

**Question for written answer E-014121/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Reviewing Turkey's status as an EU candidate country

The announcement regarding the new Action Plan to step up EU-Turkey cooperation on support of refugees and migration management has coincided with numerous European leaders publicly speculating about the possibility of speeding up Turkey's bid to join the EU.

This statement of intent comes at a time of increasing authoritarianism and human rights violations by the Turkish Government. Since 2013, there has been a rise in crackdowns on demonstrations (as acknowledged by the Commission in its answer to written question E-012140/15), discrimination against the Kurdish minority, censorship (Turkey now has the second largest number of journalists in prison of any country in the world) and harassment of political opponents and dissidents – in violation of the principles that must be upheld by any country wishing to join the EU (Art. 49 TEU).

Given that 'any country negotiating EU accession must fully guarantee human rights,' as the Commission stated in its answer to written question E-012140/15:

1. Does the Commission consider that Turkey currently meets the Copenhagen political criteria?
2. What view does the Commission take on possibly speeding up Turkey's bid to join the EU, in light of the above situation?
3. Does the Commission think that the Action Plan should facilitate Turkey's entry into the EU?