

**Question for written answer E-005002/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Bodil Valero (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Turkey's lifting of MP's immunity from prosecution

Turkey has recently stripped immunity from prosecution from 138 of its members of parliament, 101 of whom are opposition members in the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). The bill lifting immunity from prosecution is thought to be directed against HDP, which the government has accused of supporting the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party, PKK. Combined with Turkey's new anti-terror legislation, many of Erdogan's political opponents risk being prosecuted and sentenced for terrorist crimes. The decision to abolish immunity from prosecution is one in a line of undemocratic measures to strengthen Erdogan's political power and introduce a more president-governed system in Turkey. This is taking place at the same time as the EU is choosing to continue to negotiate with Erdogan on the refugee issue.

1. What measures has the Commission thought to take to persuade Turkey not to continue with further undemocratic restrictions such as abolishing immunity from prosecution and far-reaching anti-terror legislation?
2. Has the undemocratic development and polarisation in Turkey in any way affected the negotiations between the EU and Turkey regarding the refugee agreement and visa facilitation?
3. Given the recent political developments in Turkey, how can the Commission ensure that Turkey is a safe country for minority groups and for other refugees sent back from the EU?