

**Question for written answer E-002902/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ernest Maragall (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Combating discrimination in Turkey

In order to meet the criteria for visa liberalisation as a part of the migration deal, the Turkish Parliament is rushing to adopt two pieces of legislation, one on the creation of a new 'National Human Rights and Equality Institution' and another on combating discrimination. However, both pieces of legislation are seriously flawed.

The definition of 'discrimination' is very narrow. The draft law excludes discrimination on the basis of gender equality, sexual orientation, sexual identity, social status, refugee status and multiple discrimination.

As the administrative and financial structure of the proposed National Human Rights Institution is not independent, it cannot be recognised as a 'preventive institution' on the basis of the standards set out in the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT). It is also not possible to apply as an individual to this institution.

In its latest progress report, the Commission stresses the 'urgent need' to adopt a comprehensive framework for fighting discrimination in line with European standards, including sexual orientation and gender identity, and the establishment of an independent body to assess the victims' claims.

Is the Commission aware that these laws are contrary to its recommendations and, therefore, not in line with EU law and norms?