

**Question for written answer E-001820/2019**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Demetris Papadakis (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Ban on mayors-elect belonging to the pro-Kurdish HDP party from taking office

Following the municipal elections in Turkey, the Supreme Election Council (YSK) has decided that the mayors-elect belonging to the pro-Kurdish HDP (People's Democratic Party) in four regions and one sub-region of south-eastern Turkey would not be permitted to assume office because they had been barred in the purges that followed the failed coup in 2016. This means that the runners-up in the elections - members of the AKP - will be installed as mayors.

How can the Supreme Election Council initially clear the candidates to run in the elections and then, once the results are announced, order the successful candidates to stand down in favour of other candidates, simply because the 'wrong' candidates were elected? Clearly this decision is illegal and unconstitutional and is a flagrant violation of democratic standards. The European Parliament recently adopted a resolution calling for the formal suspension of accession negotiations with Turkey on the grounds that the rule of law is being undermined in that country, a finding that is constantly being confirmed.

On the basis of the above, will the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy say:

1. Has she condemned the incident in question?
2. What steps will she take to press Turkey, an EU candidate country, to cease violating democratic standards and the rule of law and to respect the election results?