

Question for written answer E-001673/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - The EU should impose sanctions on Turkey for its gross violations of international law and its invasion of Syria

The seizure and occupation of the city of Afrin by the Turkish army is a barbaric act of aggression and a brutal violation of Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The invasion, the occupation, the use of torture, the looting and the mass displacement of hundreds of Kurds constitute a brutal violation of international humanitarian law and the law of war.

The image of the military forces of a candidate country parading on foreign soil is reminiscent of the invasion and illegal occupation of Cyprus and is a slap in the face for the EU's foreign policy.

Despite the repeated calls by Members of the European Parliament for sanctions against Turkey to bring a halt to military operations in Syria, the EU's tolerant attitude to the crime being committed against the Kurdish people means that it must bear some of the responsibility for it.

In view of the above, will the VP/HR say:

Which European arms firms are selling arms to Turkey despite the knowledge that it is violating international law with its invasion of Syria?

What measures does it intend to take to stop arms sales to countries that violate the EU's common position on arms exports?

What practical measures will it take to prevail upon Turkey to stop violating international law and threatening its neighbours? When does it intend to implement the planned sanctions procedures?