

**Question for written answer E-002737/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Referendum in Turkey

On 16 April 2017, a referendum is planned that is intended to turn Turkey into a presidential republic. A 'yes' win will get rid of the office of Prime Minister, and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan will have wider powers.

The Government's proposal comprises 18 constitutional amendments that will grant Erdoğan executive and legislative powers and enable him to select the vast majority of the judiciary.

We MEPs voted in November 2016 to suspend accession talks, although the Council decided to disregard the request. Nevertheless, what is clear is that it will be possible to turn to technical principles to suspend accession talks in view of the fact that Turkey is allegedly not complying with a crucial requirement for accession candidates — the Copenhagen criteria — on democratic rights, human rights and minority rights.

What is the Commission's stance on the referendum? Will it continue accession talks?

In the light of these facts, does the Commission wish to amend its answer to my question, P-006081/2016, on whether Turkey is a safe country?