



**Video conference of the Bureau of  
PES Local | Socialist Local Representatives in Europe  
on 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2025**

**RESOLUTION**

**Solidarity with Ekrem İmamoğlu and local representatives of PES sister parties in Turkey**

PES Local | Socialist Local representatives in Europe received the news the arrest of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, along with the arrest of 100 other persons, with concern and horror.

Ekrem İmamoğlu has our full solidarity. We demand his immediate release, along with that of the other detainees, including district mayors of the cities of Istanbul and Adana.

Ekrem İmamoğlu's arrest is an attack on democracy. Ekrem İmamoğlu was re-elected as mayor by the citizens of the city of Istanbul in March 2024. The arrests took place just days before Ekrem İmamoğlu was named the CHP's lead candidate for the 2028 presidential election in an internal party election on March 23, 2025. Participation was also open to non-party members through "ballot boxes of solidarity". In this process also around 13.5 million non-party citizens expressed their support for İmamoğlu's candidacy.

For many years, we have been observing developments in Turkey with great concern, particularly the situation of municipalities and their citizens. In recent months, the mayors of Mardin, Van, Batman, and Halfiti in southeastern Turkey, as well as several district mayors in Istanbul, have been arrested.

The arrests of numerous mayors and local representatives and the appointment of state administrators pose a lasting threat to local self-government and local democracy. The President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Marc Cools, condemned this practice again at the end of January.

The principles of democracy and the rule of law must be upheld, as must respect for local self-government, to which Turkey has committed itself in the Council of Europe's Charter of Local Self-Government.