Dear EAA members,

The EAA Executive Board, Administration and the President especially are all following the developing situation in Turkey with particular regard for its possible consequences for our Turkish fellow colleagues and those of our members and colleagues that are working on archaeological sites in Turkey.

The wonderful annual meeting we had in 2014 in Istanbul succeeded in attracting the highest level of attendance in EAA history. It was the superb result of integrated, collegial cooperation between national archaeological agencies and organizations, the Turkish and Istanbul civil authorities and the large international body that is EAA.

It was an outcome that demonstrated the dynamism and vigour of Turkish archaeology and research and the strength of its academic output.

Modern archaeology serves our civil society to understand and negotiate the relationship between our modern societies and our past identities. In Turkey, that rich and lively cultural history provided the foundation on which modern Turkey developed as the prominent nation that it is now.

The news of recent troubling events in Turkey creates an occasion for us in the EAA, as a membership organization, to remember our steadfast commitment to fostering academic and professional cooperation.

We therefore encourage our Turkish colleagues to continue their participation in EAA and welcome them to our forthcoming Annual Meeting in Vilnius 30th August-4th September. In that context EAA will seek to ensure the continued participation of Turkish scholars and professionals in conferences, workshops and meetings globally. EAA will also actively advocate for the maintenance of EU-supported research projects, student and PhD research exchange programs, together with supporting co-operative field-projects with our Turkish colleagues.

EAA will seek to strengthen its cooperation with Turkish colleagues to ensure the maintenance of our scholarly discourse and the integration of our professional, academic and research thinking.

As archaeologists and EAA members, we feel that Turkey is part of the collaborative professional and research environment in which heritage management and archaeological research provides deep references to cultural diversity and achievement and thereby fosters social harmony that ensures common cultural understanding.

We ask you all, our EAA members, to keep our President, Board and Administration informed of any relevant information in relation to the current volatile environment in which our Turkish colleagues no find themselves.

The EAA will take every possible action to facilitate and to the achievement of these goals.
(Felipe Criado-Boado, EAA president, on the behalf of EAA Executive Board and Committees).”