

**Question for written answer P-008212/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Morten Messerschmidt (ECR)

Subject: Inadequate compliance by Turkey with international rules in the Hedegaard case

I have been surprised to learn that Turkey has chosen to release the 27-year-old Danish national who had been arrested on suspicion of attempting to murder the Danish author, critic of Islam and former chairman of the Danish Free Press Society, Lars Hedegaard. A Danish delegation sent to Ankara to look into this case merely received confirmation that Turkey had released the suspect, but was given no further information on the time or circumstances of the release.

There have been suspicions that the release of this Danish national could be seen as part of an exchange of prisoners between Turkey and the terrorist organisation Islamic State (IS).

1. Will the Commission impress on the Turkish Government that the release of this attempted murder suspect is at odds with general international practice between states governed by the rule of law, whereby the countries' authorities cooperate to combat serious crime, and demand an explanation of this case?
2. Does the Commission consider it likely that Turkey released the suspect as part of an exchange of prisoners, given Turkey's generally very dilatory approach to combating Islamic State in Syria and Iraq?
3. Does the Commission feel the way in which the suspect was dealt with in this case does anything to enhance Turkey's standing as a potential Member State of the EU?