

Message from Austrian and German Members of the European Parliament at the opening of the 'Hasankeyf Park of Hope and Solidarity'

At the occasion of the opening of the 'Hasankeyf Park of Hope and Solidarity', we, the undersigned German and Austrian Members of the European Parliament, reaffirm our opposition to our governments' potential financial and material support for the Ilisu dam.

The trees donated to the 'Hasankeyf Park of Hope' are meant to express our solidarity with all those who are living under the threat of displacement or loss of their cultural heritage.

We oppose the Ilisu dam on the grounds that it:

- enjoys no free prior informed consent from the affected people;
- would lead to the displacement of tens of thousands of people and the consequent destruction of their culture and way of life;
- would lead to the significant loss humanity's cultural heritage, including the ancient town of Hasankeyf;
- jeopardises access to water for Turkey's neighbours, Syria and Iraq, and increases the potential for conflict around water resources in the entire region;
- would cause irreversible environmental damage and loss of species.

The dam is an issue of international concern and it patently fails to meet relevant European Union and international standards. Financial support from Germany and Austria – former and current holder of the EU presidency – for such a project sends the wrong signal to accession candidate Turkey and affected people.

We urge the governments of Germany and Austria not to extend export credits or any other public financial support to the Ilisu dam project. We urge Turkey to reconsider the project and to embrace a future for the region that would truly benefit its people and its environment.

Signed (see overleaf):

Angelika Beer, MEP, Germany, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance,

André Brie, MEP, Germany, European United Left - Nordic Green Left

Rebecca Harms, MEP, Germany, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance,
Vice-Chairwoman

Eva Lichtenberger, MEP, Austria, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance,
Vice-Chairwoman

Helmuth Markov, MEP, Germany, European United Left - Nordic Green Left

Cem Özdemir, MEP, Germany, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

Tobias Pflüger, MEP Germany, European United Left - Nordic Green Left

Karin Resetarits, MEP, Austria, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

Mechtild Rothe, MEP, Germany, Socialist Group in the European Parliament,
Vice-President European Parliament

Karin Scheele, MEP, Austria, Socialist Group in the European Parliament

Frithjof Schmidt, MEP, Germany, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

Dr. Renate Sommer, MEP, Germany, Group of the European People's Party

Helga Trüpel, MEP, Germany, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

Feleknas Uca, MEP, Germany, European United Left - Nordic Green Left

Sahra Wagenknecht, MEP, Germany, European United Left - Nordic Green Left

Gabriele Zimmer, MEP, Germany, European United Left - Nordic Green Left