

**Question for written answer E-000115/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)

Subject: Arrests of journalists in Turkey

On Sunday 14 December 2014, the Turkish police raided the headquarters of the newspaper Zaman Daily, which has the highest circulation in Turkey, and detained Ekrem Dumanlı, the editor-in-chief, Hidayet Karaca, the CEO of Samanyolu Media Group, and other journalists, producers and scriptwriters.

The detention of people working in the media which oppose the Erdogan government's increasingly authoritarian policies and failure to deal with serious charges of corruption reflects a new level of repression and sends out a worrying signal regarding the deterioration of democracy and freedom of expression in Turkey.

1. Is the Commission aware of this case, and if so, how does she assess it with regard to the accession talks with the Turkish government?
2. Has the Commission informed the Turkish authorities of the concern that this case, which represents a gross violation of freedom of association, is likely to raise within the EU if matters continue thus?