

**Question for written answer E-014199/2015  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Franz Obermayr (ENF)**

Subject: Holding back a progress report on Turkey

According to the German newspaper *Welt am Sonntag*, the Commission is deliberately holding back a report criticising the accession negotiations with Turkey. The publication date has been pushed back by another week, meaning that the report will no longer appear before the Turkish parliamentary elections on 1 November 2015. The report, a draft of which *Welt am Sonntag* has obtained, is sharply critical of the situation with regard to the rule of law in Turkey and states that freedom of expression and assembly are being undermined there. It also strongly criticises the Islamic-conservative Justice and Development Party (AKP), blaming it for this retrograde development.

1. Can the Commission confirm that publication of the report has been postponed once again and that it will not now be published until after the Turkish elections?
2. Should the report not be published before the elections, so that Turkish people have access to an impartial assessment of the human rights situation in their country?
3. If the report is indeed being held back, is this not at odds with the transparency initiative which the Commission itself continually champions?