

PRESS STATEMENT: PKK APPEALS DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL TO CONTINUE LISTING THE PKK AS TERRORIST ORGANISATION.

Amsterdam, 7 May 2014 – On 1 May 2014 the Kurdish organisation PKK, represented by two members of its executive committee, has appealed the decision of the European Council of 10 February 2014 to continue the PKK's listing as a terrorist organisation. The appeal is launched at the General Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg. The PKK is being represented by Marieke van Eik, Marq Wijngaarden and Tamara Buruma, lawyers at Prakken d'Oliveira Human Rights Lawyers in Amsterdam.

The PKK submits, among other grounds, that the continuation of the PKK listing is a violation of relevant international and European law. The conflict between the PKK and the Turkish authorities must be regarded as an internal armed conflict, and listing one of the parties in such a conflict as a terrorist organization is not permissible by European and international legal standards.

The PKK also submits that the information, on which the PKK listing is based, is outdated. The most recent information supporting the listing dates from 2011. The PKK particularly submits that the peace talks between the PKK's leader Abdullah Öcalan and the Turkish government, which started in 2012 and resulted in Öcalan's call upon the PKK in 2013 to lay down arms and withdraw beyond Turkey's borders, have not been considered by the European Council. The continuing listing of the PKK obstructs the further development of the peace process.

On Wednesday 7 May 2014, at 2 pm, a press conference will be held where the appeal and the procedure in Luxembourg will be explained. The press conference will be held at the law firm's office: