



## **Book industry bodies press Ankara for unconditional release of Aslı Erdoğan, Necmiye Alpay and all prisoners of conscience**

**Brussels, 25 November 2016** — At its General Assembly in Strasbourg on Thursday (24 November), the Federation of European Publishers (FEP) was deeply concerned by news that the eminent Turkish novelist and human rights activist Aslı Erdoğan and linguist Necmiye Alpay had been rearrested on Wednesday (23 November), and charged with 'membership of a terrorist organization'.

Supported by its partners the International Publishers Association (IPA) and the European and International Booksellers Federation (EIBF), both of which were represented at the General Assembly, the FEP calls on the Turkish government to immediately drop all charges against both women and release them unconditionally, along with all other detainees held in Turkey solely for exercising their fundamental human right of freedom of expression.

The FEP and its partners further urge the EU institutions to take a robust stance on the matter by insisting that the Turkish government free all prisoners of conscience.

The FEP and its partners firmly restate the fundamental importance of freedom of expression as the bedrock of democratic societies. This principle is also essential to the publishing sector and a non-negotiable value for the FEP, EIBF and IPA.

### **ABOUT the FEP, IPA and EIBF**

#### **FEP**

The [Federation of European Publishers](#) is an independent, non-commercial umbrella association of book publishers associations in the European Union. FEP represents 28 national associations of book publishers of the European Union and of the European Economic Area.

#### **IPA**

The [International Publishers Association](#) is the leading global federation of national publishers associations, representing all aspects of book and journal publishing worldwide. The IPA is an industry association with a human rights mandate. It promotes and defends copyright, freedom to publish and literacy.

#### **EIBF**

The [European and International Booksellers Federation](#) represents national booksellers associations in the European Union and beyond. EIBF's mission is to further the interests of booksellers vis-à-vis the European institutions and other international organisations. By strengthening the link between booksellers' associations from across Europe and worldwide, EIBF also fosters the exchange of best practice and acts as a forum for discussion and cooperation between the representative bodies of international booksellers.