

**Question for written answer E-007557/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Ernest Maragall (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Journalistic independence in Turkey

The president of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and his supporters have launched a campaign of personal destruction against the *New York Times* and one of its Istanbul correspondents, Ceylan Yeginsu, after she wrote about the alleged recruitment of Turks by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) on 15 September 2014.

Mr Erdoğan was particularly angered by a photo published alongside the story that showed him and Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu leaving a mosque in Ankara, which the report said had become a recruitment hub for extremist ISIL recruits. The *New York Times* promptly removed the photo after Mr Erdoğan complained, and the newspaper published a correction stating that the editors had erred in using it.

Despite the correction, the denunciations against the correspondent turned personal. Leading pro-government newspapers controlled by Mr Erdoğan's allies published front-page photographs of Ms Yeginsu and suggested she was a traitor and a foreign agent.

Is the Commission aware of this new episode involving the severe restriction of journalists' freedom in Turkey?

Ms Yeginsu is just the latest in a series of journalists in Turkey who have been publicly targeted by Mr Erdoğan and his allies. What does the Commission intend to do to address the fundamental undermining of journalistic independence and integrity in Turkey?