

"European Parliament's Intergroup concerned about the ruling of the Turkish Supreme Court."

European Parliament's Intergroup on Gay and Lesbian Rights welcomes the decision of the Turkish Supreme Court of Appeals (Yargitay) overturning the ruling of a local court on the closure of LGBT organisation Lambdaistanbul. However the Intergroup is very concerned about the wording in the ruling which states that "dissolution of the organisation could be possible if it would act in the ways of encouraging or provoking LGBT behaviour or acting with the aim of spreading such sexual orientations."

"This wording is jeopardising freedom of assembly and speech of LGBT citizens and their organisations," said Michael Cashman, President of the Intergroup. "This statement is contrary to fundamental rights as we understand them in Europe. It is severely tampering rights of LGBT citizens not only freely spread but also receive information intended to them. If Turkey is to join EU, it must treat all human beings equally and respect the rights of every citizen".

The case on the closure of Lambdaistanbul will re-open on the local level shortly. The European Parliament's Intergroup will closely follow the hearing on 30 April and hopes that this time the local court will safeguard the freedom of association to LGBT citizens.

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For further information on the Intergroup please visit our website:

<http://www.lgbt-ep.eu>

Representatives of European Parliament's Intergroup on Gay and Lesbian Rights:

President: Michael Cashman MEP (UK/PSE)

Vice-President: Lissy Gröner MEP (DE/PSE)

Vice-President: Sophie in 't Veld MEP (ALDE)

Vice-President: Raül Romeva MEP (G/EFA)

Vice-President: Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP (EPP-ED)

For further information please contact Maris Sergejenko on michael.cashman-assistant@europarl.europa.eu or tel.: +32 22 83 77 59

www.lgbt-ep.eu