

**Question for written answer E-010739/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Arrest of journalists in Turkey

In a series of raids carried out on 14 December 2014, the Turkish police made at least 25 arrests, including journalists, press spokesmen and former police chiefs. According to reports, further arrests are expected, bringing the total to around 32.

All the arrests have been linked to the ongoing political vendetta between President Erdogan and Fethullah Gulen.

Only last week, Commissioners Mogherini, Hahn and Stylianides visited Turkey – an applicant for EU accession. Afterwards, Mr Hahn expressed optimism that, under the forthcoming Presidency, it would be possible to open one of the chapters in the process of Turkish accession.

In view of this:

What action will be taken by the Commission to make it clear to Turkey that freedom of the press and the independence of journalists are basic preconditions for any country wishing for recognition of its democratic credentials and its eligibility for EU membership?

How will it send a message to Turkey that it is, by its actions, jeopardising the accession process?

Will it initiate sanctions against Turkey and, if so, what form will they take?