

**Question for written answer E-005410/2016/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Marie-Christine Arnautu (ENF)**

Subject: Suspension of the accession negotiations with Turkey

Chapter 33 of the accession negotiations with Turkey, which deals with budgetary matters, has been officially opened, bringing the number of chapters currently under discussion between the European Union and Turkey to 16.

In the light of the recent comments made by the Turkish President, the opening of chapter 33 comes as a surprise. During a speech he gave at the University of Istanbul, Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the following: 'Europe, you don't want us because the majority of our population are Muslim. We can't count on you. We'd come to an agreement. Everything was ready. You don't keep your promises. That's your ugly side. And when Erdogan shows you your ugly side, you can't stand it.' The Turkish President then raised the possibility of holding a referendum on whether Turkey should continue to be a candidate country for EU membership.

At a time when Turkey's accession to the EU is the subject of heated controversy in a number of Member States, notably in France, but also in Turkey, can the Commission explain precisely why the EU is so determined to carry on with the accession negotiations?