

**Question for written answer E-008833/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Marie-Christine Arnautu (NI) and Jean-François Jalkh (NI)**

Subject: VP/HR - Continuation of negotiations with Turkey

The Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, held a public meeting on Sunday, 10 May 2015 in Karlsruhe, Germany, as part of the campaign for the parliamentary elections to be held in Turkey on 7 June. In opposition to this public meeting, several thousand people demonstrated against the AKP, Erdogan's ruling Justice and Development Party, prompting violent clashes which left a number of people injured. Supporters of the AKP used the *Rabia* sign, the hand gesture of solidarity which originated in Egypt during demonstrations against the authorities by members of the Muslim Brotherhood. Today, it is a symbol of Islamist movements in Turkey.

The Turkish President openly urged Germans of Turkish origin to establish themselves in positions of power in Germany so as to increase Turkey's influence in the world, and derided the memory of the Armenian genocide. He said: 'No one in the world can ignore you if you vote. Not even those in the EU who insisted on a minute's silence for the Armenians can ignore you.'

1. What is the High Representative's response to the Turkish President's statements about commemorating the Armenian genocide?
2. At a time when the seventeenth chapter in the negotiations on Turkey's accession to the EU has just been opened, will this episode have a bearing on those negotiations?