

**Question for written answer E-001864/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Situation of journalists in Turkey

In recent years, the work of the press in Turkey has become more complicated. Although the press still puts forward opposing views in Turkey, there have been many incidents which show that the situation could change.

In the most recent example, at the end of January, a Turkish court called for a life sentence to be passed on two journalists from the daily opposition newspaper Cumhuriyet.

Some 52 000 internet sites have been blocked, editorial writers have been dismissed at the request of the President, and more than 100 journalists have been detained, most of whom have been released after a few hours in a police station.

In 2014, Parliament's EU-Turkey delegation was already pointing to the problems faced by journalists in Turkey.

On Wednesday, Christophe Deloire, General Secretary of Reporters Without Borders, had a meeting with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, at which he asked for the appointment of a special representative of the UN Secretary-General for the safety of journalists. The situation of journalists in Turkey is obviously in the viewfinder.

1. Does the Commission plan to take a view on this matter?
2. Has there been any form of dialogue with the Turkish authorities with a view to finding a solution to the problem?
3. What has been the outcome of it?