

**Question for written answer E-009071/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Turkey's role in combating terrorism

On 29.02.2015 *Cuhmuriyet* newspaper published<sup>1</sup> photographs proving that the Erdoğan government has equipped radical Islamists (the al-Nusra Front and Islamic State) in Syria with heavy weapons. The weapons were found after an investigation by the Turkish army (January 2014) in 2 trucks (7 in total) belonging to the Turkish secret services before they crossed over into Syria. According to the only official statement so far, the trucks were carrying humanitarian aid to the Turkmen in Syria. In February 2015 the government banned the publication of the findings of the investigation<sup>2</sup>, while in April 2015 it arrested 17 soldiers involved in the investigation<sup>3</sup>. Furthermore, on 30 May 2015 it issued an indictment against the newspaper / director of publications for inciting terrorism / public disclosure of confidential documents.

Bearing in mind that the EU has entrusted Turkey with an important role in combating terrorism (Council Statement on 12.12.2014<sup>4</sup> and Council Conclusions 09.02.2015<sup>5</sup>), will the Commission say:

- Do actions such as that disclosed in the newspaper confirm that Turkey is sincerely involved in the fight against terrorism?
- Will it conduct an investigation to establish the final destination of these arms?
- Does it consider that the recent measures taken by Erdoğan against the newspaper undermine transparency and freedom of the press in Turkey?

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/haber/turkiye/288881/Silahlar\\_gercek\\_gerisi\\_yalan.html](http://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/haber/turkiye/288881/Silahlar_gercek_gerisi_yalan.html)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/10-issues-turkish-media-is-banned-from-reporting-on.aspx?pageID=238&nID=74904&NewsCatID=339>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-court-arrests-17-soldiers-who-stopped-syria-bound-intelligence-trucks.aspx?pageID=238&nID=80872&NewsCatID=509>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/el/press/press-releases/2015/02/150212-european-council-statement-fight-against-terrorism>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/el/press/press-releases/2015/02/150209-council-conclusions-counter-terrorism>