

Question for written answer E-006526/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - New Turkish airstrikes against Kurdish civilians

According to official sources, on 24 August Turkey launched its biggest military campaign to date in Syria, sending tanks, planes and special forces across the border to take back one of IS's strongholds in Syria at the same time as attacking the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG).

Just one day into the offensive, at least 49 civilians had been killed in Turkish airstrikes on Kurdish-majority areas in the east and west of Jarabulus. Curiously, there has not yet been any fighting with IS, only with the Kurdish forces, who are the most effective in the ground fight against IS. One result has been this massacre of dozens of Kurdish civilians perpetrated by Turkey.

1. What does the High Representative think of these new attacks by Turkey on civilians?
2. Does the EU still consider Turkey a safe country?
3. Will the EU continue to support and maintain a partnership with a country that has repeatedly committed war crimes and crimes against humanity?