

**Question for written answer E-001141/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Abuse of power in Turkey

A 16 year old has been arrested and charged in Turkey for 'insulting' President Erdogan. During a speech at a ceremony in memory of a young lay teacher killed by Islamists in 1930 in a public square in the city of Konya, the young man attacked Mr Erdogan and his regime, accusing him particularly of corruption.

Arrested by police at his school and brought before a judge that evening, the teenager rejected the charges, but was nevertheless charged and imprisoned. He faces up to four years in prison.

This arrest is in breach of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

1. What is the Commission's position on this case?
2. For several months, freedom of expression in Turkey has been held in contempt. Has the Commission held bilateral discussions with Turkey in this regard?