

**Question for written answer E-011169/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Hugues Bayet (S&D)**

Subject: 'Gay Pride' in Turkey

On Sunday, 28 June 2015, Turkish riot police violently suppressed a 'Gay Pride' march, firing tear gas and using water cannons to disperse thousands of demonstrators gathered peacefully in the centre of Istanbul.

Since then, all gatherings have been prohibited in that square and in surrounding areas.

This march was the 13th Gay Pride march held in Istanbul in support of LGBT rights. It has previously always taken place without serious incident in Turkey, where homophobia remains widespread, especially in rural areas.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Does it find that the police response to this peaceful demonstration was normal?
2. Does it intend to discuss LGBT issues in the country with the Turkish authorities?
3. Does it find it reasonable that these clashes have also led to suspension of the right to hold public meetings in Istanbul?