

**Question for written answer E-009882/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ernest Maragall (Verts/ALE) and Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Gender equality in Turkey

At a recent gender conference in Istanbul, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said that due to their 'delicate' nature, it is impossible to place women on an equal footing with men.

The situation of women in Turkey appears to be worrisome. Turkey ranks 120th out of 136 countries on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index. Moreover, female participation in the Turkish work force (31 %) is about half of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development average.

Equality between women and men is one of the EU's founding values. Turkey, as a candidate country for EU accession, must ensure gender equality and respect women's rights.

In light of the above,

1. what is the Commission's opinion of the statements recently made by President Erdoğan?

In the Commission's most recent progress report on Turkey, shortcomings as regards increasing women's participation in employment and advancing equal treatment and equality of opportunities were highlighted.

2. How can maximal cooperation between the EU and Turkey be achieved in order to secure women's rights ensure the protection of gender equality in Turkey?