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## **Urgency motion, adopted by the CESI Congress of December 2 2016**

### **Democracy, rule of law, fundamental rights and freedoms**

CESI and its member organisations must actively defend the principles of democracy, the rule of law as well as the fundamental rights and freedoms as enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Whenever these principles and rights are breached or threatened, CESI and its member organisations are called upon to do whatever is in their power to ensure that all citizens and workers are unconditionally guaranteed the full protection of these fundamental rights. The rule of law, the protection of minorities as well as the strong division of powers are unalienable principles of democracy.

As a trade union confederation, CESI is particularly called upon to provide protection in the event of unjustified dismissal and to assist in guaranteeing that the rights to an effective remedy and to a fair trial, including the presumption of innocence and the right of defence, remain untouched.

#### **Justification:**

According to Article 1 of its statutes, CESI's policies and activities must be in compliance with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights).

The therein established principles, rights and freedoms have recently been increasingly challenged, also within the sphere of the member states of the Council of Europe.

In Turkey, following an attempted coup against President Erdogan in summer 2016, more than 100,000 officials and public sector workers – employees in the judiciary, police, military, civil service, local authorities and educational institutions – have been suspended, dismissed or arrested.

CESI underlines that every human being must unconditionally be guaranteed the fundamental rights to an effective remedy and to a fair trial, including the presumption of innocence and the right of defence, by independent and impartial tribunals.

Arbitrary dismissals, persecutions and arrests are incompatible with fundamental rights and freedoms to which CESI is bound. As a trade union confederation representing numerous public sector workers across Europe, CESI must speak up against such developments, be they in Turkey or elsewhere.