

**Attention: news desks/science and education correspondents**

**Press Release**

**Brussels, 7 September 2016**

**Turkey after the coup attempt  
EUA meets with Turkish Higher Education Council**

The European University Association (EUA) hosted a meeting with the Turkish Higher Education Council (YÖK) to discuss developments in the Turkish higher education sector following the attempted coup on 15 July 2016. The meeting took place at the EUA headquarters in Brussels on 6 September.

EUA has been closely monitoring the developments in Turkey over the past year, and even more intensely since 15 July. EUA has also been engaged in direct dialogue with YÖK, an EUA member, since the coup attempt, and organised the meeting to promote clarity on recent developments.

“With 64 EUA member institutions and nearly seven million students, Turkey is an important part of the European Higher Education Area,” explained EUA President Rolf Tarrach. “It is in the interest of the entire sector to promote dialogue and to work together towards preserving the fundamental values that universities share.”

At the meeting EUA welcomed the transparency of the dialogue and the insights gained to the evolving Turkish situation since mid-July, especially the assurance that 1386 of the 1577 deans who resigned following the events of mid-July have been re-instated. EUA would also like to stress the importance of maintaining this open exchange of views and information in order to build trust and cooperation. EUA will keep its commitment to safeguarding academic freedom and institutional autonomy and to supporting its members in Turkey in this regard.

In a follow-up to this exchange, it has been agreed that YÖK representatives will discuss the situation in Turkey with EUA’s national rectors’ conferences during the upcoming EUA Council meeting scheduled for the end of October. EUA and YÖK are also planning to organise a common event in Turkey in the near future to discuss common issues and to strengthen the exchange with individual Turkish universities.

Present at the meeting were EUA President Rolf Tarrach, Secretary General Lesley Wilson, and EUA board members Stefano Paleari, Mari Sundli Tveit, and Gülay Doğu Barbarosoğlu.

The YÖK representatives included its President, Yekta Saraç, its Deputy President, Hasan Mandal, as well as Ahmet Çamsarı, Chair of the InterUniversity Council, Mahmut Ak, Rector of Istanbul University, Erkan İbiş, Rector of Ankara University and Sezer Şener Komsuoğlu, Adviser to the President of YÖK, former Rector of Kocaeli University and a member of EUA’s Research Policy Working Group.

**Notes**

For more information on how EUA promotes university values, [please click here](#).

**Ends**

*For more information please contact:*

Jessica Carter, tel: +32 2 743 11 59; mobile: +32 473 74 87 85; email: [jessica.carter@eua.be](mailto:jessica.carter@eua.be)

*The European University Association (EUA) is the representative organisation of more than 800 universities in 47 European countries and 36 national rectors’ conferences (NRCs). The Council of EUA is comprised of the President, the members of the Board, and of the presidents of all of Europe’s NRCs. EUA works closely with its members to ensure that the voice of European universities is heard.*