**PRESS RELEASE**

**IMMEDIATE 16.4.2017**

**TURKEY**

**MAJORITARIANISM – MAJORITY RULE BY MAJORITY VOTE – IS INADEQUATE**

Top-down political structures,

in which the leader chooses the question on the ballot paper,

should not be confused with democracy.

In theory, there are more than two political structures of governance. In practice, therefore, the choice should not be restricted to that of either the status quo or Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s idea.

Instead, as in New Zealand in 1992 in a debate on electoral reform, an independent commission should be tasked to hear submissions and then draw up a short list of about five options.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Majority rule also means that, for the foreseeable future, the People’s Democratic Party, HDP, (*Halkların Demokratik Partisi*), will probably not be represented in government.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Majoritarianism should also be questioned in other parts of the world. It can hardly be right, for example, that the individual who ‘wins’ an election by only a (negative) whisker should then win all 100% of the power. Like Donald Trump.

Peter Emerson

The Director, the de Borda Institute

36 Ballysillan Road

Belfast BT14 7QQ

Northern Ireland

028-90711795

07837717979

[www.deborda.org](http://www.deborda.org/)

[pemerson@deborda.org](mailto:pemerson@deborda.org)