

**Question for written answer E-006705/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Edouard Ferrand (ENF)

Subject: Banning of Shakespeare's comedies in Turkey

After the alleged coup and the disproportionate repression that followed, with tens of thousands of arrests, including many within professions unlikely to have been involved in the attempted coup such as teachers, judges or journalists, the Turkish Government has now also decided to vent its anger on Shakespeare's comedies!

On Sunday 28 August, Devlet Tiyatrolari, the General Directorate of State Theatres in Turkey, banned all projected performances of 'foreign' plays, in particular those of Shakespeare, Brecht, Chekhov and Dario Fo, 'in order to enhance the unity and integrity of the Turkish homeland'.

Does the Commission consider this action to be compatible with EU principles, particularly given that Turkey is a candidate for accession?