



**GROUP OF THE UNIFIED EUROPEAN LEFT (UEL)  
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

Strasbourg

8 October 2019

Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey  
Honorary President of the PACE

Dear Minister,  
Dear Mevlüt,

It is with great sorrow that we hear statements of Turkish authorities about an upcoming invasion of Turkish military into Northern Syria. Recent talks between President Erdogan and President Trump may have given your authorities the idea that such an invasion would not meet international protests. By now you will be aware that the opposite is happening. Inside and outside Turkey there is a call not to start such an illegal and dangerous military adventure in your neighboring country. Representatives of CHP and HDP have already spoken against such a military invasion. In many Council of Europe Member States there is broad opposition against a Turkish military invasion in Syria.

On behalf of the Group of the Unified European Left Group I call upon you, as a Member of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, to do anything to avoid such a military operation as it goes counter international law, to which Turkey has obliged itself as a Member State of the Council of Europe.

Such an illegal military action will escalate the armed conflict in Syria and will put the lives at stake of all those who live in that part of Syria. It may force many people to leave their homes and even their country to seek shelter for the violence which will accompany this military invasion. Many refugees may call upon Council of Europe Member States for protection and asylum.

We will ask the French Presidency of the COE Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to closely monitor the developments and to urge Turkey to abstain from illegal military acts in Syria.

The Statute of the Council of Europe obliges all Member States to contribute to greater European unity to safeguard our common principles and values and to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms. We ask the Turkish government to fully respect its obligations.

Yours sincerely,

Tiny KOX,  
Chair UEL in PACE