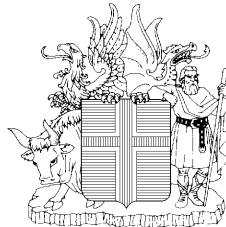


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ENGLISH only



Statement by Ambassador Kristín A. Árnadóttir, Permanent Representative of Iceland, at the 1371st Permanent Council Meeting, Vienna, 28 April 2022

While Iceland fully aligns with the Statement delivered by the European Union, we would like to add a few remarks in our national capacity.

The right to a fair trial, an independent and impartial judiciary and a trustworthy justice system are essential foundations of a democratic and just society. The European Convention on Human Rights states that “everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal.” In addition, the constitution of Turkey and its international law obligations, as well as OSCE commitments, codify the right of everyone to exercise freedom of expression, and the freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

We are deeply concerned by Istanbul’s 13th High Criminal Court’s decision to convict Mr. Osman Kavala, who is a human rights defender, to life in prison and the sentencing of seven other defendants. A decision which is unjust to say the least, and inconsistent with Turkey’s international commitments, human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law.

We call on Turkey to release Kavala, implement the legally binding judgment of the European Court of Human Rights, and fully abide by its international commitments.