

**Question for written answer E-000265/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Demirtaş trial in Turkey

According to Turkish press reports (Hürriyet newspaper edition of 17 January 2017), the detained co-leader of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), Selahattin Demirtaş, is facing up to 142 years in prison for charges brought against him. Meanwhile, the other co-leader, Figen Yüksekdağ, is facing up to 83 years in prison.

Demirtaş is charged, inter alia, with 'setting up a terrorist organisation', 'disseminating terrorist propaganda' and 'inciting violence and hatred'. Yüksekdağ faces, inter alia, charges of 'inciting violence and hatred' and 'instigating people to commit crimes'.

The two co-leaders were arrested in November 2016 along with ten more HDP MPs, whose immunity had been lifted.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission believe that the current situation in Turkey provides the basis for a fair and impartial trial?
2. What action will the Commission take to ensure that Turkey ceases its recurring violations of fundamental freedoms and the rule of law?