

**Question for written answer E-006433/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Respect for human rights and the non-religious minority in Turkey

Turkey's status as a strategic partner of the EU depends in part on its respecting the plans agreed in the fields of democratisation and respect for human rights, over has been cast into doubt following the recent coup.

Religious freedom – including the right not to practice a religion – is a fundamental right under European law.

However, as is clear from messages and posts in the social media, the non-religious minority in Turkey is being persecuted for its beliefs, with this adverse situation including the closure of the head office of the Ateizm Derneği association of secular humanists in Istanbul.

What information does the High Representative have on what has recently been happening to religious and non-religious minorities in Turkey?

Does the High Representative plan to take any steps to monitor respect for human rights in the field of religious freedom, including respect for the non-religious minority in Turkey?