

Question for written answer E-006963/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - The EU's role as a mediator in Turkey

It is good news about the peace process in Colombia, in which the EU played a major role. That process led to the peace agreement that is to be signed in Cartagena this month, and suggests that it would be very helpful for our neighbourhood if, building on this experience, the EU were to take on a role in helping secure peace in Turkey.

The failed coup has prompted President Erdoğan to carry out a purge that has clearly gone beyond the bounds of democracy. He has also seized the opportunity to attempt to ban opposition parties and focus his war machine on the Kurdish areas in Turkey and Syria.

Recently, the PKK leader, via his brother, offered to return to the table for peace talks between the PKK and the Turkish Government.

1. Is the High Representative intending to take this opportunity to establish contacts that might facilitate this opportunity for peace?
2. Is the EU intending to support efforts to stabilise this area, which is vital for Europe and the world?
3. Why is it possible in Colombia but not in Turkey?