

**Question for written answer E-004523/2016**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Parliamentary immunity

The Turkish Parliament has passed an amendment to the constitution seeking to suspend the parliamentary immunity of 129 of the 550 MPs.

The bill is clearly aimed at members of the Peoples' Democratic Party (*Halkların Demokratik Partisi*, HDP), 46 of whose 59 MPs will be affected. Opposition is an integral part of democracy and a fundamental value of the European Union.

It is scandalous that a country that aspires to EU membership is silencing democratically elected opposition MPs simply because they have aired political views. It is a flagrant breach of the democratic principles that the EU purports to defend.

Does the VP/HR not think that this legislation will further exacerbate the conflict in the Kurdish region in south-east Turkey?

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has on a number of occasions called for HDP MPs to be prosecuted, accusing them of being an extension of the PKK. What is the VP/HR's view of these incendiary statements, that serve only to fan the flames of the conflict and attempt to deprive the democratic opposition of its legitimacy?