

**Question for written answer E-000511/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Fulfilment by the Commission of its obligation to assess the human rights implications of the EU-Turkey Association Agreement.

On 18 January, the European Ombudsman announced the findings of her investigation triggered by mass complaints from NGOs and individual citizens on the question of whether the Commission had an obligation to assess the human rights implications of the EU-Turkey Association Agreement, alleging major infringements of human dignity and the fundamental rights of those affected by the agreement.

However, the Commission is on record as stating that such an assessment is not compulsory given the political nature of the agreement.

This is despite the fact that all policies and actions of European institutions and organisations affecting individual citizens must be assessed in terms of their impact on human rights.

Moreover, according to the findings of the European Ombudsman, neither the political nature of the agreement nor the words 'Agreement' or 'Declaration' in the title thereof to any degree reduce the Commission's responsibility or absolve it from its obligation to ensure that its actions comply fully with European Union commitments to uphold fundamental rights.

In view of this:

What position does the Commission take regarding European Ombudsman's findings and what specific measures will it take to comply with its obligations and to assess the direct or indirect human rights implications of the agreement?