas, but also people have the right to access them (...)****”.*

With such a prohibition, the EP has implemented a practice which violates the ECHR and clearly violated the freedom of the press and people’s right to access the information and ideas, which is expressly stated in the case-law.

We strongly condemn the prohibition, which violates freedom of the press, which is regarded as a core value of the European Union and also against the human rights, introduced by the EP regarding the Daily Sabah, because of a demand made by a Dutch politician with the excitement of the real politics.

We are urging the EP to act immediately in accordance with the law.