

**Question for written answer E-003614/2016/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Franz Obermayr (ENF)

Subject: European journalists denied entry into Turkey

According to a report in the news magazine *Der Spiegel*, a German journalist was recently denied entry into Turkey. The decision was presumably motivated by the fact that he is a journalist¹. He was travelling to the area on the border between Syria and Turkey, where he intended to interview refugees. Not least in the light of the 'Böhmermann scandal', this incident raises the following question:

1. How is it democratically legitimate to conclude a refugee agreement with a State which denies foreign journalists entry to its territory and thus evades scrutiny by representatives of the independent media?
2. The fact that Turkey has applied for EU membership raises the further question of how pressure could be exerted now in an effort to persuade the Turkish authorities to allow journalists to report freely in that country. Does the Commission regard a cut in pre-accession aid as conceivable, given that freedom of the press is also enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Article 11(2))?

¹ <http://www.spiegel.de/kultur/gesellschaft/swr-journalist-von-tuerkei-festgesetzt-a-1087979.html>.